

Fauna and Flora, hereinafter referred to as CITES or the Convention, is an international treaty designed to control international trade in certain animal and plant species which are or may become threatened with extinction, and are listed in Appendices to the Convention. Currently, 128 countries, including the United States, are CITES Parties. CITES calls for biennial meetings of the Conference of the Parties which review its implementation, make provisions enabling the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland to carry out its functions, consider amending the list of species in Appendices I and II, consider reports presented by the Secretariat, and make recommendations for the improved effectiveness of the Convention.

The Standing Committee, Animals Committee, and Plants Committee were established by the Conference of the Parties. The functions of the Standing Committee are to provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of CITES, on the preparation of meetings, and on other matters brought to it by the Secretariat; to oversee, on behalf of the Parties, the development and execution of the Secretariat's budget and also all aspects of fund raising undertaken by the Secretariat in order to carry out specific functions authorized by the Conference of the Parties; to provide coordination and advice as required to other Committees; to provide direction and coordination of working groups established by either itself or the Conference of the Parties; to carry out, between one meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the next, any necessary interim activities on behalf of the Conference as may be necessary; to draft resolutions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties; to report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference; to act as the Bureau at meetings of the Conference of the Parties until the Rules of Procedure are adopted; and to perform any other functions entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties. The functions of the Animals Committee are to assist the Nomenclature Committee in the development and maintenance of a standardized list of animal names; to assist the Identification Manual Committee in the preparation of an identification manual on animal species; to establish a list of those animal taxa included in CITES Appendix II which are considered to be significantly affected by trade, and review and assess biological and trade information on these taxa to exclude species concluded not to be

detrimentally affected by trade, formulate recommendations for remedial measures for species for which trade is believed to be having a detrimental effect, and to establish priorities for projects to collect information on species for which there is insufficient information available to judge whether the level of trade is detrimental; to assess information on those animal species for which there is evidence of a change in the volume of trade or for which information is available to indicate the necessity for review; to undertake a periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices; to provide advice on management techniques and procedures available on request to range States; to draft resolutions on animal matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties; to deal with the matter of transport of live animals; to perform any other functions entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee; and to report to the Conference of the Parties and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee, on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference. The functions of the Plants Committee are to provide guidance and advice to the Conference of the Parties, and other Committees, working groups, and the Secretariat, on all aspects relevant to international trade in plant species included in the CITES Appendices; to assist the Nomenclature Committee in the development and maintenance of a standardized list of plant names; to assist the Identification Manual Committee in the preparation of an identification manual on plant species; to assist and advise Parties in the preparation of publicity material for plants included in the CITES Appendices; to establish a list of those plant taxa included in CITES Appendix II which are considered to be significantly affected by trade, and review and assess biological and trade information on these taxa to exclude species concluded not to be detrimentally affected by trade, formulate recommendations for remedial measures for species for which trade is believed to be having a detrimental effect, and to establish priorities for projects to collect information on species for which there is insufficient information available to judge whether the level of trade is detrimental; to assess information on those plant species for which there is evidence of a change in the volume of trade or for which information is available to indicate the necessity for review; to undertake a periodic review

of plant species included in the CITES Appendices; to make advice on management techniques and procedures available on request to range States; to draft resolutions on plant matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties; to serve as a plants working group, if so requested by the Conference of the Parties; to perform any other functions entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee; and to report to the Conference of the Parties and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee, on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference.

Agenda of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee

The agenda for the thirty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee, held March 21-24, 1995, is listed below. The results of each agenda item will be discussed at the public meeting on June 13, 1995:

Agenda

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman and CITES Secretary General
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Revision of Rules of Procedure
4. Tasks for the CITES Standing Committee given by the ninth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) and tentative timetable for the next Standing Committee meetings and for the discussions on modalities of representation of the regions in the Standing Committee
5. Review "How to improve the effectiveness of the Convention"
6. Working Group on Timber
7. Recommendations of the Animals Committee in relation to species subject to significant trade
 - (a) Primary recommendations—follow-up of the relevant decisions of Standing Committee 32
 - (b) Secondary recommendations subject to a deadline of 31 January 1995
8. Follow-up of Resolution Conf. 9.13. Tiger trade issues in range and consumer States
9. African elephant and related issues (e.g. Panel of Experts and ivory stockpiles)
10. Enforcement issues
11. National legislation for the implementation of CITES
12. Information on the status of the budget and on staffing issues including the position of the Deputy Secretary-Generalship
13. Late submission of annual reports by Parties
14. Consideration of new project proposals
15. Any other business
16. Closing remarks