

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species  
of Wild Animals (CMS)

Standing Committee, Third Meeting, Bonn, 19 April 1988

Record of Meeting

1. The meeting was held in the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany and began at 09.10.

Agenda item (i): Adoption of Agenda

2. The provisional agenda was adopted with the addition of two matters under agenda item (viii):
  - (a) Draft Provisional Rules of Procedure for the Conference
  - (b) Offer by the Netherlands Government to Assist the UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

The revised agenda is at Annex I.

Agenda item (ii): Attendance

3. The Federal Republic of Germany chaired the meeting and members from Cameroon, Chile, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary and Sweden attended, together with observers from European Economic Community, Ghana, Netherlands and United Kingdom and from the Scientific Council and the Federal Republic of Germany (see Annex II). Apologies had been received from India, Ireland and Pakistan.

Agenda item (iii): Report on ratifications and accessions

4. The Depositary advised that unfortunately Paraguay could not become a Party to the Convention on 1 May 1988 because the instrument deposited related to another Convention, not the Bonn Convention. Governments would be notified shortly.
5. The Depositary also reported that Senegal had deposited an accession instrument on 18 March 1988 and therefore would become a Party on 1 June 1988.
6. The Secretariat reported that France had announced its intention to ratify the Convention before the forthcoming Conference. The Depositary reported Swiss interest in membership.

Agenda item (iv): Trust Fund

- (a) Requests by UNEP for Party contributions
7. The Secretariat advised that UNEP continues to follow up outstanding Party contributions as an on-going process and in particular includes reminders for 1988 contributions when acknowledging contributions for previous year.

(b) Follow-up by Chairman

8. The Chairman gave an oral report on follow-up with some European Parties while attending relevant meetings in Europe. He mentioned in particular follow-up with Italy, so far without result.
9. The Chairman also reported that he had had discussions with Mr Brough of UNEP/HQ; that Egypt had advised that it will not pay contributions, but gave no grounds; that Hungary had announced that it will pay 1988 contributions, and that India had advised payment of contributions for 1986 and 1987.
10. Representatives from Sweden, United Kingdom and Netherlands reported payment of 1987 contributions and intentions to pay 1988 contributions soon.
11. It was pointed out that it was helpful if Parties also advised the Co-ordinator of the Secretariat of payments, to enable follow-up, if necessary.
12. The Chairman suggested that the Conference should address the problem of late-or non-payment of Party contributions.

(c) Current income and expenditure

13. The Secretariat circulated copies of information from 31 March 1988 on Party contributions and the 1987 accounts.
14. The Committee thanked UNEP for its continued financial support of the work of the Convention to the end of 1987.

(d) Budget

15. The Secretariat circulated the approved revised budget, and, at the request of the meeting, explained the differences between the draft and approved revised budget. There were no objections to the changes, although one observer was concerned about the expenditures covered by line 5304 ("other").
16. The Chairman then raised the possible problem of financing the Secretariat and other work in the early months of 1989 before Party contributions are received and processed. Suggestions included amendment of the financial year to run from September (rather than January); a demand that contributions be paid on 1 January; a request from the Conference for advance payment of contributions (although some participants felt this could set a dangerous precedent); and a one-off inclusion in the budget of a buffer fund. It was also suggested that the Secretariat should raise a loan, but some participants thought this would be unacceptable under the terms of reference of the trust fund.
17. The Chairman requested the Secretariat to note the matter for raising at the Conference.

