

The criteria review programme from CoP11 onwards

1. During CoP11 the Secretariat contacted several Parties to explore the hosting of the first meeting of the Criteria Working Group (CWG1). Soon after CoP11 Australia offered to host this first meeting in Canberra, and it was held there from 2 to 4 August 2000.
2. During the discussion of document Doc. 11.24 in Committee I of CoP11, a proposal to nominate Mr Hank Jenkins as the Chairman of the CWG was approved by this Committee. Immediately after CoP11 the Secretariat started a consultation with the Chairman to nominate co-opted experts to participate in CWG1.
3. The report of the first meeting of the CWG was circulated with Notification to the Parties 2000/51 of 31 August 2000. In this Notification, Parties were requested to provide comments on the CWG report.
4. The comments received in response to Notification 2000/51 (available on the CITES website) were compiled into a document that was discussed at the joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees held in Shepherdstown, United States of America, from 7 to 9 December 2000.
5. At the joint meeting it was agreed that the CWG should meet again for a detailed discussion on the definitions, notes and guidelines in Annex 5 to Resolution Conf. 9.24. A background document containing drafts for definitions and guidelines was sent on 9 April 2001 to all members of the CWG. The selection of terms that needed to be defined or redefined was based on suggestions made at the joint meeting and on suggestions by members of the CWG. CWG2 took place from 22 to 24 May 2001 in Sigüenza (Spain).
6. The Chairmen of the Plants and Animals Committees and of the CWG met in Geneva from 19 to 21 April to prepare a report, based on comments received from Parties in response to Notification 2000/51 and discussions during the joint meeting. This report was distributed to the Parties and interested intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations with Notification to the Parties 2001/37 of 31 May 2001. The draft definitions prepared at the CWG2 were included in this report. Responses were received from 25 Parties.
7. The Chairmen of the Animals Committee and the Criteria Working Group met in Geneva from 17 to 21 November to prepare the final report on the review of Resolution Conf. 9.24, for submission to the Standing Committee at its 46th meeting (Annex 5a). In the mean time, the Chairman of the Plants Committee had decided to submit her own report. This is included in Annex 5b to this document.
8. The decision of the Standing Committee is recorded on page 1 of this document.
9. The review of the criteria has cost the Parties approximately CHF 275,000, and involved two meetings of technical experts, a joint meeting of the Animals and Plant Committees, two meetings of the Chairmen in Geneva and participation in several FAO meetings.