



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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NINTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Rome, 1-5 December 2008  
Agenda Item 22.0

## COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF THE CMS STANDING COMMITTEE

*(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)*

1. This paper is to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS following discussion at the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Standing Committee.
2. The Standing Committee was established by the first resolution passed at COP1 in 1985 because the Parties “considered it useful to have a small permanent advisory committee for matters relating to the organisation of meetings and for the continuous implementation of the Convention”. The role and constitution of the Standing Committee were revised at COP6 by Resolution 6, which established the current structure of the Committee superseding Resolutions 2.5 and 3.7.
3. The main duties of the Standing Committee set out in Resolution 6.6, for which the Secretariat sees no need for change, are to:
  - Provide general policy, operational and financial direction;
  - Carry out, between meetings of the Conference of the Parties interim activities deemed necessary or specifically assigned to it;
  - Provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the preparation of agendas and other requirements of meetings;
  - Represent the COP vis-à-vis the host government, UNEP and other international organisations;
  - Make recommendations and table draft resolutions to the COP; and
  - Report on its activities to the COP.
4. In view of the larger numbers of Parties to the Convention in Europe and Africa, Resolution 6.6 granted both these regions two representatives. Although there is no formal requirement for them to do so, European Parties have always chosen one country from Western Europe and one from Eastern Europe, while the African Parties have similarly always chosen one representative from an English speaking country and another from a French speaking country.
5. The other regions (Asia; Central and South America; North America and the Caribbean; and Oceania) each are entitled to have one representative. It should however be noted that at the time of COP8 in 2005, no Parties had acceded to the Convention from North America and the Caribbean. This is no longer the case since the accession of Antigua & Barbuda and Cuba.

6. Germany, as the Depositary, has a permanent seat on the Committee. Where appropriate, an extra seat is created for the hosts of the forthcoming COP as is currently the case with Italy.

7. Regional representatives are elected at each COP and they may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The regions also elect alternates to serve on the Committee in the event of the main representatives being unable to attend. All Parties that are not members of the Standing Committee may send non-voting observers.

8. The Standing Committee meets immediately before the COP to discuss the Conference agenda and again briefly immediately afterwards so the new Chair and Vice-Chair can be elected. At the thirtieth meeting of the Standing Committee immediately after COP8, the UK was elected as Chair and Australia as Vice-Chair. The UK stood down at the beginning of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting and was replaced by Australia. Ukraine was elected Vice-Chair. The Committee usually meets approximately once a year inter-sessionally. To date there have been thirty-two meetings of the Standing Committee. By the time of COP9, the thirty-third meeting will have taken place as it is scheduled for Rome in November 2008.

9. The Committee adopts its own Rules of Procedure and elects its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The CMS Secretariat provides administrative support.

10. The current make-up of the Standing Committee and the COP at which the current terms of the regional representatives began are:

Europe (West)	United Kingdom (COP7)
Europe (East)	Ukraine (COP7)
Africa (anglophone)	United Republic of Tanzania (COP8)
Africa (francophone)	Chad (COP8)
Oceania	Australia (COP7)
Asia	Saudi Arabia (COP8)
South & Central America	Peru (COP8)
North America & the Caribbean:	<i>vacant</i>
Depositary	Germany (-)
Host of COP	Italy (-)

11. The United Kingdom, Australia and Ukraine are therefore debarred from standing again having served two consecutive terms and have to stand down from the Committee.

12. The alternates are: Europe - Monaco and Hungary; Africa - Ghana and Senegal; Oceania - New Zealand; Asia - Pakistan; and South and Central America - Bolivia.

13. The recruitment of Parties in the North America and Caribbean region (Antigua & Barbuda and Cuba) means that this region too should be represented from now on. Although the Convention has operated with regions of greatly differing membership contingents (Europe and Africa have the highest membership and North America and Caribbean the lowest) and until New Zealand's accession in 2000, the Oceania region also only had two Parties, consideration might be given to reviewing the Regional boundaries.

