

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



Twentieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Johannesburg (South Africa), 29 March-2 April 2004

Transport of live animals

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Members of the working group

Austria (Chair);

Regional representative: Europe;

Observers from Parties: the Czech Republic, Israel, the Netherlands, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania;

Observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations: Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Animal Exhibitors Alliance, Animal Welfare Institute, Pro Wildlife and Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; and

The CITES Secretariat.

Terms of reference

- a) Review document AC20 Doc. 13 and produce an update on the work accomplished in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.21, for reporting by the Secretariat at CoP13.
- b) Draft a report on progress with the implementation of Decision 12.85, for reporting by the Animals Committee at CoP13.

Summary of the discussions and recommendations

1. At its 10th meeting (CoP10, Harare, 1997), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 10.21 and DIRECTS the Animals Committee to deal with matters to the transport of live animals.
2. Resolution Conf. 10.21 RECOMMENDS the following:

A) Directed to the Animals Committee

- a) *suitable measures be taken by the Parties to promote the full and effective use by Management Authorities of the Guidelines for Transport and Preparation for Shipment of Live Wild Animals and Plants and that they be brought to the attention of carriers, freight forwarders and international organizations and conferences competent to regulate conditions of carriage by air, land and sea or inland waterways;*
- b) *Parties invite the above organizations and institutions to comment on and amplify these Guidelines, so as to promote their effectiveness;*
- c) *the regular communication of the CITES Secretariat and the Standing Committee with the Live Animals and Perishables Board of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) be continued and that a relationship with the Animals Transportation Association (AATA) be developed;*
- d) *for as long as the CITES Secretariat and the Standing Committee agree, the IATA Live Animals Regulations be deemed to meet the CITES Guidelines in respect of air transport;*
- e) *except where it is inappropriate, the IATA Live Animals Regulations should be used as a reference to indicate suitable conditions for carriage by means other than air;*
- f) *the IATA Live Animals Regulations be incorporated into the domestic legislation of the Parties;*
- g) *applicants for export permits or re-export certificates be notified that, as a condition of issuance, they are required to prepare and ship live specimens in accordance with the IATA Live Animals Regulations for transport by air and the CITES Guidelines for Transport of Live Specimens for carriage by means other than air;*
- h) *to the extent possible, shipments of live animals be examined and necessary action taken to determine the well-being of the animals by CITES-designated persons or airline personnel during extended holding periods at transfer points;*
- i) *where Parties to the Convention have designated ports of entry and exit, animal-holding facilities be provided; and*
- j) *to the extent possible, Parties ensure that animal-holding facilities are open for inspection of shipments, with the concurrence of the transport company, by CITES-designated enforcement personnel or designated observers; and that any documented information be made available to the appropriate authorities and transport companies;*

B) Directed further the Animals Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat

- a) *to establish the format for the presentation of data on mortality and injury or damage to health in transport; and*
- b) *to conduct a systematic review of the scope and causes of the mortality and injury or damage to health of animals during the shipment and transport process and of means of reducing such mortality and injury or damage to health;*
 - i) *the review should include a process for making recommendations to the Parties designed to minimize mortality, on the basis of consultation with exporting, importing, re-exporting and transit countries, IATA and AATA, and additional information from scientists, veterinarians, zoological institutions, trade representatives, carriers, freight forwarders and other experts; and*
 - ii) *these recommendations should be focused on individual species and countries of export, import, re-export or transit where appropriate, particularly those that have significant high mortality rates in transport, and should be designed to provide positive solutions to identified problems;*

C) Directed to the Secretariat

- a) *to convey these recommendations to the exporting, importing or re-exporting Parties concerned, IATA and AATA after they have been approved by the Standing Committee; and*
- b) *in consultation with the Animals and Standing Committees, to monitor the implementation of these recommendations and of other aspects of this Resolution and report its findings and recommendations at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*

INVITES non-governmental organizations, particularly veterinary, scientific, conservation, welfare and trade organizations with expertise in the shipment, preparation for shipment, transport, care or husbandry of live animals, to provide the necessary financial, technical and other assistance to those Parties in need of and requesting such assistance to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention for the transport and preparation for shipment of live animals subject to international trade;

NOTES that in order to improve implementation of the IATA Live Animals Regulations by the Parties there is a need for greatly increased awareness of the Regulations through:

