

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

Sixty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Bangkok (Thailand), 2 March 2013

Administrative matters

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (DECISION 15.9)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 61st meeting (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), the Standing Committee considered document SC61 Doc. 8 on *Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees*¹ and agreed that “there was no need for the Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees to address potential conflicts of interest of their members relating to their activities in the Committees”.
3. At its 62nd meeting (SC62, Geneva, July 2012), however, the Standing Committee agreed “with a proposal from the Chair of the Animals Committee that the Standing Committee reconsider its implementation of Decision 15.9 at its 63rd meeting (SC63) on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Secretariat”.
4. Following SC62, Denmark, on behalf of the European Union Member States acting in the interest of the European Union, submitted document CoP16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1) on *Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees*. It is proposed in the document that Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) on *Establishment of committees* be revised to include provisions which address such potential conflicts of interest.
5. The Secretariat has provided comments on document CoP16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1) and these are contained at the end of that document. As said therein, the Secretariat supports in principle the proposal to provide policy guidance on the handling of potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees. The proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) is one way in which this policy guidance could be provided, but it is for the Conference of the Parties to determine whether guidance on potential conflicts of interest should be provided and how best to provide it.
6. In its comments on document CoP16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1), the Secretariat also refers to the draft conflict of interest policy and procedures for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (see IPBES/1/INF/4). The draft policy and procedures were not discussed at the first meeting of the IPBES Plenary (Bonn, January 2013) and may be discussed at the second meeting of the Plenary, tentatively scheduled for December 2013.
7. In view of the comments it has provided on document CoP16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1), and of the continuing relevance of much of document SC61 Doc. 8, the Secretariat has not prepared a comprehensive discussion document for the present meeting.

Recommendation

8. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee consider whether it might wish to express its views, through its Chair, on document CoP16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1) when that document is tabled for discussion during the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, March 2013).

¹ See <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/sc/61/E61-08.pdf>.