**CMS Regions:**

**Table 1**

<p><b>AFRICA (38 Parties/53 Countries)</b></p> <p><b>Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, D.R. Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome &amp; Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Rep of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.</b></p>
<p><b>ASIA (14 Parties/39 Countries)</b></p> <p><b>Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, People’s Republic of, D.P.R. Korea, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen.</b></p>
<p><b>ASIA (14 Parties/39 Countries)</b></p> <p><b>Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, People’s Republic of China, D.P.R. Korea, India, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal , Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam Yemen.</b></p>
<p><b>EUROPE (39 Parties/50 Countries)</b></p> <p><b>Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The FYR of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.</b></p>
<p><b>NORTH AMERICA and THE CARIBBEAN (2 Parties/16 Countries)</b></p> <p><b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Rep, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, St Kitts &amp; Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent &amp; the Grenadines, Trinidad &amp; Tobago, United States.</b></p>

Proposed New Structure for NORTH AMERICA ( <b>0 Parties/3 Countries</b> )
Canada, Mexico, United States
SOUTH and CENTRAL AMERICA ( <b>10 Parties/19 Countries</b> )
<b>Argentina</b> , Belize, <b>Bolivia</b> , Brazil, <b>Chile</b> , Colombia, <b>Costa Rica</b> , <b>Ecuador</b> , El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, <b>Honduras</b> , Nicaragua, <b>Panama</b> , <b>Paraguay</b> , <b>Peru</b> , Suriname, <b>Uruguay</b> , Venezuela.

Proposed New Structure for LATIN AMERICA and THE CARIBBEAN ( <b>12 Parties/32 Countries</b> )
<b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</b> , <b>Argentina</b> , Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, <b>Bolivia</b> , Brazil, <b>Chile</b> , Colombia, <b>Costa Rica</b> , <b>Cuba</b> , Dominica, Dominican Rep, <b>Ecuador</b> , El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, <b>Honduras</b> , Jamaica, Nicaragua, <b>Panama</b> , <b>Paraguay</b> , <b>Peru</b> , St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, <b>Uruguay</b> , Venezuela.

OCEANIA ( <b>6 Parties/19 Countries</b> )
<b>Australia</b> , <b>Cook Islands</b> , Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, <b>New Zealand</b> , Niue, <b>Palau</b> , Papua New Guinea, <b>Philippines</b> , <b>Samoa</b> , Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

14. For the purpose of CMS regions, Russia and Turkey are assigned to Europe; Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste to Oceania; and Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam to Asia.

15. In view of the continuing growth of the Convention, consideration should be given to enlarging the Committee in order to meet the aims set out in Resolution 6.6 to ensure geographical balance and the broadest representation of biological interests.

#### **Elected Parties by region (current position)**

**Table 2**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Standing Committee (current)</b>	<b>Parties</b>
Africa	2	38
Europe	2*	40
Asia	1	14
Oceania	1	6
South and Central America	1	10
North America and the Caribbean	(1)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>110</b>

\* does not include Germany as depositary nor Italy as host of COP9.

16. A possible new model for the make-up of the Standing Committee is set out below:

**Table 3**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Parties</b>
Africa	3	38
Europe	3	40
Depositary (Germany)	1	
South & Central America & Caribbean	2	12
North America	(1)	0
Asia	2	14
Oceania	1	6
Host of last COP	(1)	-
Host of next COP	(1)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>12-15</b>	<b>110</b>

17. This proposal would be in keeping with the make-up of some of the other Biodiversity Liaison Group MEAs as shown in the table below.

#### **Standing Committees of other MEAs (as at 1 March 2008)**

18. For the purpose of comparison, the table below shows the relative sizes of the Standing Committee or equivalent of other MEAs.

**Table 4**

<b>MEA</b>	<b>No. Parties</b>	<b>Size of Standing Committee</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
Ramsar	158	20	16 regional reps (one for each 12 parties) plus previous and next COP hosts and Host Government and Depositary	7.9
CITES	172	18	15 Regional reps and previous and next COP hosts plus Host/Depositary	9.5
WHC	185	21	Elected en bloc by WHGA (COP equivalent)	8.8

19. Table 5 below illustrates the relative size of the CMS standing Committee as currently constituted and as it would be under the proposed changes. The tables assume that none of the elected regional representatives are also COP hosts present or future.

**Table 5**

<b>CMS</b>	<b>No. Parties 01.12.08</b>	<b>Size of Standing Committee</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
CMS (now)	110	10	8 regional representatives, COP9 host and Host/Depositary	11
CMS *	111	15	12 regional representatives, next and previous COP host and Depositary	7.4
CMS **	110	14	11 regional representatives, next and previous host and Depositary	7.9
CMS ***	110	13	11 regional representatives and previous host and Depositary	8.5

\* 15 - assumes all places are filled, and one of USA/Canada/Mexico has acceded.

\*\* 14 - assumes no USA/Canada/Mexico both COP host places are filled.

\*\*\* 13 - assumes no USA/Canada/Mexico and no host for COP10 has emerged.

**Action required:**

Parties are invited to consider and approve draft Resolution 9.15 which would increase the size of the Standing Committee to a maximum of 14 members, as shown in Table 3 of this paper.