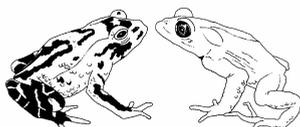


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Eighteenth meeting of the Animals Committee
San José (Costa Rica), 8-12 April 2002

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.21 on transport of live animals

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

This document has been prepared by the Chairman of the Transport Working Group (TWG).

Introduction

1. At the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties Resolution Conf. 10.21 was adopted. As a consequence of this, the TWG of the Animals Committee (AC) was re-established at AC14 in order to support the AC in the implementation of this Resolution. This report summarizes what has been achieved in relation to the work schedule adopted by the TWG at its meeting during AC17 in Hanoi, 30 July–3 August 2001.

Implementation of Notification to the Parties No. 1999/48 on collection of mortality data

2. The Regional Representative for Europe, who is also a member of the TWG, explained to the Management Authorities (MAs) of European Parties, in August 2001, the importance of the data collecting process which had been started on the basis of Notification No. 1999/48 and asked them to support this process.
3. During the first European Regional Meeting of the AC held in Bonn, 14-16 November 2001, the subject of transport of live animals and transport mortalities was put on the agenda. The Chairman of the TWG presented an overview of the work of the TWG and asked the participants in the meeting to draw more attention to this issue. Copies of Notification No. 1999/48 including the reporting form on causes of injury and/or mortality (in three languages) and an overview of those countries mainly involved in trade with the species named in this Notification had been provided to the members of the Management and Scientific Authorities (SAs) and NGO representatives who attended this meeting.
4. The consultant that Germany had hired to compile a report based on data from the reporting forms submitted a draft report in early January 2002. This report is based on the evaluation of the 741 forms which the German Management Authority had received either from the Secretariat or directly. All data received up to 31 December 2001 were included in this report. The first result that can be

reported is that information on more than 80,000 animals was collected through this reporting form. The consultant is currently preparing the final report, which will be forwarded to the TWG members and the Secretariat in March 2002 for discussion by the TWG during AC18.

Evaluation of the IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR) for transport by means other than air

5. During its meeting in Hanoi the TWG decided not to review and update the twenty-year-old CITES Transport Guidelines. Instead the TWG agreed that the IATA LAR, which are updated every year, should be reviewed to determine whether they require further amendments and whether they are applicable to transport by road, rail or ship. Where they are not applicable to transport by road, rail or ship, the TWG intended to prepare recommendations accordingly.
6. Referring to this request the TWG received only one statement from a reptile specialist working at a *bona fide* scientific institution, indicating that the IATA LAR for reptiles are also adequate for transport by road and rail. The Chairman of the working group contacted the IUCN/SSC Veterinary Specialist Group for comments and advice in this respect. Unfortunately no comments have been received so far.
7. In October 2001 the Chairman contacted the European office of the Animal Transportation Association (ATA) and informed the European Secretary of ATA of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.21, the activities of the TWG and its discussions at AC17. ATA welcomed this initiative and stated its interest in further collaboration with CITES. ATA underlined that every air transport requires two road transports in the sequence of loading, unloading and ground handling, and therefore the whole shipment from place of origin to place of destination must be addressed. ATA forwarded its 'Manual for the Transportation of Live Animals' to the TWG Chairman. This manual is primarily directed to domestic animals but also contains a chapter on wild species and gives basic information on CITES and its requirements concerning documents. The Chairman of the TWG, as a first step, suggested some minor corrections to contact addresses in the manual and offered further collaboration.
8. The representative of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and the representative of Austria, who had joined the TWG as a new member at AC17, proposed to the Chairman the establishment of a database on the transport of live animals. This database would, for instance, contain information about animals, their status in CITES, information about containers and legal requirements for different means of transport. Despite the fact that there are still a lot of unresolved questions, this proposal is attractive and could provide the necessary information to everyone who intends to ship animals. This proposal will be presented for discussion by the TWG at its next meeting in Costa Rica.

Collaboration with IATA

9. The 11th meeting of the IATA Animals and Perishables Board had been scheduled for October 2001. However, as a result of the attack against the United States of America the meeting was postponed to February 2002. The Chairman and the representative of Austria, as members of the TWG, are planning to attend this meeting to give an overview of the work and plans of the TWG and to present the project to establish a database on transport of live animals with the aim of getting the collaboration of IATA in this project.

