

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Forty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 March 2002

Reports

REPORT OF UNEP AND UNON

1. The attached report has been submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office in Nairobi.
2. Some issues for the particular attention of the Standing Committee are highlighted in bold face.



## UNEP REPORT TO THE 46TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE

### INTRODUCTION

In line with paragraph 16 of the Agreement between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP of 20 June 1997, UNEP submits an annual report on its provision of – and support to – the secretariat, including implementation of the Agreement and the administration of the secretariat for consideration at each meeting of the Standing Committee and meetings of the Conferences of the Parties. Several of the reporting items below update the previous report presented to the 45th Meeting of the Committee in June 2001 (SC45 Doc. 7.3)

### PART A: UNEP SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT TO THE CONVENTION

UNEP continues to deploy its technical and scientific expertise to facilitate the effective implementation of CITES and the other UNEP-administered global and regional environmental conventions.

#### Harmonisation of National Reporting

1. The series of pilot projects are being implemented in collaboration with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The pilots have also been agreed with the Secretariats of all the relevant conventions. So far resources have been provided mainly by UNEP. In November 2001 the Ramsar Convention Secretariat agreed to provide financial and in-kind support, focusing on the pilot projects in Panama and Indonesia. We are looking to the UNEP-administered conventions, including CITES, to provide similar support in 2002 and beyond. Each pilot project will be completed before WSSD and will produce the following:
2. A report (or reports) that would satisfy the reporting requirements under the biodiversity related conventions to which the country is a Party for a selected period.
3. A report on the national reporting mechanisms (institutional frameworks and information/data flow) for the biodiversity-related conventions and in some cases, state of the environment (SOE) reporting, including:
  - Description of the reporting mechanisms that exist and the information management systems used for the preparation of each report;
  - Description of the linkages between the reporting mechanisms for the biodiversity-related conventions (and in some cases SOE reporting mechanisms);
  - Gaps in information and data existing in the country;
  - Recommendations, including the necessary actions to be taken by the Government, on how to streamline the national reporting under biodiversity-related conventions and, in some cases, including the linkages with SOE reporting mechanisms, can be ensured or improved;
  - Recommendations on how the information management system for the reporting can be improved, including possible information support from outside the country.

4. Based on the outcome of the pilot projects the following outputs will be produced:
  - Preliminary consolidated reporting format for the global biodiversity-related conventions.
  - A set of guidelines on establishment of a co-ordinated national reporting mechanism for the biodiversity-related conventions.
  - A report on regional mechanisms for supporting the countries to fulfil the reporting requirements under biodiversity-related conventions: the case of Panama and Central America.
5. A paper on available results will be prepared for submission to the Global Ministerial Environment Forum in early 2002 with a view to further refining the paper as a part of UNEP's contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. **Members of the CITES Standing Committee may wish to express views, including the financial support necessary to complete and follow up the project by applying the results more widely. UNEP are considering a project in 2003 in partnership with UNEP-WCMC to provide assistance to interested developing countries in particular on co-ordinating implementation of conventions at national level. UNEP have provisionally earmarked some funds for this but contributions from the MEAs will be essential to progress this in the follow-up to WSSD.**

#### Cross-cutting Environmental Issues

##### (i) Great Ape Support Project (GRASP)

6. The Executive Director of UNEP has given particular priority to fund-raising activities for relevant great ape conservation projects, and consequently announced the appointment of a team of Special Envoys for Great Ape Conservation. The team of world-renowned experts will be headed by Dr. Russ Mittermeier, President of Conservation International and Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Committee and includes Dr. Jane Goodall, chimpanzee expert and head of the Jane Goodall Institute, and Dr. Nishida Toshisada, chimpanzee expert and past president of the International Primatological Society. Dr. Richard Leakey, distinguished wildlife conservationist, has also agreed to take part in this initiative as an advisor to UNEP.
7. A reception to launch the campaign was held in Nairobi on 25 September and was well attended by representatives of various permanent missions, including some range states. Russ Mittermeier sent a video message accepting his nomination as Special Envoy and urged donors to support GRASP. Jane Goodall, Nishida Toshisada, CMS, CBD and CITES also gave messages of support for GRASP. The United Kingdom pledged substantial financial support to GRASP and publisher Dorling Kindersley pledged to donate one pound sterling to GRASP for every copy of their new "*Animal*" book sold over the Internet.
8. The Envoys will be assisted by a small team of experts who will visit each range state and obtain endorsements at the highest political level for improved protection, strengthened support for conservation and the preparation and adoption of National Great Ape Survival Plans. The first missions to range states have been completed and we have received reports on successful visits to the governments of Uganda, Gabon, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo. Missions to Ivory Coast, Guinea, Indonesia and Malaysia will be completed in January 2002.
9. In addition to funding these technical missions, the Executive Director has set aside UNEP funding to catalyse the initiative and support various urgently needed actions in the range states. On the advice of the Envoys to promote some "quick win" projects, UNEP is supporting a campaign to engage the private sector for chimpanzee conservation in West

