

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

Forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22-25 April 2003

Strategic and administrative matters

PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, March 2002) following discussion of the possibility of establishing an Implementation Committee, the Standing Committee decided that the working group previously established to consider this issue should work with the Secretariat to take into account comments made during the meeting and prepare a revised proposal for consideration at the 47th meeting.
3. At the 47th meeting (Santiago, November 2002), it was agreed to postpone discussion of this item pending discussions during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002) on the documents regarding the structure of the permanent committees.
4. At that meeting, a proposal was discussed for restructuring the permanent committees, with the possibility of establishing a committee responsible for dealing with technical implementation issues. The Conference of the Parties decided not to establish such a committee but adopted the following decisions.

12.23 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) identify, in conjunction with the Animals and Plants Committees, the typical categories of technical implementation issues (i.e. operational / administrative / management issues, not matters of a Party's compliance with the Convention) that have proved to be difficult to address under existing committee structures;*
- b) establish and implement a process for the Standing Committee to act as a clearing house to direct technical implementation issues to the appropriate body (permanent committees, Secretariat, Party or, when appropriate, outside experts) so that issues can be handled in a flexible, timely and accountable manner; and*
- c) report at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the categories of technical implementation issues identified by the permanent committees, development of a process for the Standing Committee to act as clearing house, and recommendations.*

12.24 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall:*

- a) continue to work on technical implementation issues of a primarily scientific nature;*
- b) develop recommendations on how the Committees could assist the Standing Committee in providing advice on technical implementation issues; and*
- c) report to the Standing Committee by its 50th meeting.*

Recommendation

5. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee establish a joint working group including representatives of the Standing Committee, the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to implement these decisions.
6. The working group should take into account the discussions that have already taken place at meetings of the Standing Committee and its working group and at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and should: seek input from the technical committees; identify the sorts of technical implementation issues that need to be dealt with; and recommend a procedure for dealing with them.
7. The working group should conduct its work through correspondence (preferably email) and provide a report for the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee. At that meeting the Standing Committee will need to decide on, and put into effect, a process for dealing with technical implementation issues [in accordance with Decision 12.23 b)].