Revision of Resolution Conf. 10.21

10. It was agreed that the TWG members would examine Resolution Conf. 10.21 in order to determine whether changes are needed and to send their recommendations to the Chairman of the TWG for compilation. It must be noted that no recommendations have yet been received by the Chairman.

The Chairman has worked through the Resolution and has commented on each paragraph (see Annex), for discussion at AC18.

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.21

REVIEW BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

In the table below the text of Resolution Conf. 10.21 is presented in the left-hand column of the table (sometimes shortened) whereas actions taken to implement the Resolution as well as additional information, opinions and recommendations from the Chairman are presented in the right-hand column.

Resolution Conf. 10.21 (paraphrased)	Actions taken, opinions and recommendations from the Chairman of the TWG
<p>DIRECTS</p> <p>The AC to deal with matters related to the transport of live animals.</p>	<p><u>Recommendation:</u> As result of all discussions the TWG concluded that mortality of living animals during transport is an important issue that needs further attention and investigation. Apart from principles such as 'sustainable use' and 'non detrimental' exports, the question of humane treatment of live animals through all stages of their lives after being taken from the wild must be a main objective for all countries involved in live-animal trade. The Convention itself demands that animals be prepared and transported humanely. In view of the many problems with animal transportation the AC should continue to deal with matters related to the transport of live animals.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDS</p> <p>a) suitable measures be taken by the Parties to promote the full and effective use by MAs of the CITES Transport Guidelines;</p>	<p>It is not known which measures have been taken by Parties in general to use the CITES Transport Guidelines. In some countries (i.e. the European Community) the guidelines are included in the domestic law on animal transportation. In Germany, for example, the CITES Transport Guidelines have been translated into German and made available to the public.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> At AC17 in Hanoi, in August 2001, the TWG decided not to review and update the twenty-year-old CITES Transport Guidelines but to concentrate on the IATA LAR and to prepare additional recommendations referring to transport by road, rail or ship. When this aim has been achieved Parties should be made aware of the new recommendations.</p>
<p>b) Parties invite the above organizations and institutions to comment on and amplify these guidelines, so as to promote their effectiveness;</p>	<p><u>Recommendation:</u> The AC and TWG should concentrate on IATA LAR and provide the Parties with additional recommendations referring to transport by means other than air to replace the CITES Transport Guidelines in future.</p>

Resolution Conf. 10.21 (paraphrased)	Actions taken, opinions and recommendations from the Chairman of the TWG
c) regular communication of the Secretariat and the Standing Committee with IATA be continued and with AATA be developed;	<p>The collaboration with IATA has been one important area of the work for the TWG since its reconstitution in 1998. At AC14, attention was drawn to the urgency to review the transport of reptiles. The TWG subsequently discussed this issue at its meeting in Washington DC, in January 1999, and prepared new transport requirements for reptiles and amphibians, with the help of officials of the USFWS, reptile specialists, veterinarians, Customs officers, NGOs, traders, IATA officials and the Secretariat. These requirements were subsequently accepted by IATA as a new LAR chapter. In 2001 additional proposals to amend the IATA LAR for birds and mammals were submitted by the TWG to IATA and accepted.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> The collaboration with IATA and AATA should be continued as a matter of priority.</p>
d) acceptance of IATA LAR for air transportation	<p>No arguments against the use of the IATA LAR have been received by the TWG so far.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> IATA LAR should be further accepted by CITES.</p>
e) except where it is inappropriate, the IATA LAR should be used as a reference to indicate suitable conditions for transport by means other than air	<p>The TWG has started to discuss this question at AC17. It is still under consideration whether additional recommendations are needed to transport animals by road, rail or ship. So far the TWG received only a statement by a reptile specialist who pronounced that LAR containers for reptiles and amphibians can also be used for transports by road and rail without problems.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Needs further consideration and discussion for making recommendations. Because this issue is difficult, labour-intensive and requires specialists' knowledge, it seems appropriate to hire consultants for special chapters of this issue.</p>
f) the IATA LAR be incorporated into the domestic legislation of the Parties	<p>The Secretariat had asked Parties through Notification No. 1998/43 to inform it whether this has been done. The Secretariat reported to the CoP11 that only ten responses were received, of which eight (including seven from EU countries) were from Parties that had specific provisions implementing the IATA LAR in their legislation.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Humane treatment of CITES-listed animal specimens during capture, storage, transport, quarantine and holding should be a basic requirement included in the domestic law of the Parties as it is done in the Convention itself. Therefore this issue should be included in the CITES legislation project and also in seminars, workshops and other means of assistance given to Parties by the Secretariat or regional representatives of the AC.</p>