Africa with the *Wild Chimpanzee Foundation*; a public relations campaign for orangutan conservation with the *Orangutan Foundation*; and Cross River Gorilla conservation programmes in the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary in Nigeria with *Fauna and Flora International*.

10. **UNEP has been preparing over the last month a draft Strategy for the implementation of GRASP. Comments on the draft have been sought from CITES, and all other partners (at the time of writing CITES' views were still awaited).** The Strategy will guide UNEP's work (and that of GRASP as a whole) between 2001 and 2005; form the basis for a revised joint funding submission with UNESCO to the UN Foundation; provide a framework agreed with the Envoys and government and NGO partners; and finally, act as a promotional document aimed at a wider governmental and public audience. The final version will be illustrated. UNEP are planning a major media event early in 2002 to publicise the strategy and the related issues of forest conservation and poverty reduction.
  11. UNEP-WCMC will undertake an assessment and compilation of existing knowledge of the great apes and their habitats, with a view to producing a major awareness-raising publication in 2002. The assessment/atlas will include a survey of existing knowledge on great ape populations, ecosystems and pressures in the socio-economic context. This product will become a fundamental resource of information for national and international planners, conservationists and others seeking to ensure the survival of the great apes in the long term. It will also serve as a primary resource for more concise and attention-demanding secondary products for decision-makers, educators and others. In addition to the main report, which is envisaged for publication in book form, we envisage products on the Internet, school packs, posters and displays as possible eventual products.
  12. **UNEP are anxious to ensure that CITES can both contribute to GRASP as its focal point for international and related trade issues both in bushmeat and live specimens. The recent issue involving the death of a chimpanzee and a gorilla intercepted in international trade has caused considerable concern amongst GRASP partners, and UNEP are looking to the CITES Standing Committee to assist the Secretariat in preventing any further, damaging incidents of this type. Standing Committee Members are also invited to consider whether they can consider providing external donor support to GRASP, or direct to the projects undertaken by NGO and other GRASP partners. UNEP would like to record its thanks to the UK and Norway for the financial assistance already promised.**
- (ii) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Caspian Sturgeon
13. As the Standing Committee was previously informed, the Caspian Littoral States issued in June 2001 a joint declaration promising to take immediate measures on sturgeon protection and management as a result of a meeting organised by UNEP. UNEP achieved its immediate objectives, which were to facilitate a co-ordinated approach by Intergovernmental bodies (including UNDP, CITES and CEP) and the littoral states to prevent a crisis which could have led to contentious trade bans and further damage to sturgeon conservation. In June 2001, the CITES Standing Committee, taking account of the "Geneva Declaration", agreed further measures to safeguard sturgeon populations, including a moratorium on further harvesting this year. UNEP remains watchful and is encouraging the financing of improvements to sturgeon management and harvesting in the region. **If necessary UNEP would act on advice from CITES and CEP to re-convene the special meeting of international agencies that helped to lay the groundwork for the decisions and action agreed at the 45th Standing Committee.**

(iii) World Customs Organisation's "Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System"

