

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Summary record of the first session of Committee II

25 September 2016: 15h50 - 18h15

Chair: J. Barzdo (Switzerland)

Secretariat: J. Scanlon  
S. Bengtsson  
D. Morgan  
H. Okusu

Rapporteurs: M. Jenkins  
E. King  
J. McAlpine  
C. Rutherford

**Administrative and financial matters**

7. Administration, finance and budget of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties

7.1 Administration of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 7.1 containing a summary of the staffing situation of the Secretariat for the period 2014-2016 and an overview of administrative changes within the United Nations.

Document CoP17 Doc. 7.1 was noted.

7.3 Financial reports for 2014-2016

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 7.3, the financial reports for 2014-2016. It noted that several Parties had recently made contributions and that updated figures for the status of both Trust Funds as of the end of August 2016 were available on the CITES website. It also provided an update on the status of the Sponsored Delegates Project (SDP) indicating that, of the target of USD 1 million set for CoP17, approximately USD 660,000 had been raised. It expressed its thanks to Australia, Austria, Canada, China, the European Union, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Global Foundation, the Oak Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and Vulcan Inc., all of whom had contributed. In addition, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had waived the 13% programme support costs for the CoP17 SDP and this amount had been reallocated to the project. In total, the project had covered the costs of attendance at CoP17 of 135 delegates from 102 developing countries.

Australia, speaking on behalf of the region of Oceania, appreciated all the efforts made in facilitating attendance of Parties in the region at the CoP, but drew attention to logistical difficulties that several Parties had had, particularly in obtaining visas. This was echoed by Senegal and Togo, who believed

that countries that agreed to host meetings such as the CoP should expedite the process of obtaining visas, particularly for Parties where the host country had no diplomatic representation.

With regard to the draft CITES policy on interpretation and translation in Annex 14 of CoP17 Doc. 7.3, the United States appreciated efforts to ensure that services were provided to Parties in the most efficient way possible. However, they did not support the proposal in paragraph 13 of the Annex to introduce Consolidated Executive Summaries in place of Summary Records for meetings of the Permanent Committees, as they did not believe the former would fulfil Parties' needs. They believed that Summary Records and full Executive Summaries were needed, and noted that they considered the records of some recent meetings not to have been detailed enough.

Israel suggested the Secretariat investigate the possibility of combining the official record of meetings with the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB).

The European Union shared the concerns of the United States and emphasised the need for unbiased records of meetings. They also noted that, as ENB received funding from many of the same donors as CITES, it was not clear that the Convention would benefit from following Israel's suggestion.

The Russian Federation expressed concern at the reduction of resources allocated to scientific work under the Convention, while translation costs were increasing, and urged that ways be found to reduce the latter. They also sought clarification regarding the auditing of the 2014-2016 budget.

Chile, speaking on behalf of Spanish-speaking Parties, echoed by Togo, stressed the great importance of having all documents available in all three languages of the Convention.

In response, the Secretary-General emphasised that full participation by all Parties at meetings and in the workings of the Convention was of the highest priority, but noted that problems with visas were beyond the Secretariat's control. He observed that the burden of translation was increasing because interest in the Convention was increasing and reiterated the comments of the European Union regarding ENB.

Document CoP17 Doc. 7.3 was noted.

#### 7.4 Budget and work programme for the period 2017 to 2019

The Secretary-General introduced CoP17 Doc. 7.4, and its annexes, these containing three budget scenarios: zero real growth, zero nominal growth and incremental growth. He noted that staff resources had been diminishing over the past decade while demands on the Secretariat were increasing as a result of the increased number of Parties and substantial increase in meeting participants and documents.

Australia, Austria, Botswana, Cameroon, Denmark and Italy supported the incremental growth budget scenario. France and the Russian Federation supported the zero real growth budget scenario and Brazil and Japan favoured the zero nominal growth scenario, but all were prepared to engage in further discussion.