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g) applicants for export documents be notified that, as an condition of issuance, they are required to prepare and ship live specimens in accordance with IATA LAR or CITES Transport Guidelines	<p>The TWG does not know in which way the MAs inform the exporters about transport requirements on a regular basis and if controls are made by the MAs or other government officials or NGOs. Meanwhile most of the CITES permit forms include in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.2 the statement: 'This permit/certificate is only valid if live animals are transported in compliance with the CITES Guidelines ... or in case of air transport, the IATA LAR'. It has been reported to the Chairman of the TWG that one Party (Austria) in some cases had considered CITES export documents as being invalid because the transport conditions of the consignments concerned did not meet the IATA LAR. In consequence the animals were seized.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> This topic should be regularly on the agenda of CITES training seminars for MAs and stakeholders involved in the shipment of animals.</p>
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,	<p>It seems to the TWG that the situation is positively influenced in those countries where the same State administration is responsible for CITES and veterinary issues, but limited information is available on this subject.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Should be continued.</p>
i) where Parties have designated ports of entry and exit , animal-holding facilities be provided	<p>Only the situation in the EU is known to the TWG. Here ports of import are designated but only some of them have animal-holding facilities. These facilities are often under the supervision of veterinary officials. There is sometimes a lack of information between veterinary and CITES officials. No comprehensive list on holding facilities is available in CITES information material.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Recommendation should be maintained. Regular correspondence from the officials of the animals-holding facility to the concerned Parties' MAs should be established to provide information in case of transport / transit of CITES animals.</p>
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 personnel or designated observers; and that any documented information be made available to the appropriate authorities and transport companies	<p>The situation depends on domestic legal situation in the respective Party. Details are not known to the TWG. From the investigation projects on transport mortality in Germany, it proved very complicated to coordinate veterinary, Customs and CITES officials, because they belonged to three different State administrations.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Each Party should ensure at the national level that information on transportation of live CITES-listed animals which was collected by one official site should also be provided to other authorities involved in this issue.</p>

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<p>URGES</p> <p>Parties to maintain records of the number of live specimen per shipment and of mortalities, to note cases of mortality and injury or damage to health, and to provide data along with their annual records</p>	<p>This request is not easy to implement because in most countries there are no CITES officials at ports of entry. Therefore often the records have to be made by veterinary officials or Customs officers who also control the CITES documents. Traders were requested to use the reporting form.</p> <p>After Notification to the Parties No. 1999/48 was sent out by the Secretariat, the TWG undertook a study on which countries are mainly involved in trade with the species named in this Notification on the basis of WCMC data. The Secretariat sent out letters to those countries mainly involved in export and import and asked them to support the data collecting process on the basis of the Notification. A first report on implementation of this recommendation was given by the Secretariat at CoP11 (see Doc. 11.54).</p> <p>Efforts continue to be hampered by a lack of responses from Parties to requests for information. It appears to the TWG that only a few Parties, apart from the EU member States, have implemented Resolution Conf. 10.21. The Chairman and the members of the TWG concentrated their efforts on the support of the data collecting process. At several international meetings, i.e. CoP11, the first European meeting of the AC and the AC meetings itself, Parties and NGOs were repeatedly asked to support the implementation of the Notification. On the initiative of the TWG the member States of the European Union have given special attention to the issue of transport mortality. The importance of collecting transport mortality data was discussed at several meetings of the CITES Committee in Brussels. Because of the EU legislation, EU member States have the obligation to report on mortality in consignments of animals and to include the information into a special box on the import permit. This task is done by Customs officers after information by veterinarians. However there are still problems in controlling every single shipment. The information about the recorded mortality must be included by the EU member States in their yearly CITES report to the EU Commission. There are also a few other countries, where veterinary legislation is strict referring to special species-groups and/or a special quarantine procedure to record mortalities but sometimes information is not regularly provided to CITES authorities.</p> <p>Which shipments can be controlled by CITES personnel depends on the legal situation of the Party concerned. To analyse the internationally-collected mortality data, Germany hired a consultant. At the end of 2001 a total of 741 reporting forms with information on more than 80,000 animals had been included in the evaluation. However, the replies came from only a few countries and some of the main countries identified as involved in the trade concerned did not respond. Efforts continue to be hampered by a lack of response from Parties to requests for information. The entire report will be provided to the TWG at AC18.</p>