Agenda item (v): The Second Meeting of the  
Conference of the Parties

18. The meeting noted the outcome of the Standing Committee vote that the Conference venue should be Geneva.
19. The Chairmanship of the Conference was discussed without resolution, but the importance of finding a capable, well-informed candidate before the Conference was recognized. It was pointed out by observers that the Chairman of the Standing Committee would be the temporary Chairman until a Conference Chairman was appointed. One participant suggested that UNEP might be approached to provide a Chairman; there were a number of expressions of support for a chairman from the Federal Republic of Germany; but it was also felt that other Parties could provide a suitable candidate. The Chairman requested members to consult further on this matter.
  - (b) Financial aspects
  - (f) Scientific Council meeting
20. It was agreed that the Conference should proceed in the period proposed previously.
21. There was considerable discussion about the duration of the Conference, based on cost, matters to be addressed, and whether a Scientific Council meeting was needed.
22. One member proposed that a 2-3 day Conference with a half-day Scientific Council meeting would be appropriate.
23. The Chairman of the Scientific Council confirmed that a full-day meeting was necessary to address the scientific aspects of matters to be discussed at the Conference (such as any proposed amendments to the Appendices, AGREEMENTS and country reports) and tasks which the Conference of the Parties had directed the Council to undertake and to plan the future work of the Council. Furthermore such discussions could well minimize discussions of those matters during the Conference.
24. A number of participants expressed the view that while the Conference must address pressing financial and operational questions, it was also necessary to address implementation of the objectives of the Convention.
25. The Secretariat pointed out that, based on the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a considerable number of issues had to be addressed. A draft provisional agenda was circulated. There were no objections to the draft.
26. The Committee also considered possible savings by curtailing the Conference and additional costs arising from the obligation to fund Conference nominees to the Scientific Council meeting. It was also pointed out that some additional contributions have now been deposited.

27. The Committee agreed that the Conference should take place from 11 to 14 October 1988 and should be preceded by a Scientific Council meeting (with simultaneous translation) and registrations on 10 October 1988.

(c) Matters to be addressed by the Conference

(d) Reports by Parties

28. The Chairman of the Scientific Council advised that the Netherlands would be making a proposal to amend Appendix II to include some small cetacean species from the North and Baltic Seas to enable conclusion of an AGREEMENT previously directed by Parties; he was also aware of at least one other likely proposal to amend the Appendices.

29. The Committee accepted that while the Conference should focus on administrative aspects of and current activities under the Convention, it would be necessary for technical reasons to address amendment of Appendix II to include some small cetacean species and while Parties should not be encouraged to propose other amendments, they could not be prevented from doing so.

30. It was agreed that due to the late decision on the Conference the deadline for submission of proposals should be set at 30 June 1988.

31. The Committee also accepted that, bearing in mind the date of the Conference, Parties could not be expected to submit reports by the normal date (i.e. 13 May). It was agreed that reports, together with a short summary, should be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 June to allow time for translation of the summaries into the working languages, or by 15 August if the reports were provided in the three working languages.

32. The Secretariat was requested to advise Parties of the foregoing matters in an informal letter informing them of the outcomes of the meeting relating to the Conference.

(e) Participants

33. It was agreed that all categories of observers should be invited to attend the Conference.

34. It was also agreed that a participation fee of US\$100 should be applied to all non-government organizations, but that the fee should be reviewed at the Conference. Although it was agreed that in general exemptions should not be granted, it was also agreed that the Chairman of the Standing Committee could decide on behalf of the Conference to grant an exemption in extreme circumstances.

(g) Geographical representation on the Standing Committee

35. The Chairman expressed the view that while no decision was necessary during the meeting, representatives from regions where there was only one Party (i.e. Chile and Hungary) must remain on the Committee.

36. No member indicated a wish to step down from the Committee.

Agenda item (vi): AGREEMENTS under the Convention

Bats

37. The Chairman of the Scientific Council recalled the background to the meeting held in London in November 1987 and advised that the report of the discussions and the resulting revised text of the draft AGREEMENT had been circulated to participants.
38. He also commented that administrative arrangements had been left for resolution between the parties to the AGREEMENT and the Parties to the Convention.
39. The observer from United Kingdom explained that following legal examination and some technical amendments it was planned to circulate in June the text of the AGREEMENT and a memorandum addressing administrative issues. It was hoped to have comments on the text by the time of the Conference and to circulate and sign the AGREEMENT in about May 1989.
40. The member from Sweden repeated previously expressed criticism that in his view conservation of the species did not warrant an AGREEMENT and, more importantly, that there was no need for a ratifiable AGREEMENT when a "gentleman's agreement" (*sic*) would suffice, referring to a memorandum of understanding, on migratory birds and wetlands between United States, Canada and Mexico.

White Storks

41. Unfortunately the observer from European Economic Community was no longer present. However the Chairman of the Scientific Council had had recent communication with him and was able to report that it was hoped that the European Economic Community would receive clearance to sponsor the AGREEMENT.

