

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

Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Buenos Aires (Argentina) 22 April to 3 May 1985

Matters Related to the Standing Committee

RELATIONSHIP UNEP-IUCN-CITES

Report from the Secretariat

1. At the tenth meeting of the Standing Committee held in Gland (Switzerland) from 3 to 5 November 1983, the Secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to the necessity of re-evaluating the administrative arrangements for the Secretariat. These arrangements, which called for IUCN to provide for the Secretariat on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP under the umbrella of a project arrangement, in the views of the Secretariat, no longer satisfied the needs of the Convention as a result of its rapid evolution.
2. The Standing Committee decided to establish a Working Group (chaired by Kenya) responsible for making recommendations to the Standing Committee and delegated the responsibility for preparing a document, on behalf of the Working Group, to the United States of America. As requested by the Chairman of the Standing Committee and the representative of the United States, the Secretariat contracted a consultant to assist the Working Group in its activities. After thorough investigations, the Working Group made its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee at its eleventh meeting held in Gland (Switzerland) from 2 to 4 July 1984.
3. The Standing Committee decided to recommend to the Executive Director of UNEP that he exercise more direct control over the Secretariat; move it outside of the the World Conservation Centre and maintain the present staff of the Secretariat in their functions. The Executive Director of UNEP was informed of these recommendations by a letter from the Chairman of the Standing Committee dated 5 July 1984. The Executive Director of UNEP confirmed his agreement in his letter dated 13 July 1984. These exchanges of correspondence have been communicated to the Parties through Notification No. 305 dated 28 August 1984.
4. The change in administrative control took place on 1 November 1984. On that date, the staff of the Secretariat became UNEP staff members, the UNEP financial and administrative rules became applicable to the operations of the Secretariat, and the Secretariat took possession of its new premises in Lausanne.
5. Since then, and in accordance with the request of both the Executive Director and the Standing Committee the Secretariat has initiated the drafting of a memorandum of understanding to be signed by UNEP and IUCN,

covering co-operation between the IUCN and CITES Secretariats on technical, scientific and legal matters. Like all those concerned, the Secretariat believes that the physical separation of CITES from IUCN should not, in any manner, reduce co-operation between the organizations in the pursuit of their common objectives.

6. The Government of Canada, whilst indicating its satisfaction with the present arrangement, requested the convening of an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to amend the Convention in order to provide the Parties with alternatives for the future. The meeting was to be held in conjunction with the present regular meeting. Under Article XVII, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the request needed to be supported by 29 Parties to the Convention. While this number was never reached, several Parties indicated the necessity to discuss this issue during the Buenos Aires meeting.