

CITES WORLD

Official Newsletter of the Parties *Convention on International Trade* *in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*

Issue Number 5 - July 2000

Letter from the Editor

This edition will focus on the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP11). Apart from some brief accounts of the outcomes of the meeting, you will also learn how the Chairman of Committee I felt about her intense life during the meeting; the unique humour of the Chairman of Committee II and why this CoP has been a surprising experience for a new staff member of the Secretariat.

The table showing the CoP11 decisions on amendment proposals will facilitate your search on the final results on the species proposals.

Again, we encourage the Parties to contribute more articles to the newsletter as it is the newsletter of the Parties.

Staff at the Secretariat

Departures

Mr Jonas Nagahuedi, Programme Officer, finished his contract with the Secretariat on 9 June 2000. We wish him all the best with his family in Canada.

Ms Stéphanie Malnuit, Secretary of the Capacity Building Unit, left the Secretariat on 16 June 2000.

Arrivals

Ms Marceil Yeater joined the Secretariat on 10 February 2000 as the new head of the Enforcement Assistance Unit.

Mr Laurent Gauthier, the new Documentation Officer, started working with Secretariat on 5 June 2000.

The Secretariat

The most intense 40 hours in my life

During the CoP, Committee I had 14 sessions all of which took a total of 39 hours and 51 minutes! During these sessions, 20 documents concerning important issues for CITES were considered. Among these documents we had a draft resolution on standard nomenclature; the procedure for the review of criteria to amend the CITES Appendices I

and II; conservation of and trade in tigers, rhinoceros, turtles and sea horses; the monitoring of illegal killing of elephants and the illegal trade in ivory as well as the assistance to Scientific Authorities in order to establish procedures to determine when specimens are extracted from the wild that such an operation is done without detriment to the species.

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Parties nodding in three languages in Committee II

This committee held 12 sessions to discuss the 32 agenda items in its working programme. Its Chairman, Viet Koester of Denmark, demonstrated from the outset a degree of firmness, tempered with fairness and a dry sense of humour, which appeared to be much appreciated by delegates. The Chairman's greatest contribution, however, was perhaps the manner in which he encouraged the committee to adopt an approach of seeking consensus wherever possible and in this he met with considerable success. Delegates enjoyed his unique sense of humor like "I see delegates nodding, I hope they are nodding in three languages as well". This remark perhaps reflects the atmosphere in Committee II.

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The most intense 40 hours in my life

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In addition, 61 proposals (62 submitted, one was withdrawn before the meeting) submitted by 27 Parties to amend the Appendices were considered. Twenty one of these proposals referred to flora and 40 to fauna. From the initial 61 proposals presented, 28 were withdrawn or rejected. The remaining 33 proposals were accepted, some of which were accepted with amendments.

With respect to the fauna proposals, quotas for the Nile crocodile in Tanzania were approved, and the zero quota for Bolivian vicuña was canceled. Zero quotas for pangolins and wild specimens of African spurred tortoise were approved. The dugong, the horned parakeet and Uvéa horned parakeet and all other coelacanth species were included in Appendix I. The hwamei (a song bird), Asian box turtles, the Mantella frogs and all subspecies of urial were included in Appendix II. The down-listing from Appendix I to Appendix II was approved for the lesser rhea as well as for the elephant population of South Africa, with a zero quota for trade in raw ivory.

What was expected as the most intense debate, the proposals dealing with the African elephant, were solved by a paradigmatic consensual agreement between the African countries. Such an agreement brought about a strong emotion in Committee I.

With respect to the flora proposals, the following were approved for inclusion in Appendix II: yellow adonis, the Russian population of Asian ginseng, and desert cistanche. The Argentinian population of monkey-puzzle-tree was included in Appendix I and various decisions on Brazil wood, grapple thorn and rainsticks were also approved.

