



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES
OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

CMS/St C/ II

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of
Wild Animals
Standing Committee, Second meeting, Bonn, 29 September 1987

Record of Meeting

Agenda item (i): Adoption of provisional agenda and invitation
to observers

1. The meeting was held in the FRG Foreign Ministry and began at 10.10.

The FRG chaired the meeting and members from Chile, FRG, Hungary and Sweden attended, together with observers from Benin, Egypt, EEC, Luxembourg and UK and from the Scientific Council and the FRG (see Annex 1). Apologies had been received from India and Israel.

2. The provisional agenda was adopted without amendment.

Agenda item (ii): Confirmation of the Record of the First
Standing Committee Meeting

3. The Record was confirmed.

Agenda item (iii): Matters arising from the First Standing
Committee Meeting

(a) Invoices for 1987 contributions

4. The Secretariat reported that it had been advised by the Trust Fund administrator on 2 June that requests for 1987 payments had already been dispatched. However no Parties present reported receipt of such requests and many were sure they had not been received by action departments. Furthermore most Parties are unable to make payments until UNEP requests are received.

5. The Chairman expressed the view that he hoped that the present financial crisis was not due to non-dispatch of the invoices.

6. The Committee requested the Chairman to seek clarification from UNEP regarding the dispatch of 1987 requests for payment, to seek copies and to circulate them to National Focal Points, urging payment as soon as possible.

(b) Letters to Parties from the Chairman concerning contributions

7. The Chairman reported that Israel had replied that it is unable to make contributions.

(c) Position of current staff

(d) Recruitment of further staff

8. The Secretariat reported that currently there is no secretary/administrative assistant and that in 1988 funds are only available for a Co-ordinator (and no other staff).

(e) Trust Fund

9. There was no discussion of this sub-item.

(f) Proceedings of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

10. The Secretariat reported that French and Spanish translations of Volume I have been distributed from Bonn to participants; UNEP would soon distribute copies to Governments. Photo-ready texts of Volume II had now been received in Bonn but, due to lack of staff, arrangements have not been made for printing.

11. Thanks were expressed to the FRG for printing at cost the French and Spanish versions of Volume I.

Agenda item (iv): Report on the status of ratifications

12. The Depositary confirmed the information circulated by the Secretariat ^cexcept that Pakistan has now deposited an instrument of accession and added that Switzerland is also considering joining.

Agenda item (v): Status of the Trust Fund

(a) Current income and expenditure

13. The Secretariat reported that there was no change to the information already circulated.

14. Hungary reported that it was unable to pay 1986 contributions and could give no undertaking to pay 1987 contributions. The FRG reported that, while it could not pay 1986 contributions retrospectively, it would pay the balance for the triennium at the beginning of 1988. The UK reported that it would pay the 1987 contribution as soon as a request is received and the 1988 contribution at the beginning of their financial year in April 1988. Sweden reported that they, like many other Parties, cannot pay until a formal request from the Trust Fund is received.

15. The Committee has already discussed action with regard to 1987 contributions (see paragraph 4).

16. The Secretariat confirmed that requests for 1986 contributions definitely had been dispatched, although it is aware that in a number of cases they had not been received by action departments in capitals - in these cases copies had been provided.

17. Attention was drawn to the need to take steps to overcome apparent communication gaps between UNEP permanent representatives and national action agencies; it was also requested that Bonn embassies be kept informed as a re-inforcing mechanism.

18. Concern was also expressed that contributions had been and could easily again be credited to the wrong Convention by UNEP and the Chairman was requested to check that this had not occurred for Parties other than the UK and to ask UNEP to take care that it does not occur again.

19. The lateness of the Conference in 1985 and dispatch of 1986 requests and the non-receipt of 1987 requests could explain some cases of non-payment. However because it is important to know for planning purposes what contributions can in reality be expected, it was agreed that the Chairman should follow up with individual Parties informally, and if appropriate formally, stressing the urgent need for funds to support the Secretariat and the Conference, and ascertaining if payments not reflected in the table had been made and the details thereof.

(b) 1988 contributions

20. It was agreed that the Chairman should ask UNEP to circulate 1988 requests for payment as early as possible.

21. It was agreed that the Chairman should also include reference to the need for early payment of 1988 contributions in his contacts with Parties previously agreed. Letters should be circulated through diplomatic channels and copied to national focal points.

(c) 1988 budget

22. Gratitude was expressed to the FRG for financing rental of the Secretariat offices.

23. It was agreed that the 1988 budget should be reviewed at the next meeting, in the light of the success or otherwise of agreed actions to encourage Parties to pay overdue and due contributions; in the meantime expenditures should be minimized.

Agenda item (vi): Time and venue of the next Conference

(a) Financial considerations

24. The Committee accepted that the next Conference would have to be more limited than the first because of the shortage of funds and staff. Some participants were of the view that a very limited Conference as suggested by the Secretariat focussing on the financial crisis was acceptable, perhaps followed by an extraordinary conference later to address other issues. This would signal that Parties were coming to grips with pressing problems.

Others felt that a more comprehensive Conference focussing on a limited number of issues but in English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous sessions was necessary. This would encourage more Parties to attend and maintain credibility as a conservation convention. However all agreed that proposals to amend the Appendices should not be considered.

25. The Committee agreed that the decision on the nature of the Conference should be deferred until the Committee's next meeting in order to allow time to assess the effectiveness of agreed measures to encourage contributions and to review the financial situation early in 1988.

26. The Chairman stressed that it would be impossible for a one-person Secretariat to organize the Conference.

27. The Chairman undertook to contact Parties requesting assistance for the Secretariat before and during the Conference, including manpower, materials and the preparation of papers.

