

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

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

Matters Related to the Standing Committee

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

List of present Standing Committee members:

Chairman	India
Members	Australia Costa Rica Germany, Federal Republic of Kenya United States of America
Depositary Government	Switzerland
Host of 5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	Argentina
Host of 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	Canada

Mandate of the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee was established at the 2nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Resolution Conf. 2.2).

The revised mandate of the Standing Committee (vide Resolution Conf. 3.1) was further examined at the 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties where two Resolutions regarding the Standing Committee were adopted: Conf. 4.1 - reviewing the mandate, revising the membership and establishing voting procedures, and Conf. 4.2 - evolving a system for the payment of travel expenses to the members of the Standing Committee.

Meetings of the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee has met twice after the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties - 13th meeting held in Lausanne, 28 October to 1 November 1985 and 14th meeting held in Ottawa, 27-31 October 1986, the summary reports of which were circulated by the Secretariat to all the Parties.

Important matters were discussed during these meetings of the Standing Committee. These included financial matters, Technical Committee and Identification Manual Committee matters, the work programme of the Secretariat, arrangements for the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and a number of other topics relating to enforcement and problems of Bolivia.

#### Financial Matters

The Standing Committee continued to oversee the execution of the Secretariat's budget as per its mandate (Resolution Conf. 3.1). The Secretariat presented reports to the Committee on financial matters at its meetings. The Standing Committee continues to be concerned at the lack of financial contribution from some Parties, the delay in payment from others and suggested ways to the Secretariat to help the Parties in making timely payment. The Committee also expressed concern that the financial amendment had not come into force yet and hoped that the Secretariat's efforts to ensure its coming into force by the sixth meeting would yield results. Another cause for concern has been the fluctuation in the US dollar and the concomitant loss of income for the Secretariat. In 1985 when the rate of exchange for future budget projections was established, the value of the US dollar was at a maximum which contributed to a favourable relationship between income and expenditure for 1985. The subsequent decline in the dollar by some 30 percent led to a shortfall of US\$ 111,000 in 1986.

#### Additional Work Programme

Pursuant to the Resolutions adopted at the 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties it became necessary to evolve strategy and tactics to obtain external funding for its enhanced programme. The amount of money required for special funding was equal to that provided through regular contributions. This was discussed by the Standing Committee on the basis of a paper presented by the Secretariat to the Committee and approved. The amendments proposed in the Rules of Procedure and suggestions regarding the structure of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties were also approved.

#### Major Enforcement Problems

The Secretariat had presented a paper outlining some of the main areas of its concern in regard to the enforcement of the Convention. Amongst the major enforcement problems that were discussed at length and debated were: the situation in Bolivia, French Guyana, Free Port of Hamburg, Macau and United Arab Emirates. As regards the situation in Bolivia the Secretariat had agreed and sent an official mission to Bolivia as requested and presented the latest situation there. It found no evidence of stock piling of felidae skin stocks or of their exports since the 13th meeting of the Standing Committee. Issuance of permits, increase in quotas, etc. were also discussed and finally it was recommended that the question of Bolivia be referred to the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Regarding other problems suitable measures to be taken were suggested. The meeting appreciated the Secretariat's initiative in this regard and suggested that such reports should become a regular feature of the Standing Committee meetings.

#### Arrangements for the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

As agreed earlier the 6th meeting is being held in Ottawa (Canada). The matter regarding the arrangements for the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was discussed by the Standing Committee. As a result of these deliberations the provisional Agenda and the provisional Working Programme for the 6th meeting were drawn up and approved. Several amendments to the Rules of

Procedure have also been suggested. The Standing Committee wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Government of Canada for agreeing to host this meeting and the excellent work done for the success of this meeting by the Advisory Body consisting of representatives of Canadian provinces and territories, non-governmental organizations and native groups in concert with the Secretariat.

#### The Secretariat

The members of the Standing Committee have always worked closely with the Secretariat and continued to do so during the period between the 5th and 6th meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Pursuant to the Resolutions adopted at the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Secretariat has been burdened with a heavy additional workload. This onerous task has been carried out by the Secretariat with sincerity and dedication unflinchingly and unstintingly. On behalf of all the Parties, the Standing Committee offers its appreciation and gratitude to each and every member of the CITES Secretariat.