It is important to note that almost 300 plant species were taken out of the Appendices. This is as a result of the revision of the Appendices that is being done systematically by the CITES Plants Committee. This reduction of almost 300 species should be seen as a success for CITES since they were suppressed either because they are not threatened with international trade or because the wild populations are now healthy. In some cases only artificially propagated specimens are being traded.

My own perception as chairperson, about the global results achieved in Committee I, is highly positive. I consider that these 39 hours and 51 minutes have been the most intense 40 hours of my life and I must thank all delegates and NGOs for the constructive dialogue that they constantly promoted based on strong scientific arguments. Also I thank the CITES Secretariat, and in particular Secretary General Mr. Willem Wijnstekers, who made significant contributions using their knowledge of CITES. This assistance significantly facilitated my task. My deep appreciation goes to all members of the bureau and beyond (chairman and vice-chairmen of the plenary, chairman



Dr Margarita África Clemente Muñoz

of Committee II, chairman of the Budget Committee, chairperson of the Credentials Committee, members of the Standing Committee, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General) all of whom gave extremely valuable suggestions. In particular, Ambassador Asadi created a friendly environment, always working hard in 'smoothing the road' for the discussions, constantly calling for consensus to solve the most difficult topics.

It is impossible to end without recognizing Dr. Klaus Töpfer and his staff of UNEP/UNON who showed excellent organizational skills that provided to all of us the optimal framework for our Conference.

My assignment as chairperson of Committee I was a difficult one, but it was an honour and a privilege to have had the opportunity to accomplish it.

*Dr Margarita África Clemente Muñoz (Spain)
Chairperson of Committee I of CITES CoP11*

Parties nodding in three languages in Committee II

Continued from page 1

Of the 36 separate documents before delegates, 26 were adopted, noted or endorsed and seven were withdrawn. Only 3 documents were rejected after a vote and only one vote was by secret ballot. Interestingly, one document had to be voted upon twice, since in tallying the votes after the first roll call it was discovered that there had not been a quorum present when the roll was called. The three subjects that did provoke votes were the Convention's

relationship with the International Whaling Commission, introduction from the sea, and cosmetic products containing caviar. It is important to note, though, that working groups expended considerable effort to draft text that might be acceptable to a majority of Parties before the Chairman finally out those matters to the vote.

Working groups also considered such subjects as tiger conservation and the concept of an enforcement task force, bears, captive-breeding and the movement of diagnostic samples. The latter subject generated much discussion and whilst the majority of delegates agreed that a simplified procedure was necessary, they were anxious that no loopholes in the provisions of the Convention should be created and that proposals should not adversely affect the ability of Parties to control genetic resources. The Animals Committee will pursue this issue.

The registration of operations breeding Appendix-I species for commercial purposes has been under discussion for many years. The previous system was regarded by many as not satisfactory but an acceptable alternative could not be developed easily. During the meeting, however, a working group very successfully tackled the subject and proposed a new registration system that was unanimously approved. In future, registration will only apply to species that are critically endangered, difficult to breed or difficult to keep in captivity. The Animals Committee will develop the list of species concerned.

A very important aspect of CITES is the adequate regulation of trade in live plants and animals. The Resolution on Trade in wild-caught animal specimens (Resolution Conf.

8.9) provides for a mechanism through which the Animals Committee assists Parties in regulating the sustainable utilization of species that are traded in significant quantities. The Resolution was refined, strengthening the involvement of range States in the process, and making it now applicable to both plants and animals.

Delegates agreed with a suggestion from the Secretariat that the historical problem of Parties failing to submit annual reports required firm action. A decision that the Standing Committee should be empowered to recommend a cessation of trade with Parties that had failed over three consecutive years to submit reports, without adequate justification, was adopted.

New initiatives from the Secretariat relating to the collation and dissemination of information regarding infractions against the Convention, an information management strategy and capacity building under the National Legislation Project were all endorsed by the committee.

A new, but very topical, subject for CoP11 was bushmeat. The committee approved decisions that will create an inter-sessional working group to address this issue and will promote liaison with other relevant organizations and conventions. This was very much in line with the increasing synergy between CITES and other conservation and environmental bodies.

