

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

Strategic matters

REVIEW OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee.
2. Decision 14.6 directed the Standing Committee in cooperation with the scientific committees and the Secretariat to:

develop a costed proposal to assess the costs, advantages and disadvantages of the provision of a chairman independent of regional duties and responsibilities, selected by the Conference of the Parties on a regional rotational basis.

3. In the presence of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Standing Committee discussed this matter at its 57th and 58th meetings (Geneva, July 2008 and July 2009). The Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that, in future, the Chair of the Animals and Plants Committees be elected from amongst the members and be replaced in his or her role as regional member by his or her alternate. The Committee recognized that under the current procedures for holding meetings and sponsorship of members' participation, this change could have financial implications (up to USD 24,000 per triennium – see document SC58 Doc. 11) for the Trust Fund if the selected chair was not drawn from a developed country. Finally the Committee agreed that the chairs should be selected primarily for their technical expertise and not on a fixed regional rotation basis.
4. The Committee requested the Secretariat to draft proposals reflecting this decision for submission and consideration at the present meeting.

Recommendation

5. The Secretariat suggests the following amendment to Annex 2, first DETERMINES, paragraph e) of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on *Establishment of committees*, to bring about the change recommended by the Standing Committee. NB: Proposed new text is underlined.
 - e) a Chair and a Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee. The Chair should be replaced in his/her role of regional member by his/her alternate. In the absence at a meeting of the alternate in question, the Chair shall serve also as regional member for his/her region on an *ad hoc* basis; and
6. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) proposed in paragraph 5 above and to make provision in the Trust Fund budget for the possible extra costs which may be incurred.