

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of
Wild Animals

Standing Committee
First Meeting, Bonn, 11 May 1987
(Draft)

Record of Meeting

The meeting opened at 10.30.

2. The meeting was held in the Ministry of Economics to enable translation to and from German. It was attended by members from Chile, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), Hungary and Sweden and an observer from the United Kingdom (UK). A list of participants is at Annex I. Representatives from Cameroon and India were unable to attend.

Agenda item (i): Election of Chairman

3. At the start of the meeting the UK representative, who was Chairman of Committee II (Financial and Administrative Committee) at the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, took the chair and conducted the election of Chairman of the Standing Committee. The FRG was elected Chairman (nominated by Sweden, seconded by Chile).
4. The FRG then welcomed other participants to Bonn on behalf of the new Minister for Environment.
5. The FRG conducted the election of the Vice-Chairman. Hungary was elected Vice-Chairman (nominated by FRG, seconded by Sweden).

Agenda item (ii): Confirmation of the Agenda

6. Two sub-items were added under agenda item (xiii):
 - health and social security conditions for locally engaged staff;
 - pro-longation of the contract of the Co-ordinator of the Secretariat.
7. The extended agenda was accepted.

Agenda item (iii): Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

8. A number of minor amendments were made to the draft Rules of Procedure.
9. The Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee as established by the Committee are at Annex II (CMS/StC/I Rev.1).

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Agenda item (iv): Review of the Status of Ratifications

10. The representative of the Depository Government advised that the number of Parties remained at 22 but that there had been a number of expressions of interest or intention, including from Iraq, Belgium and Finland.
11. The Committee then discussed promotion of participation in the Convention, and generally supported the strategy prepared by the Secretariat and the FRG (copy at Annex III).
12. The Committee agreed that the Convention should be promoted at forthcoming international meetings (especially the meetings of the RAMSAR Convention, CITES and the European Environment Ministers in Lisbon) particularly by the Depository and the Secretariat, but also by other Parties, as appropriate.
13. It was agreed that, when the Secretariat is unable to attend such meetings, the Chairman should promote the Convention on its behalf. It was also agreed that the Chairman should write to non-parties, promoting participation in the Convention and that the letter should be distributed at such meetings, as appropriate.

Agenda item (v): Status of the Trust Fund and Budget Requirements for 1988

14. The Secretariat reported that the information previously circulated was the most recent to hand.
15. The United Kingdom reported that it had also paid its contribution, but that it had apparently inadvertently been credited to CITES. The Committee requested the Secretariat to ask the UNEP representatives currently in Bonn to reconcile the matter.
16. The Committee then discussed the basis on which contributions were being paid by Parties and requested the Secretariat to ask UNEP representatives to also arrange for invoices for 1987 Party contributions to be distributed as soon as possible to facilitate payment.
17. It was also agreed that the Chairman would write to Parties urging payment of contributions as soon as possible and at the beginning of 1988.
18. The Secretariat was requested to seek clarification from UNEP officials visiting Bonn of the position of current staff positions at the beginning of 1988, pending receipt of contributions for 1988.
19. The Committee noted that the main items of expenditure for 1988 would be the costs of the Second Conference of the Parties and the salaries of the necessary extra staff.

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20. The Committee then reviewed the 1987 budget established by the First Conference, with a view to possibly having some carry-over funds for financing the Secretariat until 1988 contributions are received. It identified the following items as being of lower priority for funding during 1987 (in view of the current shortfall in contributions):

1201	Consultants	20.000
1301/1302	Bilingual Secretary or Secretary	15.500
3201	Meetings of the Standing Committee	15.000
3202	Meetings of the Scientific Committee	20.000*

* However the Committee was of the view that some funds should still be available under this line to support meetings of the working groups and travel of scientific experts.

21. The Committee requested that recruitment for the Programme Officer (P3) should begin immediately, so that the position can be filled as soon as possible and preferably later in 1987, to provide sufficient time to properly organize the Second Conference late in 1988.
22. The Committee agreed to review the 1988 budget at its next meeting and requested the Chairman to write to the administrator of the trust fund at least two months before that meeting requesting detailed information on the status of contributions and expenditures at that time.