14. A workshop on "Codes, Contraband and Cooperation: Working with Customs Authorities to Implement Environmental Treaties", convened by UNEP in Geneva in June 2001, served as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among treaty Secretariats, customs authorities, non-government organizations and experts on the use of the WCO's harmonized System and on the issue of illegal trade in commodities of environmental concern. The workshop participants, which included a representative from the CITES secretariat, recognized the benefits of a coordinated approach among treaty Secretariats, and between Secretariats, implementing agencies, and the WCO in areas such as training, enforcement, exchange of information and awareness raising. Some activities that were suggested during the workshop included national and regional integrated training workshops when possible, preparation of integrated training materials where appropriate, and the development of links between MEA web-sites. A report on the workshop, including recommendations, is available from UNEP.
15. On 1 October 2001, UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Environment (DTIE) and Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC), acting on the recommendation from the June workshop, convened a meeting in Paris with the WCO, Secretariats of the Basel, CITES, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and the Montreal Protocol's Ozone Secretariat. The objective was to develop a plan of action to integrate the training of customs officers on several environmental treaties. A number of follow-up actions were agreed. Key among them are the appointment of a facilitator in UNEP/DTIE's offices in Paris to further cooperation among secretariats on integrated training, and the establishment of an Inter-secretariat Task Force, which includes the Secretariat of CITES, to review progress on this initiative.
16. **UNEP offers to present an information note to the CITES Standing Committee on the workshop recommendations and integrated training of customs officials. UNEP is open to receiving comments with regard to its future involvement in integrated training, and suggestions with regard to additional action it might take on the recommendations from the June 2001 workshop.**

Coral Reefs

17. Coral reef management is the responsibility of MEAs, UN organizations, Governments and NGOs. Following the major international coral meetings held in Maputo in November-December 2001, UNEP are considering whether they can help to improve the international governance framework for coral reefs, e.g. by exploring the opportunities for the MEAs with an interest in reefs to become more integrated in coral reef conservation at global and regional level, and by improving the operational effectiveness of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).
18. UNEP's Coral Reef Unit administers the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), a global partnership between Regional Seas agreements and programmes with international and non-governmental organizations and the scientific community. The main, action phase of ICRAN commenced in June 2001, supported primarily by grants from the UN Foundation (\$5m initially) and UNEP (\$1.3m in cash/kind). ICRAN's programme comprises complementary activities to spread good practices in coral reef management and conservation. On-the-ground action is combined with assessment and information to enhance effective management of user's actions and their impacts upon coral reefs. Public education is also a major component of ICRAN. For more information see <http://www.unep.ch/coral/icran.htm>.

19. One of the key uses of coral reefs is to supply the growing international demand to stock commercial and domestic marine aquaria. A number of coral species, as well as species such as dugongs which frequent coral habitats, are listed under CITES. It is therefore essential that close co-operation between ICRAN and CITES is fostered. **The CITES Standing Committee is invited to advise on how this could be achieved, for example through a co-operative agreement or the production of joint publications.**
20. In September 2001 UNEP-WCMC launched its World Atlas of Coral Reefs which will support ICRAN and the MEAs by providing a succinct and scientific "bible" for coral reef conservation over the next few years. The Atlas provides new estimates of the total area of coral reefs, globally and regionally, and highlights the threats to these significant resources for many tropical countries and islands.

### Tiger Conservation

21. UNEP remains strongly supportive of international efforts to conserve tigers, which are still severely threatened by illegal international trade as well as habitat loss. UNEP was represented at the General Assembly of the Global Tiger Forum held in New Delhi in November 2001, as well as the preceding International Symposium on the Tiger. UNEP were particularly encouraged by the presence at one or both of these meetings of almost all the tiger range states, and assisted by chairing a productive session dealing with inter-sessional cooperation and transboundary conservation. UNEP announced during the GTF General Assembly that they had established a focal point and liaison officer at UNEP's regional office in Bangkok for regional activities of the GTF (Mr. Per Sorensen).

### International Environmental Governance

22. In February 2001, the UNEP Governing Council adopted a decision on international environmental governance. This established an open-ended Intergovernmental Group of ministers or their representatives to undertake a comprehensive assessment of existing institutional weaknesses as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance. The report is to be presented at the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GMEF) in February 2002.
23. The three meetings of the Open ended Group of Ministers and Officials on International Environmental Governance have explored the rationale for rationalising, streamlining and consolidating the present system of MEAs. UNEP paper entitled " A Policy Paper for Improving International Environmental Governance among Multilateral Environmental Agreements: Negotiable Terms for Further Discussion" (presented at the meetings of the IEG in Bonn and Algiers) summarises these challenges in the context of the MEAs. These are: efficient use of collective resources--information, financial and expertise; reduction of duplication and overlaps; emphasis on programme and policy coherence; and averting uncoordinated sectoral initiatives. At the national level which is the focus of implementation of MEA activities, the concerns are for reduction of governments' burden of reporting under different MEAs; assisting governments in establishing priorities and allocating resources in an era of limited budgets; and supporting governments in co-ordinating preparations/monitoring to reinforce decisions taken under various MEAs and intergovernmental processes.
24. UNEP has initiated the process to prepare the report, involving all stakeholder groups among which are the MEA secretariats. Following the first consultation with the secretariats of the MEAs in Nairobi on 11-12 February, the second and third consultative meetings were held in New York on 18 April and through a teleconference on 4 July. The meetings reviewed papers for submission to the Inter-Governmental Meeting (IGM):