- a) more effective methods of training of personnel of airlines and enforcement agencies; and
 - b) improved methods of liaison and information;
4. As a consequence, the TWG was re-established at AC14 (Caracas, May 1998) and at AC19 (Geneva, August 2003) in order to support the AC for 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 and announced their interest to strengthen collaboration with CITES in order to improve transport conditions for live animals.
5. At its 12th meeting (CoP12, Santiago, 2002) the following decisions were adopted:

Directed to the Animals Committee

12.85 *The Animals Committee, in collaboration with interested non-governmental organizations and the Secretariat should:*

- a) *develop recommendations regarding transport of live animals by road, rail or ship to supplement, where necessary, the IATA Live Animal Regulations.*
- b) *investigate cost-effective options for containers and packing materials that could be recommended for adoption in the IATA Live Animals Regulations.*
- c) *assist in identifying model practices concerning the transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals, and develop recommendations to the Parties regarding the proper handling and transportation of live animals, particularly in exporting countries.*
- d) *Report at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) to c) above.*

Directed to the Secretariat

12.86 *The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Animals Committee, liaise with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) with a view to concluding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to*

- a) *strengthen further collaboration in order to improve transport conditions of live animals,*
- b) *establish an official training program on animal transport, and*
- c) *facilitate the exchange of technical information relevant to animal transport, between the Secretariat, the IATA-Live Animals and Perishables Boards and the WAZA Executive Office:*

Evaluation of the IATA-LAR for transport other than by air (Conf. 10.21Aa,Ab,Ad,Ae / Decision 12.85)

6. In accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 12.85, information was submitted to the TWG from NGO's and from specialists of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and the Animal Transport Association (AATA). This was discussed during the meeting of the Transport Working Group at the AC20 meeting in Johannesburg.
7. The TWG recommends that the Animals Committee use the IATA Guidelines as the basic document and with the information provided in paragraph 6 prepare an addendum of the different requirements for shipment of animals by road, rail and ship. The addendum will include cost effective options for containers and packing materials for all means of shipment as required in Dec. 12.85 (b). The TWG agreed to prepare a draft version of this addendum for AC21. Once the addendum is finalized, the TWG recommends that the CITES Secretariat publish this addendum in the form of a database, hard copy and/or CD-Rom.
8. The TWG debated Dec. 12.85 (c) and recommends to the Animals Committee that this issue is still important and should continue on the work program of the Animals Committee.

Collaboration with IATA, AATA, EAZA (Conf: 10.21 A, Bbi)

Collaboration with IATA

- 9) The TWG contacted the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board. The TWG Chairman attended the 14th Board meeting in Montreal in October 2003. Proposals for amendments to the IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR) were submitted in advance for the (then cancelled) 13th IATA-LAPB meeting by the CITES-AC-TWG; these proposals were amended during the 14th IATA-LAPB.

Collaboration with AATA

- 10) The TWG Chairman will attend the 30th AATA annual conference to be held in Vienna from April 19th – 21st, 2004 and will be on the AATA-board for a period of three years. He will be there the moderator at the session "*International Cooperation between – CITES, IATA, WAZA, OIE, AATA*"
- 11) The main focus of this conference will be the upcoming new membership to the EU and all the problems with this new situation. The main agenda items of the conference were further focused on the transport of exotics.

Collaboration with EAZA

- 13) The chairman of the TWG attended the 20th EAZA Annual Conference Leipzig (Germany); 17th September 2003. He asked the EAZA-TWG for assistance on the subject of developing recommendations for rail, road and sea transport.

Preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CITES Secretariat, IATA and WAZA (Decision 12.86)

- 14) As a result of the recent reorganization of the IATA management, the IATA- Live Animals and Perishables Board (IATA-LAB) discussed the draft MoU during the 14th Meeting and submitted their result to the CITES-AC-TWG chairman as follows:

"I herewith would like to inform you that the MoU. initiative did not come to fruition during this meeting, as I failed to obtain support towards it. The LAPB still wishes however to continue our collaboration and has asked the training department in IATA to make contact as required. Perhaps the difficult situation many of our members and our industry face have complicated the picture even further. I nevertheless wish to thank all of you for the time and efforts spent towards this and assure you of my continued interest in working together to the benefit of the animals in our care".

- 15) The TWG recommends that the Animals Committee request the Secretariat to contact IATA to finalize the text of the MoU and respectfully requests the opportunity to see the draft.