Agenda item (vi): Extension of the trust fund beyond December 1987

23. The Committee approved the text of letter to be sent by the Chairman to the Executive Director of UNEP seeking extension of the trust fund until the end of 1991, subject to confirmation by the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda item (vii): Agreements under the Convention

24. The FRG reported that detailed discussions with the Governments of the Netherlands and Denmark and revision of the text has occurred and it is likely that the Wadden Sea seal agreement will be concluded before the Second Conference.
25. The UK reported on progress with regard to development of an Agreement on European bats. There had been close involvement with NGO's and the draft would now be translated by the Secretariat and circulated to Range States so that the Agreement may be concluded at a meeting to be convened by the UK in London in November 1987. The Committee requested the circulation of a copy of the draft Agreement to its members.

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26. The Secretariat then reported on progress on the other three Agreements being developed pursuant to Resolution 1.6:
- the draft white stork Agreement prepared jointly by FRG, IUCN and the Secretariat is with a group of experts organized by ICBP for comment. The preparation of the related Management Plan is being co-ordinated by ICBP despite lack of external funding;
 - a background paper on a Western Palearctic and Ethiopian Waterfowl Agreement prepared by FRG has been circulated to a few experts for comment; and
 - the draft Agreement on the protection of small cetacean populations in the North and Baltic Seas is being revised by the Secretariat in the light of comments from participants in the Small Cetaceans Working Group.
27. The Chairman expressed surprise at overall progress and thanks to all involved with the development of the Agreements.
28. The Committee recognised the need for them to give consideration to the role and resources of the Secretariat for the development and particularly the implementation of Agreements and agreed to consider this matter at their next meeting.

Agenda item (viii): Proceedings of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

29. The Secretariat reported that the French and Spanish translations of Volume I were now ready for circulation but that it would not be possible for UNEP to work on Volume II until after the UNEP/GC meeting. The Committee asked the Secretariat to request UNEP to finalize Volume II as soon as possible after UNEP/GC.

Agenda item (ix): Time and Venue of the next Conference of the Parties

30. The Committee requested the Chairman to write to the Governments of Morocco and Israel and to UNEP seeking clarification of the status and extent of their offers or possible offers made at the First Conference to host the Second Conference. Other possibilities should also be investigated informally. The Committee would then discuss this matter in detail at their next meeting.

Agenda item (x): Previous activities of the Standing Committee

31. The report by the Secretariat was accepted but there was no further discussion of this item.

Agenda item (xi): Responsibilities of the Standing Committee

32. The Committee indicated that on the following general areas it would be appropriate for the full Committee to be consulted:
- major financial decisions
 - decisions or organization of the next Conference
 - election of office-bearers
 - convening meetings

Other matters could generally be handled in consultation between the Chairman and the Secretariat, with other members being kept informed.

Agenda item (xii): Date and place of the next meeting of the Standing Committee

33. The Committee decided that the next meeting would be held in Bonn on Tuesday 22 September 1987.

Agenda item (xiii): Any other business

- (a) Health and social security conditions for locally engaged staff

34. The Secretariat explained that there had been no resolution of whether locally engaged staff should be covered by UN or FRG provisions and that this was leading to staffing problems. The FRG advised that it was only a problem for FRG nationals, for whom the UN medical insurance was inadequate; the draft Headquarters Agreement proposed that such staff be allowed to choose. The Chairman agreed to urge both UNEP and the relevant FRG ministry to resolve the issue rapidly to allow satisfactory recruitment of necessary staff.

- (b) Prolongation of the contract of the Co-ordinator of the Secretariat

35. The Chairman recalled that a previous request to the Executive Director of UNEP for the Standing Committee to be consulted on the selection of the Co-ordinator of the Secretariat had been declined. The Committee agreed that, because from 1988 the Parties would be funding the Secretariat, that they should be involved in the selection of professional staff.
36. However they recommended that the contract of the present Co-ordinator should be extended until after the Second Conference.

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37. The Committee agreed that the Chairman should write the Executive Director of UNEP requesting their future involvement in selection of professional staff for the Secretariat and recommending extension of the contract of the present Co-ordinator until after the Second Conference.

38. The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.