(b) Date

28. There was no support for deferral to 1989; it was considered that the Convention would lose credibility and that there was a need for early discussion by all Parties of the critical problems facing it. Furthermore a Conference could encourage more interest from Parties in Convention matters, including payment of contributions.

29. The Committee agreed that the Conference should begin on 2 October 1988, or thereabouts.

(c) Venue

30. A few days before the meeting an offer from Israel to host the Conference was received by the Secretariat and circulated to members attending. However this was not discussed further by the meeting.

31. Hungary also advised the meeting that it wished to host the Conference, but full details of the offer were not available for consideration by the meeting. Hungary said that the offer could include covering some of the costs of the Conference (about USD30.000).

32. Accordingly the Committee agreed that as soon as details of the Hungarian offer were provided to the Secretariat, members would be asked to decide by postal vote on the Conference venue.

33. Hungary stressed the need for a decision as soon as possible to enable arrangements to be made. It would investigate the feasibility of making no irreversible financial commitments until the final decision on the nature of the Conference is taken. The Secretariat stressed that there could be NO financial commitment on behalf of the Trust Fund until funds are available from the Trust Fund.

34. It was agreed that the Committee's choice of a host would be binding, but agreement to have a Conference in 1988 could be withdrawn up to May 1988 on financial grounds. The Secretariat was asked to write explaining this situation to potential hosts.

35. The Chairman of the Scientific Council advised that, although the Council had been charged by Parties with a number of tasks, he accepted that in the current financial crisis meetings must be limited to one at the time of the Conference (although a preparatory meeting would have been desirable). Thorough preparation would have to be undertaken by mail. He agreed that, with other scientific issues to be resolved pursuant to Resolution 1.4, there was little need for the Conference to consider amendment proposals for the Appendices.

36. Following discussion of Scientific Council financial priorities it was agreed that funding of the attendance of Conference-appointed members was the top priority, followed by attendance of experts at small group meetings.

Agenda item (vii): AGREEMENTS under the Convention

(a) report on progress on AGREEMENTS

37. The FRG reported that it hoped to discuss the re-drafted AGREEMENT on Wadden Sea seals with the Netherlands and Denmark in November/December and to conclude the AGREEMENT in 1988.

38. The Chairman of the Scientific Council and the UK outlined the background to the draft AGREEMENT on European bats, explained that the objective of the forthcoming meeting in London is to finalize a text for circulation by the UK Government to the Governments of other Range States, with a view to concluding the AGREEMENT at a diplomatic conference before the next (CMS) Conference. Sweden expressed dissatisfaction with the complexity of the draft, particularly the administrative aspects.

39. The EEC advised of funding to ICBP to prepare a management plan under the draft white stork AGREEMENT.

(b) Secretariat for AGREEMENTS

40. The UK stressed the importance of establishing a policy on this matter, taking account of financial aspects and the objectives of the Convention. While recognizing the current resource limitations of the Secretariat, there was a danger that if the administration of the daughter AGREEMENTS was not centralized, then expertise would be dispersed and effort and costs duplicated; as an interim measure the CMS Secretariat should also cover the AGREEMENTS. A paper should be prepared for the next Conference, focussing on the financial aspects of the implementation of AGREEMENTS.

41. The Chairman suggested that the problem could also be discussed at the meeting on the bats AGREEMENT in London.

42. The FRG stressed the need for relatively uncomplicated mechanism consistent with Article V 4 (d) and for information exchange with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

43. The Chairman noted the great progress on the AGREEMENTS and thanked the Secretariat for its active role.

Agenda item (viii): Date and Place of the next meeting

44. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Bonn on 19 April 1988. It would take a final decision on the Conference, taking account of the financial position at that time.

45. Chile thanked the FRG for the generous lunch.

46. The meeting closed at 17.10.

Second Meeting of Standing Committee
Bonn, 29 September 1987

Participants

Chair

Dr. Gerhard Emonds (FRG)

Secretariat

Ms. Judith C. Johnson (UNEP/CMS)

Members

Chile: Mr. Jose Manuel Silva

FRG: Mr. Karl-Gunther Kolodziejczok

Hungary: Ms. Louise Lakos

Dr. Katalin Rodics

Sweden: Mr. Ulf Haenninger

Apologies: India

Observers (Parties)

Benin: Mr. Samuel Amehou

Egypt: Dr. Essam Ramadan

EEC: Mr. Richard Geiser

Luxembourg: Mr. Charles Zimmer

UK: Mr. Michael Monaghan

Apologies: Israel

(Others)

Scientific Council: Dr. Michael Ford (Chairman)

Dr. Eugeniusz Nowak

FRG: Mr. Rudolf Tegtmeier

Mr. Werner Nonnenmacher

Second Meeting, CMS Standing Committee, Bonn, 29 September 1987

ACTION SHEET

- Chairman: Seek clarification from UNEP on 1987 invoices
 Circulate copies to National Focal Points
 Check that payments were made into correct Fund
 Ask UNEP to ensure payments into correct Fund
 Follow up informally (& then formally if appropriate) with individual Parties concerning payment of 1986 & 1987 contributions, including account into which they were paid (if necessary).
 Request early payment of 1988 contributions.
 Request UNEP to send out requests for 1988 payments as soon as possible.
- Hungary: Provide details of offer to host Conference to Secretariat as soon as possible.
- Secretariat: Write to potential hosts explaining that while the Committee's choice of a host would be binding, but agreement to proceed with the Conference could be withdrawn until May 1988.
 Conduct postal vote on host for conference with Standing Committee members.
- UK: Prepare paper on financial implications of implementation of AGREEMENTS for Conference.