France acknowledged the continuing need for translation and also drew attention to the number of Parties with outstanding contributions. The Russian Federation asked the Secretariat to consider decreasing expenditure in travel, translation and conferences and asked for information on medical expenses for retired staff, compensation packages and the potential budgetary impacts of Umoja.

Cameroon, supported by France, recognised a need to identify additional sources of funding to support the Secretariat.

The Chair adjourned the discussion and established a Budget Working Group, chaired by Botswana and also comprising other members of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee of the Standing Committee, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, the Czech Republic, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Nigeria, Norway, the Russian Federation, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Chair requested that they update the Committee on their progress.

## 7.2 Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on administrative and other matters

The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) introduced CoP17 Doc. 7.2 (Rev. 1) containing the report of UNEP describing technical and scientific support provided to CITES, and administrative and financial management support provided to the CITES secretariat. She reported that the request in paragraph 110 for the Standing Committee to review the Memorandum of Understanding has been withdrawn.

Switzerland highlighted the adoption of Resolution 2/18 at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and called upon the Committee to work in a corporate spirit to overcome existing administrative problems.

The report of the Executive Director of UNEP was noted.

## 7.5 Access to finance, including GEF funding

The Secretariat introduced CoP17 Doc 7.5 containing a report on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.2, Decision 16.2 on *Access to Global Environment Facility funding*, and Decisions 16.3 to 16.8 on *Access to other sources of funding*. Annex 3 of the document contained a number of draft decisions. The Secretariat noted that the budget referred to in paragraph 11 of the document had increased from USD 90 million to USD 131 million; that the GEF Secretariat was unable to participate in CoP17 as requested in paragraph 15; and that any priorities concerning GEF-7 identified by this meeting could be submitted to COP13 of the Convention Biological Diversity. It also reported that the wildlife donor roundtable on sustainable use had been postponed until the end of November 2016.

The World Bank explained that the USD 131 million invested by GEF would be used to support local communities and governments to find pathways out of poverty.

The Committee agreed that the matter would be added to the agenda of the Budget Working Group established under agenda item 7.4, and that UNEP would join the working group.

## 8. Sponsored Delegates Project

The European Union introduced CoP17 Doc. 8 regarding the Sponsored Delegates Project. The annex to the document contained a draft resolution on the project.

Following a request for clarification from the Chair, the European Union indicated that it agreed with the suggestion in paragraph B of the Secretariat's comments in the document that the paragraph quoted from Resolution Conf. 13.8 (Rev. CoP16) be incorporated into the draft resolution.

Brazil, Colombia, Guinea, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela all supported the draft resolution. Israel and Colombia requested further clarification on eligibility criteria. Brazil suggested an amendment inviting Parties to detail the source of financing for their delegates. The United States, supported by the European Union, believed that Brazil's proposal was covered in operative paragraphs 9 and 10 of the draft resolution. Brazil proposed the addition of "self-funding or" before "funding from another government" in operative paragraph 10.

Guinea and Kenya requested the insertion of text asking donors to contribute to the Sponsored Delegates Project at least three months before the Conference of the Parties and called for sponsored delegates' flights and hotels to be confirmed at least one month before the meeting in order to allow sponsored delegates to plan their participation.

The Chair pointed out that no document existed outlining the procedures referred to in operative paragraph 5. Following suggestions from the Chair and the European Union, the following was agreed as text for operative paragraph 5:

"CALLS on governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private bodies to provide external funding to the Secretariat, preferably three months before each CoP for the Sponsored Delegates Project and ENCOURAGES them to use the project to the greatest extent possible ~~the procedures set out in the project~~ whenever they intend to support the participation of delegates of another Party to the CoP".

The Chair, supported by the European Union, suggested that the issue of eligibility criteria be passed to the Standing Committee. The Chair asked the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision directed to the Standing Committee asking the Committee to establish criteria for the Sponsored Delegates Project and report back to CoP18.

The draft resolution in the annex to the document was agreed, with the changes proposed in paragraph B of the Secretariat's comments, the revised operational paragraph 5 and Brazil's proposed amendment to operational paragraph 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 18h15.