

Report of the Executive Team and Chair of the Standing Committee

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the present report of the Executive Team and Chair of the Standing Committee.

Background

1. This report of the Executive Team provides an overview of the work it has carried out since publication of document SC59 Doc.5 on 30 March 2021. It also provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Chair of the Standing Committee during this period.

Work undertaken by the Executive Team

2. The Executive Team provided guidance to the Secretariat in the planning and preparation of the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59) held virtually from 21 to 25 June 2021. The meeting was held virtually given travel and meeting limitations due to COVID. Guidance provided by the Executive Team included recommendations to the Standing Committee in identifying the time-critical issues that needed to be addressed during the meeting given time and other constraints inherent in meeting virtually, guidance on facilitating meetings of the various Working Groups and advice on how to engage Standing Committee members.
3. The Executive Team provided guidance to the Secretariat in the initial preparation of the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties held virtually from 25 to 29 October and 4 November 2021. This included guidance on meeting format and agenda, regional consultations and recommendations to ensure full and equitable participation by all Contracting Parties. Guidance for the organization and running of the meeting was subsequently provided by the Conference Bureau, consistent with Rule 21, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure for Extraordinary Meetings. In accordance with Rule 25 (a, b^[1]), the Conference Bureau met once daily during the duration of the meeting to review progress.

Work undertaken by the Chair of the Standing Committee

4. During this period, the Chair presided over the meetings of the Executive Team, SC59 (21-25 June) and the virtual closed sessions of the Standing Committee (6 October and 15 November

^[1] Permanent observers to the Standing Committee may attend meetings of the Conference Bureau unless any Contracting Party objects.

2021), and meetings of the Management Working Group (14 June 2021 and 13 January 2022) which were largely focused on the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

5. Additionally, the Chair presided over the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and the daily meetings of the Conference Bureau. The Chair provided guidance to the Secretariat on matters related to the preparation and administration of this meeting.
6. The Chair has led and continues to lead the process for the recruitment of the next Secretary General. The Standing Committee decided on 15 November 2021 in Decision SC59-39 to establish a selection committee to assist with the recruitment of the next Secretary General. The committee is comprised of the Contracting Party members of the Management Working Group and China as host of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14). With the purpose to get better regional representation three regions (Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania) got the possibility to add one representative each.
7. The selection committee met on 2 March and approved its timeline for the process. Work on the recruitment process has been initiated accordingly.
8. The Chair of the Standing Committee also advised the Secretary General on administrative matters on her request, and conducted the annual assessment of the Secretary General during the first quarter of the year in accordance with IUCN rules and procedures.