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Background on the Conference of the Parties

CMS COP12 Regional Preparatory Workshop for Africa



Conference Of The Parties or COP

- The Conference of the Parties is the decision-making body of the Convention
- Meets every three years
- The COP only consists of the Parties
- Obligations
 - Establishes and maintains under review the financial regulations of the Convention!
 - Adopts the budget for each triennium and reviews the implementation!
 - Reviews and assesses the conservation status of migratory species and the progress made towards their conservation
 - Provides guidance, receives reports and makes recommendations to Parties.

The success of the COP is based on thorough preparation by all actors such as the Secretariat and Convention bodies as well as Parties



The Committee of the Whole or COW

- An organ of the conference for the operation of the COP
- Where appropriate, it adjusts the timetable and structure of the meeting and specifies the time limits for the discussions
- It includes:
 - The Chairman of the COP
 - The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee
 - The Secretariat



Plenary & Decision-making

- The COP generally makes its decisions by consensus
- As a result, voting is rare, however, when it occurs, all countries that have submitted valid credentials have the right to vote
- Voting is normally done by a show of hands
- Representatives may also request a nominal or secret ballot.
- Parties that have three or more years of delay in paying their subscription fees are not eligible to vote, unless the delay in payment is due to justified causes
- The President is responsible for counting the votes and announcing the result



Standing Committee (StC)

- Responsible for carrying out activities temporarily, on behalf of the COP
 - Ensures that decisions are implemented
 - Oversees the budget
- Proposes recommendations for consideration at the next COP
 - Advises and provides guidance to the Secretariat
 - Represents the COP in negotiations with the host Government and UNEP in relation to the Secretariat
 - Acts as a Bureau at the COP and carry out any other specific tasks entrusted to it by the COP.
- Meets immediately before and after COP
- In between sessions, it normally meets once a year to fulfill its role of monitoring progress in implementing the work program of the Convention.



The composition of the Standing Committee will be decided at each COP

A Finance subcommittee will be established among the members of the Standing Committee

The Philippines will automatically serve on the Standing Committee for the next three years as host of COP12.

The COP is recommended to: a) consult within the regional groups and determine which Parties will be nominated as regional or alternate members of the Standing Committee. (B) communicate this information to all Parties under item 17.1 of the COP agenda.

1. **Three** CMS Parties for the geographical regions of
(a) Africa and (b) Europe;
2. **Two** CMS Parties for the geographical regions of
(a) Asia and (b) South and Central America and the Caribbean;
3. **One** CMS Party for the geographical regions of
(a) North America and b) Oceania;
4. Depository and Host government of the Secretariat (Germany); and
5. The Host governments of the previous and following Meetings of the COP



Members of the Standing Committee for the Triennium 2015-2017

<i>Region</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Alternate Members</i>
Africa	Congo (Brazzaville) South Africa Uganda	Algeria Mali United Republic of Tanzania
Asia	Mongolia (Vice-president) Kirgizstan	Tajikistan Pakistan
Latin America and the Caribbean	Bolivia Costa Rica	Argentina Panama
Europa	Norway (President) France Ukraine	Georgia Latvia Suiza
North America	Vacant	Vacant
Oceania	Australia	Philippines
Depository	Germany	
Host of COP11	Ecuador	
Host of COP12	Philippines	



Current Members of the Standing Committee			
Region	Country	First Elected to Standing Committee	Eligible for further term
Africa	Congo (Brazzaville)	2014	Yes
	South Africa	2014	Yes
	Uganda	2011	No
Asia	Mongolia - Vice-Chair	2014	Yes
	Kyrgyzstan	2014	Yes
South & Central America & the Caribbean	Bolivia	2014	Yes
	Costa Rica	2014	Yes
Europe	Norway - Chair	2011 ¹	Yes
	France	2014	Yes
	Ukraine	2011	No
Oceania	Australia	2014	Yes
Host Previous COP	Ecuador	n/a	n/a
Host Next COP	Philippines	n/a	n/a
Host Government/ Depository	Germany	n/a	n/a

¹ In 2011 Norway was included as the previous COP Host, and in 2014 it became a regional member.



Scientific Council



- Provides scientific and technical advice to the Secretariat and COP
- Ensures that all scientific and technical information submitted to the COP, through proposals, recommendations, etc., is produced on the basis of reliable scientific data
- The Council met in Bonn in July to discuss COP documents and make recommendations



CMS Scientific Councilors for Africa