The Secretariat



Vote during Committee I

New kid in the neighbourhood

COP11 was my induction into the world of wildlife actors and issues after an environmental career mostly devoted to pollution-related matters. The experience was a surprising one in several ways.

Surprise #1—A member of the CITES Secretariat is expected to be a jack of all trades, that is, able to do practically anything, anywhere, anytime depending on what is needed. This is quite a change from my experience in larger organizations where each person primarily contributes according to his/her area of expertise. On the other hand, it offers an excellent opportunity to learn about CITES from a variety of angles.



Ms Marceil Yeater, new Chief of the Enforcement Assistance Unit at the CITES Secretariat

Surprise #2—NGOs play a very active role in the decision-making process. They participate not only in plenary and committee sessions but also working groups established to examine disputed issues. This level of NGO involvement seems quite unique to CITES.

Surprise #3—Media interest in wildlife seems greater than media interest in chemicals/wastes. Perhaps this is in response to the strong, and often diametrically opposed, opinions expressed or actions taken by various stakeholders. I find the widespread and intense interest in CITES' work to be quite exciting but the aggressiveness with which some players pursue their positions is disturbing.

Surprise #4—Voting, especially by secret ballot, has not been a common practice in the inter-governmental meetings I have attended. Instead, participants have focused on arriving at a consensus—and the search for consensus has often delayed or prevented the taking of decisions. It is refreshing to see Parties agreeing to disagree and

accepting the majority position on an issue.

Surprise #5—Although I have heard some people complain that there is more politics than science in CITES these days, I found impressive the quantity and quality of substantive discussions that took place during COP11. These debates highlighted more than a few key challenges for modern environmental management. For example, the reality of sustainable development or sustainable use clearly does not have the same support as the theoretical concept.

I look forward to additional surprises as I learn more about CITES—and I appreciate the chance to make further comparisons as well as linkages between the “green” and “brown” dimensions of environmental protection.

*M. Yeater**

** (Ms) Marceil Yeater joined the CITES Secretariat on 10 February 2000 as the new Chief of the Enforcement Assistance Unit. Previously, she worked for the environmental law programme at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi and for UNEP Chemicals in Geneva, Switzerland. Before that, she was a Trial Attorney in the Environmental Crimes Section of the US Department of Justice.*

CITES regional meeting of South, Central America and the Caribbean

29 February –2 March 2000, Quito (Ecuador)

The first ever regional meeting organized for Central, South America and the Caribbean outside of the Conference of the Parties was held in Quito (Ecuador) from 29 February – 2 March 2000. At the opening ceremony, the Hon. Vice-president of Ecuador noted the importance of the CITES Convention as a valuable instrument to protect the species of wild fauna and flora in the region and to guarantee their sustainable use. In this connection, the Secretary General noted that the Secretariat planned to have a stronger and more pro-active presence in the region.

The meeting was convened by Argentina and Panama as regional representatives to the Standing Committee and by the Government of Ecuador. There were 78 delegates, representing 30 of the 31 Parties belonging to this region, and three non-governmental organizations who attended the meeting. The meeting was intended to enhance regional cooperation in improving implementation of CITES and to facilitate the exchange of different points of view, in order to guide a regional dialogue on important issues expected to be considered at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11).

The Secretariat presented its strategy to supply technical



Many press briefings were held. Press briefing with Mr Willem Wijnstekers (CITES Secretary General), Dr Klaus Töpfer (UNEP Executive Director), and Ambassador Asadi (Chairman of CoP 11)

and financial assistance to the region and provided the background and supporting information necessary to discuss the proposals. The participants exchanged their points of view in a positive spirit of dialogue, treating all the issues in a scientific manner and stressing the importance of the principle of sustainable use.

