

1st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 27 March 2007

Record



1. Attendance

This is listed at **Annex 1** to this Record.

2. Opening remarks:

The Chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Peter Lina, opened the Meeting as acting Chair. The Executive Secretary, Mr. Andreas Streit, transmitted apologies on behalf of Ukraine.

The representative of Germany, Dr. Christiane Paulus, welcomed the participants on behalf of the host government for both the Meeting and the Secretariat. She highlighted the fact that this was the first EUROBATS Meeting at the UN Campus, which used to be the offices of the German Parliament. She also wished the delegates well for the Meeting.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee recalled the first Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the island of Vilm, which had set EUROBATS in motion. He was sure the new streamlined structure would help maintain the Agreement's momentum.

The Executive Secretary of UNEP/CMS, Mr. Robert Hepworth, welcomed the participants and expressed his wishes for a fruitful Meeting. He furthermore drew attention to some recent initiatives of CMS which included the publication of booklets on Climate Change and Wildlife Watching.

The Executive Secretary of EUROBATS also welcomed the delegates for the first Meeting at Headquarters of the UNEP/CMS Family. He was certain that the newly adopted meeting structure by establishing a small Standing Committee along with a restructured Advisory Committee would be highly beneficial both in terms of efficiency and cost savings.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted by consensus.

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Italy nominated France for the post of Chair. This was seconded by Germany. France was elected by consensus.

Finland proposed Ukraine for the post of Vice-Chair. This was seconded by the UK. Ukraine was unanimously elected in absence. The Chair requested the Chair of the Advisory Committee to act as Vice-Chair for this Meeting.

5. Finalisation of the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure were finalised with some additions and amendments.

6. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure were adopted by consensus as amended (**Annex 2**).

7. Secretariat report

The Executive Secretary referred to the written Report. In addition he reported that a new Synthesis of National Implementation Reports would be available at the upcoming Meeting of the Advisory Committee. He recalled his request to Parties to assist in the recruitment of new Parties. Germany expressed its commitment to assist in its capacity as EU Presidency and in the G8+5.

8. Administrative matters

The Executive Secretary presented and explained the reports on Income and Expenditure. He was happy to report that there were only minor arrears in contributions and that also only a very moderate deficit had occurred in the execution of the 2006 budget. He also presented a projection of voluntary contributions expected in 2007. A projection on expenditure would be provided to the Committee in July on the basis of the first half of the financial year.

Thereafter the Executive Secretary presented the Trust Fund Status Reports for both the regular Trust Fund and the Fund for Voluntary Contributions. The Committee was pleased to note that the Agreement had a very healthy Reserve. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to interest income accrued in both Trust Funds. The Committee agreed that the 2006 interest income of the regular Trust Fund could be used by the Secretariat in budget line 5601 Contingency if needed and upon notification to the Committee. It also agreed the use of interest income in the Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to make good shortfalls caused by currency fluctuations or other reasons.

The Executive Secretary informed that the provision for audit costs in budget line 5501 was no longer needed as these costs had been covered by UNEP/UNON.

9. Implementation of Resolutions adopted at MoP5

France outlined the importance of Resolution 5.7 "Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts with particular Reference to Roosts in Buildings of Cultural Heritage Importance".

The Chair of the Advisory Committee reported on the implementation of Resolutions adopted in the past. The issue of Climate Change in conjunction with Bat Populations and Wind Turbines would remain on the top of the Agenda. He also highlighted the constraints that some Parties had in terms of funds and experts to implement Resolutions and that there was a need to provide assistance. Furthermore a mechanism to monitor the implementation of Resolutions would be helpful.

Germany drew the attention of the Committee to the year 2010 which was both the year of the next MoP and also the deadline set to halt the loss of Biodiversity. Priority in implementation should be given to those Resolutions that could contribute to the achievement of this goal.

The UK added that priority should also be given to pan-European Bat Monitoring as many gaps still existed in this area.

10. Year of the Bat

The CMS Secretariat suggested postponing the planned Year of the Bat from 2008 to 2011 for a variety of reasons. Meeting general sympathy, this proposal was endorsed by the Committee.

11. Upcoming international events and developments in Nature Conservation relevant for bats and the Agreement

The Executive Secretary reported that he was aware of the following meetings and events: European Bats Night; the Bern Convention's annual meeting at the end of the year; the International Bat Research Conference in Mexico in August 2007 and the next European Bat Research Symposium in Cluj, Romania in 2008. With regard to the Cluj Symposium, MOP5 had also considered linking the meeting of the Advisory Committee to this and the Secretariat would pursue this possibility. The Chair of the Advisory Committee also mentioned an upcoming meeting in Paris on the eradication of rabies in Europe, where he would represent conservation interests. It was also noted that the CBD and CMS Conferences of Parties in 2008 would be relevant for the Agreement.

12. Any other business

The Czech Republic informed about the production of a DVD on Bat Conservation for the EUROBATs MoP 6. The DVD would be made available also for a broader public.

13. Date and venue of the 2nd Meeting of the Standing Committee

The Committee decided to assess in January 2008 if and when a Meeting was needed. An alternative would be to have deliberations through e-mail exchange.

14. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting

The Record was adopted by consensus.

15. Close of Meeting

The Executive Secretary thanked his staff Ms. Ayhan Polat, Ms. Sevim Uen (Intern) and the report writer, Mr. Robert Vagg, for their excellent support. He furthermore wished the delegates a good and safe travel back home.

The Chair thanked the participants for their most valuable contributions and for the good outcome of the Meeting. He also thanked the Secretariat for the excellent organisation.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 16.09 h.

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Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee

General Functions

Rule 1

The general duties of the Standing Committee as well as the general rules for its organisation and functioning are set out in Resolution 5.8 "Establishment of a Standing Committee for the Agreement", adopted by the 5th Session of the Meeting of Parties convened in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 4 to 6 September 2006.

The general duties are to:

- (a) Carry out, between one meeting of the Meeting of the Parties and the next, such interim activities as may be necessary to execute the decisions of the Meeting;
- (b) Monitor the execution of the Secretariat's budget;
- (c) Oversee the implementation of policy by the Secretariat;
- (d) Provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Agreement, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters brought to it by the Secretariat;
- (e) Represent, where appropriate, the interests of the Meeting of the Parties, vis à vis the Government of the host country of the Secretariat's headquarters, UNEP and other international organisations for consideration of matters relating to the Agreement and its Secretariat;
- (f) Perform any other function as may be entrusted to it by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- (g) Submit through its Chair at each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties a report on its work since the previous ordinary meeting, including any recommendations concerning its role and effective operation;
- (h) Make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at the next meeting of the Meeting of the Parties.

Representation and Attendance

Rule 2

Each member of the Standing Committee shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee by a Representative and/or an Alternate Representative. The Representative shall exercise the voting rights of a Member. In his/her absence, the Alternate Representative shall act in his/her place.

The Representative and Alternate Representative shall also act as focal point for the work of the Committee between its sessions.

The Secretariat shall endeavour, to the extent possible, to obtain external funding for the reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of elected members from Parties with

economies in transition, and for not more than one representative of such a Party at any one meeting of the Standing Committee;

The Secretariat shall also refund to the Chairman of the Standing Committee, upon request, all reasonable and justifiable travel expenses for travel undertaken on behalf of the Meeting of Parties or on behalf of the Secretariat.

Rule 3

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair may request the Secretariat to invite any person or organization to participate in meetings of the Committee as observers when their presence is judged useful in the accomplishment of its tasks.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee shall be invited as observer *ex officio*.

Rule 4

The Members of the Standing Committee shall elect the Chair and the Vice-Chair immediately after the closure of the Meeting of Parties at the same venue.

Rule 5

If an extraordinary meeting or a special session of the Meeting of Parties is held between two regular meetings, the host Party of that meeting shall participate in the work of the Committee on matters related to the organisation of the meeting.

Officers

Rule 6

The Chair shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve for circulation the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat and maintain liaison with other committees and with the Advisory Committee between meetings of the Committee. The Chair may represent the Committee and the Parties as required within the limits of the Committee's mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted by the Committee.

Rule 7

The Vice-Chair shall assist in the execution of the Chair's functions, and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair.

Rule 8

The Secretariat of the Agreement shall provide a secretary for meetings of the Committee.

Elections

Rule 9

If in an election to fill one place no candidate obtains an overall majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the presiding officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

Rule 10

If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them for reducing the number of candidates to two.

Rule 11

In the case of a tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them for reducing the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the presiding officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with Rule 9.

Meetings

Rule 12

The Committee shall normally have deliberations at least once every year.

Rule 13

Meetings of the Committee shall be called at the request of the Chair or at least three Members.

Rule 14

The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat.

Rule 15

Notice of meetings to all Members and the other Parties including the time and venue, shall be given by the Secretariat at least 45 days and, in the case of emergency meetings, at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.

Rule 16

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of four Members of the Committee. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.

Rule 17

Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chair or by three Members.

Rule 18

Decisions of the Committee by voting (pursuant to Rule 17) shall be taken by a simple majority of the Members present. In the case of a tie, the motion shall be considered as rejected.

Rule 19

The Secretariat shall prepare the report of each meeting of the Standing Committee and send it to the Parties represented at the meeting. The Secretariat shall take note of comments received within 20 working days of the dispatch of the report and transmit the final report to all the Parties following its approval by the Chair.

Communication Procedure

Rule 20

Any member or the Secretariat may make a proposal to the Chair for a decision by written procedure including electronic mail. The Secretariat shall communicate the proposal to the Members for comments within 60 days of communication; any comments received within these limits shall also be so communicated.

Rule 21

If no objection to a proposal is received by the Secretariat by the date when the comments on the proposal were due to be communicated, the proposal shall be considered as adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all Members.

Rule 22

If any member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Final Provisions

Rule 23

In matters not covered by the present Rules, the Rules of Procedure as adopted by the last regular session of the Meeting of Parties shall be applied *mutatis mutandis*.

Rule 24

These Rules shall come into force on adoption by the Standing Committee and may be amended by the Committee as required at the request of one or more Members by at least two thirds of its elected Members.