UNEP/IGM/2/4 (Improving international environmental governance among multilateral environmental agreements: Negotiable terms for further discussion); UNEP/IGM/2/5 (Proposal for a systematic approach to co-ordination of multilateral environmental agreements); UNEP/IGM/2/INF/2 (The concept of a chemicals and waste cluster: an overview); and UNEP/IGM/2/INF/3 (International Environmental Governance: Multilateral Environmental Agreements). All these papers are available at UNEP's home page [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org).

25. UNEP's vision of co-ordination hinges on a partnership approach among the multilateral environmental conventions, UNEP and other intergovernmental organisations in the implementation and operationalization of "4 Cs" – Co-ordination, Coherence, Compliance and Capacity building. The centrepiece of the co-ordination process will be the implementation of the conventions at the national level.
26. One approach that emerged from the debate at the third meeting of the IGM in Algiers, Algeria on 9-10 September 2001, is that of clustering. Clustering could take place either at the functional level (by bringing together the various functions undertaken by secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements such as capacity-building, compliance monitoring and so on), or at the programme level, (by bringing together multilateral environmental agreements dealing with related issues such as chemicals, biodiversity, regional seas and the like). UNEP has prepared a paper elucidating this approach and was presented at the fourth meeting of the IGM in Montreal in November 2001. **Views from Standing Committee members are welcome.**

#### UNEP-WCMC World Atlas on Marine Mammals

27. The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals (MMAP) was developed between UNEP and FAO as a non-legally binding instrument. It aims to promote the effective implementation of a policy for conservation, management and utilization of marine mammals that could be widely accepted by governments and the public. The MMAP was adopted by UNEP's Governing Council in 1984 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. UNEP provides the Secretariat to the MMAP. The MMAP continues to be the only international instrument addressing the conservation of all marine mammals at the global level. There are many common needs and problems affecting marine mammals at this global scale. It is within the framework of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and the MMAP, that UNEP is planning the production of a World Digital Atlas on Marine Mammals To create a global overview and information resource on the conservation and sustainable management of marine mammals.
28. The marine mammal atlas project proposes to publicise the status and characteristics of marine mammals species and to establish the means for on-going assessment and publication. A distributed digital repository would be the basis for producing a targeted publication in print, on CD-ROM/DVD and as maps-on-demand through the internet. Integration with UNEP.Net plus marine science data exchange communities using web mapping test-bed technologies. The UNEP World Digital Atlas on Marine Mammals will build on the 1993 UNEP/FAO publication 'Marine Mammals of the World'. The atlas will have a strong spatial dimension, providing maps for individual species (c. 120 species will be covered). The project will be carried out by UNEP-WCMC in partnership with the Government of Monaco (other partners to be added after feedback from sounding letters). UNEP/DEC will have overall responsibility for the development of the project. UNEP-WCMC would produce the atlas using biodiversity research, networking, analysis and presentation expertise in partnership with CBD, CITES, RAMSAR, CMS, UNEP Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans, IWC, IUCN Species Survival Commission (Cetacean and Sireniens specialists groups, Sea mammals research unit) FAO, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS,

The International Tuna Commission, UNESCO/IOC, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Greenpeace, WWF, The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, IGBP, OECD and other interested partners. **Advice and possible donor assistance from Standing Committee members are sought.**

UNEP offer to host the Secretariat for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia

29. In July 2000, 24 States gathered in Kuantan, Malaysia, to negotiate and adopt a *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia* under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The Memorandum seeks to conserve and replenish the populations of these six species of marine turtles through collaborative actions of the Range States.
30. In July 2001, the States concerned met in Manila and agreed the terms of an associated Conservation and Management Plan, consisting of 24 programmes and 105 specific activities. These focus on reducing threats, conserving critical habitat, exchanging scientific data, increasing public awareness and participation, promoting regional co-operation, and seeking resources for implementation of the Memorandum.
31. A small secretariat and an advisory committee will be established to help implement the provisions of the Memorandum. At the meeting in Manila, UNEP offered to co-locate the secretariat with its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the East Asian Seas Regional Co-ordination Unit in Bangkok. UNEP believes that co-locating the secretariat with UNEP/ROAP and the EAS/RCU in Bangkok offers the opportunity to foster reciprocal technical, scientific and financial assistance because of existing relationships and geographical location. In addition to facilitating the administrative procedures necessary at the initial stages of establishment of a secretariat, the arrangement lends itself to additional in-kind and other support from donor Governments, for example in the framework of the UNEP Junior Professional Officer programme. UNEP offered some financial assistance for the first three years of the secretariat's operation, along with help in securing a Junior Professional Officer from one of the countries participating in this programme.

Customs Officers' Training

32. Under the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Programme has launched a world wide national customs training to monitor and control Ozone Depleting Substances. The partnership with regional customs training institutions has been established to deliver more than 40 customs training programmes in as many countries. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is already planning to hold training workshops at its regional centres, jointly with the Secretariats of CITES and the Montreal Protocol, Interpol, the International Maritime Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and UNEP. Similarly, other Secretariats are also exploring the possibilities of joint training.

Information support to Conventions by DEC/IUC

33. UNEP continues to provide media and information support to the CITES secretariat. Recent media activities have included producing a press kit and managing media relations for COP 11 and promoting press coverage of efforts to protect the tiger and Caspian sturgeon. IUC also helped the secretariat to produce a simple brochure explaining CITES to a general audience.

## UNEP-WCMC Support to CITES

34. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre continues to provide technical and scientific support to the CITES Secretariat. Assistance is also provided, on request, to Parties that are unable to produce their own annual reports. The Centre maintains the CITES Trade Database, a database of information on trade in CITES-listed wildlife, compiled from the annual reports submitted by the Parties. This unique resource now contains over 4.5 million trade records and is regularly used to demonstrate trends and patterns of trade and to determine how well the Convention is being implemented. Regular outputs from the database are provided to the Convention's Technical Committees, to National Authorities, and to several organisations supporting the implementation of the Convention. A number of reports are also produced at UNEP-WCMC analysing different aspects of the trade according to geographic regions and/or species.
35. UNEP-WCMC's Species Conservation Database (SCD) continues to be up-dated and developed in order to assist the decision-making activities of the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities. Full details of the history of Appendix listing are maintained, as well as relevant information such as synonyms, common names and distribution data. Commissioned by, and under the guidance of the CITES Secretariat, the Centre is currently producing a tailor-made web interface for use of UNEP-WCMC's SCD according to the specific needs of the CITES audience.
36. In 2001 the latest editions of the *Checklist of CITES-listed species* and *Annotated CITES Appendices and Reservations* were produced, of particular importance to Parties unable to access the information over the Internet. This publication has already undergone a second reprint, and a CD-ROM version is currently being completed.

## The Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka Agreement)

37. The Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora held its 4th Session in Nairobi, Kenya on 23-24 July 2001. Among the decisions adopted during the Governing Council included the request to UNEP, in collaboration with Lusaka Agreement Task Force, to assist the Parties to the Agreement with the process of development, harmonization and strengthening of national wildlife management laws and regulations to undertake measures to assist and support the Parties in the capacity building programmes including institutional building. UNEP has prepared project proposals to enable it to solicit funds to execute the tasks as requested by the Parties to this Agreement. The process of the development and/or strengthening of wildlife laws and regulations will inevitably include and ensure the incorporation of the normative demands of the CITES and the Lusaka Agreement into the relevant national laws.
38. UNEP organized two training workshops for wildlife law enforcement officers in Uganda, one in Kampala on 16 October 2001 and another one in Entebbe on 19 October 2001. 22 and 27 participants respectively attended the two workshops. The workshops were primarily held to enable enforcement agencies and officers in Uganda to meet and be sensibilized to issues and problems affecting wildlife law enforcement. They also explore ways and means of developing a common approach to effectively enforce national wildlife laws and regulations which in turn ensure and facilitate the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.

39. More training programmes are envisaged during the first quarter of this year for law enforcement officers seconded by the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement Task Force based in Nairobi for the implementation of the agreement.

