

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

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Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Committee II meeting

Fifth session: 7 November 2002: 14h10-17h00

Chairwoman: A.-M. Delahunt (Australia)  
Vice-Chairman: K. Stansell (United States of America)

Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers  
J. Armstrong  
S. Baker  
J. Barzdo  
M. Jankowska  
S. Nash  
J. Sellar

Rapporteurs: H. Gillett  
A. St John  
T. Van Norman  
P. Wheeler

The Chairwoman announced that the Vice-Chairman of the meeting would chair discussion of agenda item 9.

**Strategic and administrative matters**

9. Financing and budgeting of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties

The Chairman introduced the agenda item, noting the complexity of the issues to be discussed. He drew attention to the supporting information documents CoP12 Inf. 3 and CoP12 Inf. 17. He stressed that over 50 Parties had been actively involved in preparation of the budget. The Secretariat then provided a detailed introduction to document CoP12 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1), highlighting the 15 per cent overall reduction in the Secretariat's budget but noting that this represented a 12 per cent increase in Parties' contributions. It drew attention to the three proposed amendments to the draft resolution on the 2003-2005 budget.

The Chairman drew attention to the substantial reduction in the CITES Trust Fund since the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He noted that because of this reduction, the Trust Fund would no longer be available to fund the work programme of the Conference of the Parties. He also noted that the Standing Committee had not agreed a recommended increase in the budget nor had they agreed to recommend no increase in the budget. He noted that the 12 per cent increase in the Parties' contributions should allow for maximum efficiency in the work programme without jeopardizing the current work of the Secretariat, emphasizing the budget represented a 15 per cent reduction compared

to the budget of the previous triennium. Finally he drew Parties' attention to Annex 2 (Rev. 2) of document CoP12 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1), which analysed the zero growth option in the Parties' contributions.

The delegation of Honduras queried the apparent absence of audited statements of the previous budget. The Secretariat explained that this information was provided in document CoP12 Inf. 2. The delegation of Senegal stated that it was difficult to compare information in Annexes 1 and 2 of document CoP12 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1), because the line items were different. The Secretariat acknowledged the general difficulty in presenting information in such a way that it satisfied all Parties, and noted that it had made an effort to accommodate all requests.

The Chairman asked for comments on the draft resolution item in the first bullet point in paragraph 15 of document CoP12 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1), regarding a change in the currency of the budget from the Swiss franc to the US dollar. No comments were made and the change was agreed. The Chairman then asked for comments on the draft resolution item in the second bullet point, regarding delegation of authority to the Secretary-General of the Convention to make transfers from one budget line to another, within the limits defined. No comments were made and the change was agreed.

The Chairman requested comments on the draft resolution item in the third bullet point in paragraph 15 regarding the change of the two- and three-year budget periods to a three-year period with a discontinuation of the medium-term budgets. The delegations of the Congo, Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the EU, the Russian Federation and Senegal expressed concern at the proposed change in the budget cycle, and in particular on the possible consequence of this change on the timing of meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretary-General noted that moving to a three-year cycle for meetings of the Conference of the Parties would result in one meeting less every 15 years. He also noted that under the current timeframe of meetings, the Secretariat had had difficulty fulfilling all delegation requests under the Sponsored Delegates project, stressing the importance of having these delegates participate at meetings. It was agreed to refer this item to the Standing Committee to address intersessionally.

The Chairman invited comments in support of the 12 per cent increase in Party contributions as outlined in the proposed budget in Annex 1. The delegations of Denmark, Norway, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Kingdom supported the 12 per cent increase. The Chairman then asked whether anyone opposed the 12 per cent increase. The delegation of Canada were against it. The delegations of France, Japan and Switzerland also opposed it, but noted their willingness to discuss a smaller increase.

The Chairman asked for comments on the zero growth option described in Annex 4. The delegations of Canada, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland and the United States expressed support for several of the cost-cutting options in Annex 4 of document CoP12 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1). The delegations of China, Senegal and the Russian Federation believed that several of the options were not feasible and should not be considered further. The Chairman also pointed out that some options in Annex 4 had been considered and rejected in previous Committee deliberations and therefore should not be considered. Based on the discussion, the Chairman called for the establishment of a working group to be chaired by Canada, including Argentina, Australia, Denmark, Japan, Mexico, Peru, St. Lucia, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, UNEP-WCMC and TRAFFIC. The terms of reference for the working group were to make recommendations on which activities might be impacted in the event of a zero increase in Parties' contributions or a six per cent increase in contributions. The delegations of Senegal and the United States stated that if the deliberations of the working group were to go beyond these narrow terms of reference, then they would be interested in participating. The Secretary-General thanked the delegation of China for their support of the Secretariat's work and stressed the need for a sufficient budget to maintain the work that the Secretariat carries out for the Parties.

The Vice-Chairman of the meeting yielded the chair to the Chairwoman of Committee II.

## **Interpretation and implementation of the Convention**

### 21. Review of resolutions and decisions

#### a) Review of Resolutions

##### ii) Resolutions to be revised

The Chairwoman established a working group to discuss document CoP12 doc. 21.1.2, to be chaired by Mexico and include Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

##### i) Resolutions to be repealed

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 21.1.1, indicating that there were 10 resolutions to be considered for repeal. The delegation of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, stated that they supported repeal of all Resolutions in Annex 1 of document CoP12 Doc. 21.1.1, particularly Resolutions Conf. 6.5 (Rev.) and Conf. 8.2 (Rev.).

The delegations of Mexico, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States believed that Resolution Conf. 10.4 should not be repealed. The delegation of Brazil expressed concern about the repeal of Resolution Conf. 1.5 (Rev.), disagreeing with the Secretariat's justification.

The Chairwoman called for specific discussion of each Resolution in turn. The delegation of Brazil and Mexico stated their disagreement with the Secretariat's justification for the repeal of Resolution Conf. 1.3. The Secretariat stated that it was self-evident that a species could not be included in two separate Appendices since the provisions relating to Appendix-I species were different from those relating to Appendix-II species. They also noted that the Resolution was incorrect in its reference to the qualification of the term 'species'. By a show of hands, the Chairwoman found that there was no consensus for repealing Resolution Conf. 1.3.

The session closed at 17h00.