The discussions were dominated by the regional proposals, in particular those referring to vicuña and hawksbill turtles. In the case of the vicuña, the delegations of member countries to the “Convention on the vicuña”, noted that Bolivia had not submitted the proposal to the other Parties to this Convention. This incident triggered an interesting debate on the requirements to submit a proposal and the synergies between the two conventions. But the most exciting discussion was generated by the Cuban proposal. Even though the participants recognized the high quality of the proposal and the measures that Cuba had taken, some countries, like Bahamas, opposed the proposal arguing that the conservation and management of hawksbill turtles need a regional approach, because turtles, as a migratory species, do not belong to any individual country.

At the end of the meeting, the delegates concluded and signed the Quito Declaration emphasising the need to enhance cooperation amongst neighbouring countries in order to coordinate the efforts against illegal trade in CITES-listed species. In this declaration, the Parties commit themselves to strengthening the existing mechanism of regional cooperation with the purpose of establishing

harmonized policies to carry out the activities related to CITES implementation.

The declaration was submitted to the twelfth meeting of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Barbados, from 2 to 7 March 2000, as well as to the COP 11, in order to have it endorsed at the highest level by environmental authorities. A decision recognizing the Quito Declaration as the document containing the basic principles for action in the region was adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

The participants expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Ecuador for their important contribution in organizing and hosting this regional meeting, as well as to the CITES Secretariat for its support throughout the whole process.

The sponsored delegates gratefully acknowledged the financial support provided by the donor countries.

CITES Management Authorities of Argentina, Ecuador and Panama

CITES meeting of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean sub-region

Quito (Ecuador), 3 - 4 march 2000

The Secretariat convened a meeting of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean sub-region, from 3-4 March 2000 in Quito (Ecuador), directly after the first CITES meeting of the South, Central America and Caribbean region. The meeting was attended by representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cuba, France, Grenada, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

The meeting was intended to assess strategic needs for the Caribbean SIDS concerning CITES implementation; identify priority activities that should be undertaken in the region to enhance the capacity of Management and Scientific Authorities in the sub-region to improve the management of important wildlife resources and the implementation of CITES; identify potential problems concerning the implementation of CITES that may relate to the level of co-ordination between certain governments and their territories in the Caribbean sub-region; identify potential sources of support and collaboration concerning CITES implementation; establish direct contact with CITES Parties as well as territories in the Caribbean region; and review a range of resource management, trade control and enforcement issues.

Major constraints to the effective implementation of CITES were identified during the meeting, notably that there is a lack of awareness of the potential role of CITES as a tool for national biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. CITES has not yet featured in political agendas in the sub-region. The principal need is to raise the profile of CITES at very senior governmental level and to sensitize the political leadership about CITES. National legislation is generally not adequate for CITES implementation, as in many other sub-regions. The lack of appropriate legislation remains a fundamental problem that should be addressed as a priority, making use of assistance offered by the Secretariat. The role of Scientific Authorities for the implementation of CITES has not yet been emphasized in the sub-region, and a considerable degree of capacity building and institutional strengthening appear to be required virtually throughout the sub-region. The most crucial need is assistance regarding the implementation of Article IV (i.e. the making of non-detriment findings).

The bulk of trade in CITES specimens from the sub-region and within the sub-region is in the queen conch *Strombus gigas*. This species represents a resource of major economic importance but has not been managed appropriately in the past. It has become essential for Parties in the sub-region to standardize their approach towards harvest

control, quota setting, resource monitoring and establishing catch restrictions. Apart from trade in queen conch, trade in tourist souvenirs represent the next most important implementation challenge. As a first step, information materials are urgently needed to raise awareness of CITES in the Caribbean sub-region and to inform tourists of the requirements of CITES concerning tourist souvenirs. An aspect of controlled trade in tourist souvenirs that should be standardized within the sub-region was identified, namely the trade in queen conch shells. All major fisheries are directed at producing meat from queen conch, with shells as a by-product. Deregulating trade in *Strombus gigas* shells as personal effects can be achieved through simple steps, thereby freeing up resources for more important CITES business.