#### UNEP Guidelines on Enforcement and Compliance with MEAs

40. To further maintain momentum, the 21st Session of UNEP Governing Council adopted on 9th February 2001 decision 21/27 regarding compliance with and enforcement of MEAs. The decision requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue the process of the preparation of the draft guidelines on compliance with multilateral environmental agreements and on the capacity-strengthening and effective national environmental enforcement, in support of the ongoing developments of compliance regimes within the framework of international agreements. The Executive Director was also requested to undertake this process in consultation with Governments and relevant international organizations.
41. Further exchange of views on the draft text of the Guidelines was accomplished through two smaller but regionally and geo-politically balanced advisory groups meetings held in Nairobi from 13-15 November 2000 and in Geneva from 27-29 August 2001. The members of these groups were identified from the focal point(s) identified by Governments. Also represented in this group were relevant environmental convention secretariats. Inputs from this group of experts were used to prepare the final text of the draft guidelines.
42. An intergovernmental working group of experts was subsequently constituted to which all Governments were invited to participate. 78 Governments were represented at the meeting of the intergovernmental working group of experts which took place at UNEP Headquarters at Nairobi from 22 to 26 October 2001. This working group of experts considered and finalized the draft guidelines with a recommendation that the Executive Director submit them to the Special Session of the Governing Council scheduled to meet at Cartagena, Colombia from 13 to 15 February 2002. Once adopted by the Special Session, UNEP's focus will be on its effective implementation. Its future implementation will also be executing UNEP Governing Council Decision 21/23 on the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century referred to above. The first priority of this ten-year Programme is the effectiveness of environmental law, namely, implementation, compliance and enforcement.
43. The draft guidelines were adopted unanimously and will be presented to the Seventh Special Session of UNEP Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) scheduled to be held at Cartagena, Colombia from 13-15 February 2002 for its consideration and, possibly, adoption. For more detailed information on the guidelines please visit <http://www.unep.org/DEPI/Compliance-and-Enforcement/>.

### **PART B: UNON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE CONVENTION**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The present document has been prepared by UNEP/UNON as part of its responsibilities for providing administrative support to UNEP/CITES. It provides information on the administrative aspects of the functioning of the CITES Secretariat.

44. UNON reviewed and cleared the financial and administrative papers prepared by the CITES Secretariat for the 46th CITES Standing Committee which will take place in Geneva 11 – 15 March 2002 with the understanding that all financial information will be updated a few days before the Standing Committee takes place.

45. The CITES Secretariat proposal to amend para. 11 of the terms of reference for the administration of the CITES trust fund annexed to Resolution Conf. 11. 2 which gives the Secretary-General the authority to make transfer from one budget line to the other "up to 20 per cent over and above the annual amount foreseen in the budget under any budget subline provided that such action does not affect any high priority item" is within UN financial rules and regulations.
46. UNON welcomes the decision made by the Standing Committee at its 45th session to change the currency of the CITES budget from Swiss francs into US dollars. This decision is in line with the UN accounting system denomination in US dollars and solve the problem of occasional discrepancies in the financial documentation resulting from the conversion from Swiss Francs into US dollars and vice – versa.

#### Issue of Closing the CITES US Dollar Account in Geneva

47. The matter was discussed directly between CITES Secretariat and the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. The outcome of the negotiations was to keep the CITES US dollar (USD) current account with UBS AG in Geneva, but to transfer the CITES investments to the UN investment pool for Offices Away from Headquarters (OAH-pool), which is administered by the Treasury. At the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee the Secretariat was requested to liquidate its investments in USD with UBS bank in Geneva and invest the CITES cash balances in USD through the UN Cash Concentration System to maximize return on the invested funds. This decision was implemented as of 23 August 2001 when CITES USD investment with UBS matured. Currently, the Secretariat operates the USD current account in Geneva and remit surplus funds to New York for investments.

#### The 13 Per Cent Programme Support Cost on Voluntary Contributions

48. Further to the agreement reached between UNON and the Standing Committee at its 45th session, whereby "UNEP will start collecting 13 percent starting January 2001 on voluntary contributions to CITES", and the fact that "the Executive Director of UNEP will be prepared to allocate the funds received as PSC levied on voluntary contributions in support of the CITES Trust fund for funding of substantive backstopping of CITES projects of the CITES Secretariat", UNON and UNEP will develop a procedure aiming at ensuring that a proposal financing activities based on the last year earnings is submitted to the UNEP Executive Director for approval each year in April of the following year of the accounting period.