

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Nineteenth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 August 2003

TRANSPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS (RESOLUTION CONF. 10.21 AND DECISIONS 12.85-12.86)

1. As this document was submitted after the deadline, it is provided in English only.
2. This document has been prepared by the Chairman of the Transport Working Group (TWG) of the Animals Committee (AC).

Introduction

3. At its 10th meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 10.21 on transport of live animals. As a consequence, the TWG was re-established at AC14 (Caracas, May 1998) in order to support the AC in the implementation of this Resolution. The TWG's work was the subject of a report presented by the Secretariat at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12, Santiago, 2002). Parties showed interest in this subject and some, such as Ghana, Guinea, Saudi Arabia and Uganda, asked for help in improving the preparation of animals for transport, for information about bad consignments and transport announced their interest to strengthen collaboration with CITES in order to improve transport conditions for live animals. At CoP12, Decision 12.85 was adopted on *inter alia* the development of recommendations regarding transport of live animals, as well as Decision 12.86 which directs the Secretariat to liaise with IATA and the the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) with a view to concluding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The present document summarizes activities since CoP12.

Collaboration with IATA

4. The TWG had contact with the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board. It was planned that TWG members should take part in the 13th Board meeting, in Montreal in March 2003. Proposals for amendments to the IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR) were submitted for this purpose. These proposals originated from specialists from the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and were discussed in preparation for the IATA meeting by an expert group in February 2003 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. As a result of this meeting, EAZA agreed to review the expert group's proposal for further amendments to the IATA-LAR and to explain the reasons for the proposed changes. This review was handed over to the Chairman of the EAZA-Transport Working Group at the end of June 2003 and will be further discussed during the EAZA meeting in Leipzig, Germany in September 2003.
5. The military actions against Iraq and the outbreak of SARS meant that the IATA Board meeting planned for spring 2003 had to be postponed twice and was finally cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2003. This provides an opportunity to prepare further proposals if necessary. Input from any Party, intergovernmental or non-governmental organization into this process is welcome.

Collaboration with AATA

6. The TWG maintained its contacts with the Animal Transportation Association (AATA). One representative of the AATA Committee (Europe) met with members of the TWG in February 2003 and discussed options for further collaboration. Furthermore, the representative of Austria in the TWG took part in the AATA annual conference in Washington D.C., United States of America, in April 2003. The 30th AATA conference will be held in Vienna in 2004. One of the topics to be discussed will be international coordination of animal transport, to which the TWG plans to contribute.

Evaluation of the IATA-LAR for transport other than by air

7. So far only a few comments and recommendations have been transmitted to the TWG Chairman. The TWG has started to collect information about road transportation. A German company specializing in the transport of wild animals has declared its willingness to provide the group with its expertise. In addition, a representative of the NGO International Environmental Resources contacted the TWG and handed over the final report of the study 'Transportation of Circus Elephants' and offered to support the working group with experts on road and rail transport of circus animals.
8. It has not been possible to date to create expert groups that should concentrate on particular aspects of transport by road, rail or ship because not enough specialists were found or nominated. The participants at the present meeting are asked to provide assistance to the TWG in this regard and to suggest names of persons who could contribute to this issue.

Preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CITES Secretariat, IATA and WAZA

9. In March 2003 the WAZA executive office contacted the CITES Secretariat to move forward negotiations on a MOU. The Secretariat organized a meeting on this issue with representatives of all three bodies as well as the Chairmen of the AC and TWG. The meeting was held on 9 April 2003 in Geneva and produced a draft MOU to be finalized and signed in the course of 2003.

Research on transport mortality

10. Resolution Conf. 10.21 urges all Parties to maintain records of the number of live specimens per shipment and of the mortalities in transport. In this respect Germany funded a research study on transport losses between 1999 and 2001. This study evaluated data regarding the transport of more than 7,450,000 wild animals. The results of the study were recently published and have been provided to the Chairman of the AC, the CITES Secretariat, the members of the TWG, the IATA Board and NGOs. The report of the study can be obtained free-of-charge from the CITES Management Authority of Germany.