Parties and territories in the sub-region continue to experience problems in accessing information about CITES and communicating with the CITES Secretariat. Various factors contribute to problems, but the CITES Secretariat in particular needs to maintain more frequent contact with the sub-region. CITES implementation by overseas territories of European Parties in the sub-region presents several challenges. The CITES Secretariat has not always been informed of the exact arrangements between central Management Authorities and local governments concerning liaison and the issuance of permits. Parties in the sub-region have had similar difficulties in liaising with territories in the sub-region regarding intra-regional trade issues and CITES implementation. Until very recently, some territories had had difficulties in obtaining appropriate information concerning CITES. Whilst recognizing that improvements seem to be occurring, it may be appropriate for governments responsible for territories in the sub-region, to consider further decentralization of the implementation of CITES within the sub-region.

Recommendations

A set of achievable priorities in a phased approach was established for the period 2000 to 2003, in recognition of the broad range of issues that need to be addressed to improve implementation of CITES and in view of awareness of CITES as a tool for national biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. External funding will be required to implement these priority activities.

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Ecuador is thanked for providing administrative and logistical support for this meeting. The Government of the Netherlands kindly provided financial support for this meeting.

The Secretariat

The third master's degree course in management, conservation and control of species in international trade

2 October to 15 December 2000

Financed by Foundation for Biodiversity
(Spanish Environmental Ministry)

Two Master's Degree Courses in the Management, Conservation and Control of Species in International Trade have been organized by the International University of Andalusia, under the auspices of the Foundation on Biodiversity of the Spanish Environmental Ministry. The success and impact created by the previous courses recommends that the course should continue this year. So, the third Master's degree course is going to be held again at the International University of Andalusia, in collaboration with the University of Cordoba, from October 2nd to December 15th, 2000. The funding has been approved by the Foundation for Biodiversity. Spanish-English interpretation is included in the budget for the whole course since the intention is to offer the Master's degree course to a greater number of countries.

In an attempt to give you a clearer picture of this master's degree course, here is a brief account of the second course:

The second master's degree course (500 hours) was organized by the International University of Andalusia (Baeza, Jaen) with the collaboration of the University of Cordoba (Spain) and financed by Foundation for Biodiversity (Spanish Environmental Ministry). It started on 4 October and finished on 17 December 1999. 28 students from the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, the Universities and governmental and non-governmental organizations of 14 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Spain) participated in the course. In addition, 19 inspectors from the Spanish Management Authority attended different sections of this Master's degree course in order to improve their training.

The first lecture of this II Master's degree course was given, at the opening ceremony, by the

Secretary General of CITES, Mr. Willem Wijnstekers, who stated: *"This event, this course, this master's degree course may seem very logical and normal, but it is not. In fact, it is totally unique and nothing similar or even close exists in the world. The initiative to organise this Masters, for the second time in two years, deserves the greatest possible compliments and I should like to congratulate all those who had the insight and the vision to organise it. That vision is shared by those who found it worthy of financial support and they similarly must be congratulated. Congratulations should also go to the administrations and governments that have allowed students to participate and were willing to invest in their future and in the future of CITES implementation"*

The II course was taught by 62 professors from 14 countries. Along with the Spanish Scientific Authority (Ministry of Environment) and Management Authority (Ministry of the Economy and Finance) acted as professors personnel from:

- CITES Secretariat
- Forensic Laboratory of the United States
- European Union Commission
- FAO Plant Genetic Resources Secretariat
- IUCN
- Africa Resources Trust
- Adena-WWF
- Scientific and/or Management Authorities of: Argentina, Austria, France, Mexico, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela.

The students attended 400 hours of lectures and practical training that covered all of the management and scientific

topics that are necessary for CITES to be properly implemented. The practical training took place at the Botanic Garden/University of Cordoba, the Barcelona Zoo, the Jerez Zoo, the Customs Office of Algeciras, the Cazorla Natural Park, Doñana National Park and the University of Granada. All students passed the final exam and they are preparing their thesis in their respective countries.