Waterfowl

42. The Secretariat reported that it was expected that Dr Boere, who was being made available to work for the Secretariat by the Netherlands Government (see paragraph 50), would be able to make some progress before the Conference.
43. The Swedish member was of the view that the AGREEMENT should be limited to 10-20 huntable species in the first instance in an attempt to please hunters and conservationists. However the observer from the Scientific Council observed that the decision of the first Conference included about 50 species, while the same conservation measures could cover about 120 species. The Secretariat commented that advice of the Scientific Council would be sought on the scope of the AGREEMENT.

Small Cetaceans

44. The Chairman of the Scientific Council explained that the Netherlands proposed to include a broader range of small cetaceans in the AGREEMENT directed by the first Conference to apply to only 2 species, and that their proposal to amend Appendix II would also include a number of species.

Wadden Sea Seals

45. The Federal Republic of Germany reported that this AGREEMENT had been delayed due to the need to accommodate hunting interests and that it would probably not be finalized before the Conference.

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

46. It was suggested that the Chairman and the Secretariat should visit Geneva to view the Conference venue and to have detailed discussions with the United Nations Office. The Secretariat would then report to the Committee (copied to other Parties), and include specific suggestions for assistance that Parties might give in preparing for and during the Conference. It was noted that the Committee would need to undertake some work by correspondence before the Conference, eg. consideration of the draft medium term plan.

48. It was agreed that the Committee should meet again immediately before the Conference.

Agenda item (viii): Any other business

(a) Draft Provisional Rules of Procedure for the Conference

49. The Committee requested the Secretariat to revise the draft circulated at the meeting to reflect the decisions taken and then to circulate the revised draft for comment. It was agreed that the 60 day comment period provided for under the Committee's Rules of Procedure would not apply to this matter.

(b) Offer by the Netherlands Government to Assist the UNEP/CMS Secretariat

50. The Secretariat circulated a brief paper outlining the offer, which was yet to be finalized. Dr Boere explained the background to the offer, including the Netherlands' commitment to the Convention and particular interest in waterfowl matters; he also noted that he would be in a position to assist the Secretariat with other tasks, including preparations for and during the Conference.

51. The Chairman expressed the Committee's thanks to the Netherlands for its generosity and interest.

52. The meeting closed at 14.30.

STANDING COMMITTEE

THIRD MEETING, BONN, 19 APRIL 1988

Revised Agenda

- (i) Adoption of agenda;
- (ii) Attendance
  - (a) Observers
  - (b) Apologies;
- (iii) Report on ratifications and accessions;
- (iv) Trust-Fund
  - (a) Requests by UNEP for Party contributions
  - (b) Follow-up by Chairman
  - (c) Current income and expenditure
  - (d) 1988 budget;
- (v) The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
  - (a) Venue and matters arising
  - (b) Financial aspects
  - (c) Matters to be addressed by the Conference
  - (d) Reports by Parties
  - (e) Participants
  - (f) Scientific Council Meeting
  - (g) Geographical representation on the Standing Committee
- (vi) AGREEMENTS under the Convention
- (vii) Date and place of next Standing Committee meeting;
- (viii) Any other business.
  - a) Draft Provisional Rules of Procedure for the Conference.
  - b) Offer by the Netherlands Government to Assist the UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

Attendance List  
3rd Meeting of the Standing Committee  
Bonn, 19 April 1988

Chair: Dr Gerhard Emonds, Federal Republic of Germany

Secretariat: Ms Judy Johnson, UNEP/CMS

Members:

Cameroon: Mr G. Ntamack, Bonn

Chile: Mr Jose Manuel Silva, Bonn

Federal Republic  
of Germany: Dr Jochen Woiwode, Bonn

Hungary: Dr Jenő Geszetyi, Bonn

Sweden: Mr Ulf Haenninger, Stockholm

Apologies: Dr M.K.Ranjitsinh, India

Observers:

European Economic Community: Dr Richard Geiser, Brussels

Federal Republic  
of Germany: Mr Werner Nonnenmacher, Bonn (BMUNR),  
Mr Rudolf Tegtmeier, Bonn (AA)

Ghana: H.E. K.S. Adusei-Poku, Ambassador to FRG

Netherlands: Dr Gerard Boere, Utrecht

United Kingdom: Mr Roy Bunce, Bristol  
Mr John Robbins, Bristol

Scientific Council: Dr Michael Ford, Chairman,  
United Kingdom  
Dr Eugeniusz Nowak, member,  
Federal Republic of Germany

Apologies:

Dr Abdul Rao, Pakistan  
Ms Noreen O'Keefe, Ireland