Second master course: participants

This second Master's degree course was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Foundation for Biodiversity, and the collaboration of the Spanish Environmental Ministry, the Ministry of the Economy and Finance (General Secretariat of Foreign Trade), the CITES Secretariat, the Cordoba Botanic Garden, the Barcelona Zoo, the Jerez Zoo and the Customs Office in Algeciras.

For more information:

Prof. Dr. M. A. Clemente, Director of the Master course
e-mail: cr1clmum@uco.es

To book places:

International University of Andalucia
e-mail: machado@uniaam.uia.es

The Plant Conservation Alliance - Medicinal Plant Working Group

The market for medicinal herbs in the United States is worth over US\$3 billion and is growing at a rate of about 20 percent per year (Nutrition Business Journal 1998). At least 175 species of plants native to North America are offered for sale in the non-prescription medicinal market in the United States; and more than 140 medicinal herbs native to North

America have been documented in herbal products and phytomedicines in foreign countries (Robbins 1999). Dozens and possibly hundreds of these are collected in large quantities from the wild in the United States (Robbins 1999).

Recognizing that commercial demands may cause overharvesting of native plants in the United States, representatives from industry, government, academia, Tribes, and environmental organizations joined together to form the Medicinal Plant Working Group (PCA-MPWG) under the umbrella of the Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA). The PCA is a consortium of ten US federal government Member agencies and over 145 non-federal Cooperators representing various disciplines of plant conservation who work collectively to solve the problems of native plant extinction and native habitat restoration, ensuring the preservation of our ecosystems. The PCA also serves as the North American Plant Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

The Medicinal Plant Working Group's primary focus is to facilitate action on behalf of medicinal plants native to the United States that are of particular conservation concern, in order to balance biological and commercial needs and, in the long term, minimize regulatory intervention. To this end, the objectives of the group include:

- 1) generating and sharing information regarding species of medicinal and economic importance and conservation concern;
- 2) promoting appropriate conservation measures for na-

tive medicinal plants;

- 3) promoting sustainable production of native medicinal plants;
- 4) increasing participation in native medicinal plant conservation;
- 5) encouraging active participation by Tribes and other holders of traditional ecological knowledge pertaining to native medicinal plants; and
- 6) generating financial support for native medicinal plant projects.

The PCA-MPWG's strategic plan is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/medicinal/strategy.htm>

Since its inception in June 1999, membership in the PCA-MPWG has grown to over 100 individuals from at least 28 states and Tribes and three foreign countries. Participants have established Committees to address each of the six main areas of emphasis identified above, and selected representatives from Paracelsian, the USDA Forest Service, the Department of Defense, Botanical Liaisons, the University of Maryland, Wilcox Natural Products, Ticonderoga Farms, Inc., the US Botanic Gardens, and TRAFFIC North America as Chairs.

A "Core Group" of members, including the Committee Chairs and interested others, meets regularly by conference call to discuss progress. Currently, the Working Group is finalizing its Strategic Plan and each Committee is beginning to take steps to achieve its objectives. For example, the Conservation Committee is selecting specific "species



This has been the first CoP for Mr Willem Wijnstekers in the capacity of the Secretary General of CITES

of concern” for each region of the country for which conservation measures will be developed. The Participation Committee is developing a list of things the public can do to help conserve medicinals, like buy products from cultivated sources. The entire PCA-MPWG shares information and keeps in touch on significant issues via a listserver.

The PCA Medicinal Plant Working Group is facilitated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is open to all who are interested in medicinal plant conservation. If you are interested in the Working Group and want further information, visit the PCA-MPWG web site:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/medicinal>

If you would like to participate, please contact the PCA-MPWG Chair for more information: Julie Lyke, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Scientific Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203; 703/358-1708; julie_lyke@fws.gov.

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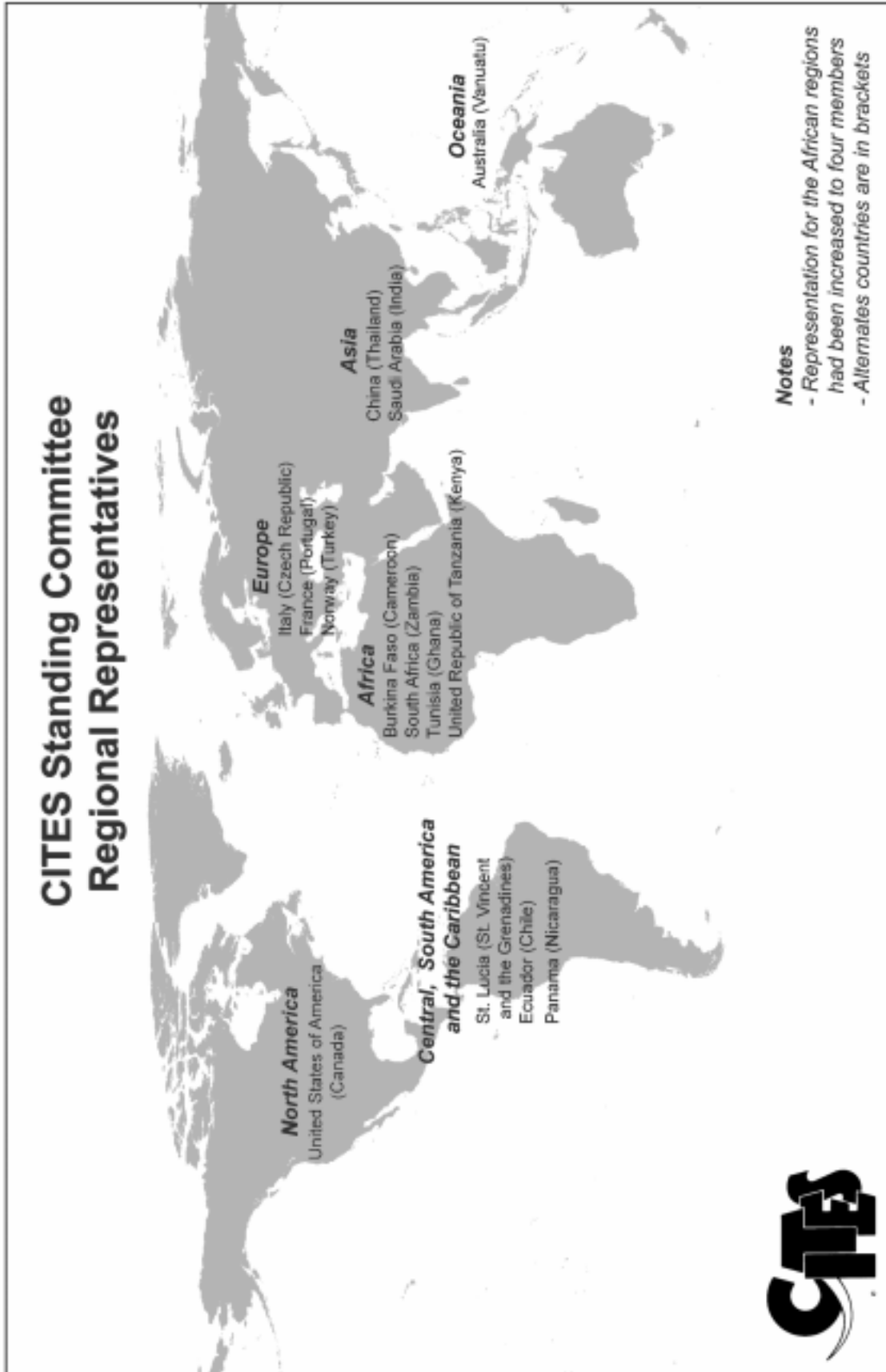
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The US Fish and Wildlife Service



Between sessions the discussions continued

New members of Committees



New members of Committees

Animals Committee

Africa:

K. Howell (United Republic of Tanzania); M. Griffin (Namibia);
 Alternates: E. Chidziya (Zimbabwe); R. K. Bagine (Kenya)

Asia:

T. R. Soehartono (Indonesia); S. Tunhikorn (Thailand);
 Alternates: M. M. Hussain (Bangladesh); C-H. Giam (Singapore)

Central and South America and the Caribbean:

S. Incháustegui (Dominican Republic); M. P. Micheletti Bain (Honduras)
 Alternates: R. R. Tangarona (Cuba); M. M. Ojeda (Venezuela)

Europe:

M. Hoogmoed (Chairman, Netherlands); K. Rodics (Hungary);
 Alternates: T. Althaus (Switzerland); V. Fleming (United Kingdom)

North America:

S. Lieberman (Vice Chairman, United States of America)
 Alternate: R. A. Medellín Legorreta (Mexico)

Oceania:

R. Hay (New Zealand)
 Alternate: R. J. Watling (Fiji)

Plants Committee

Africa:

J. Donaldson (South Africa); Q. Luke (Kenya)
 Alternate: A. Akpangana (Togo)

Asia:

Z. Shaari (Malaysia); N. P. Singh (India)
 Alternate: J. Jia (China)

Central and South America and the Caribbean:

M. C. M. Werkhoven (Suriname); E. Forero (Colombia)
 Alternates: F. Mereles (Paraguay); D. I. Rivera (Costa Rica)

Europe:

M. Clemente Muñoz (Chairman, Spain); J. de Koning (Netherlands)
 Alternates: D. Supthut (Switzerland); H. Werblan-Jakubiec (Poland)

North America:

B. von Arx (Chairman, Canada)
 Alternate: P.D. Dávida Aranda (Mexico)

Oceania:

G. Leach (Australia)
 Alternate: O. Gideon (Papua New Guinea)

Nomenclature Committee

The Secretary General suggested that the current representatives should retain their posts if the Parties approved. There being no opposition, M. Hoogmoed and N. McGough were re-elected.

Forthcoming CITES and other environmental events

● **Meeting of the World Trade Organization(WTO)'s Committee on Trade and Environment**

5-6 July 2000, Geneva, Switzerland

The agenda of the meeting includes an information session with selected Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (including CITES)

● **EUROBATS MOP-3, Bristol, UK**

24-26 July 2000

Third Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe

● **Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and Pacific**

31 August to 5 September 2000, Kitakyshu, Japan

● **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**

16 September 2000

● **The Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species(CMS)**

21-22 September 2000, Bonn, Germany

- **Regional CITES training workshop**
September 2000, La Paz, Bolivia
(5 days, dated to be determined)
- **FAO Technical Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**
2 - 6 October 2000, Rome, Italy
- **Third CITES Master's Degree Course: Management, Conservation and Control of Species in International Trade**
2 October – 15 December 2000, Baeza, Jaén, Spain
- **IUCN World Conservation Congress**
4 -11 October 2000, Amman, Jordan
The theme of the Amman Congress is "ecospace," a term indicating that environmental protection at various geographical scales is a prerequisite for the social, economic, and even political security of people. It will link ecosystem conservation with the need to stem the global loss of biodiversity, and thus build on IUCN's traditional strengths in species and protected areas.
- **FIRST North American Symposium on the Linkages between Trade and Environment**
11-12 October 2000, Montreal, Canada
This symposium is organized by the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC.)
- **International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction**
14 October 2000
- **FAO Technical Consultation on Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries**
17-20 October 2000, Rome, Italy
- **The World Trade Organization(WTO)'s Committee on Trade and Environment.**
24-25 October 2000, Geneva, Switzerland
Among other things, the meeting will consider linkages between the multilateral environment and trade agendas.
- **Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
13-14 November, Hague, the Netherlands
- **International Biodiversity Day**
29 December 2000
- **Joint CITES Animals and Plants Committees Meeting**
December 2000 (dates and venue to be determined)
- **CITES Meeting for Oceania SIDS Countries**
Before the end of 2000

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If you would like to submit an article, or make suggestions or comments please contact the Capacity Building Officer.

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