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	<p><u>Recommendation:</u> The data collecting process should be continued and become part of the 'normal' import procedure. External funding should be sought for the forthcoming years to analyse the incoming reporting forms and for special projects. A question that needs in depth investigation is the transport of live animals, i.e. reptiles, for food consumption.</p>
<p>DECIDES</p> <p>Non submission of mortality-data in annual reports will be noted in a report from the Secretariat to the SC.</p>	<p>Whether actions have been taken is not known to the TWG</p>
<p>DIRECTS</p> <p>The AC in consultation with the Secretariat:</p>	
<p>a) to establish a format for the presentation of data on mortality and injury or damage to health in transport</p>	<p>The TWG proposed a reporting form which was sent out to the Parties with Notification No. 1999/48. Taking into account the disappointingly low response to the form distributed with Notification to the Parties No. 848 of 18 April 1995, the TWG decided to take a new approach. The TWG selected at its meeting in Washington DC in January 1999 a number of species which are mainly in trade (examples of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians) and proposed to focus the Parties' attention and data collection on a limited species list as a first step.</p> <p>To ensure the better understanding and use of the reporting form it was translated into local languages by Hungary, Belgium and China (these three Parties are members of the TWG and supported with this measure the data collection process).</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> The format of the reporting form should be evaluated with regard to whether some additional amendments or revisions on the form are required in order to eradicate misunderstandings among those persons who have to fill it in.</p>
<p>b) to conduct a systematic review of the scope and causes of the mortality and injury or damage to health and of means of reducing such mortality and injury....</p>	<p>A report for AC18 will be prepared by a consultant hired by Germany.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> On the basis of the report and after discussion at AC18 a decision should be taken as to whether the reporting form is suitable to collect information on causes of mortality and injury or damage to health. The development of means of reducing such mortality and injury or damage to health or the advice which additional action should be taken in this regard is currently hindered because of missing information. However this process merits further attention by the TWG.</p>
<p>b i) the review should include a process for making recommendations to the Parties to minimize mortality</p>	<p>Which recommendation can be made depends on the results of the report mentioned under paragraph b) above.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Additional information on this subject is needed.</p>

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b ii) recommendations should be focused on individual species and countries	Which recommendation can be made depends on the results of the report mentioned under paragraph b) above. <u>Recommendation:</u> To formulate species and country specific recommendations should be part of future work programmes of the TWG. In addition the AC should discuss whether this subject should be included in the significant trade process.
DIRECTS the Secretariat	
a) to convey these recommendations to the Parties concerned after they have been approved by the SC	Which recommendation can be made depends on the results of the report mentioned under paragraph b) above.
b) in consultation with AC and SC to monitor the implementation of these recommendations and other aspects of this resolution and report its findings and recommendations to the CoPs INVITES NGO and other interested persons and organizations to provide 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	So far no special recommendations can be made. Secretariat's report at CoP11, see Doc. 11.54 The TWG received assistance from MAs and NGO representatives as TWG members. Furthermore, other NGOs, scientists, veterinarians, traders, IATA – and airline personnel –, Customs officers and interested persons provided information to the TWG regarding problems concerning animal transportation. <u>Recommendation:</u> Collaboration has proven to be useful and should be continued.
NOTES That in order to improve implementation of the IATA LAR 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	The TWG Chairman attended one Lufthansa training seminar on LAR and gave explanations on CITES. The first European meeting of the AC provided an opportunity to draw the attention of European MA and SA personnel to the issue of animal transportation. <u>Recommendation:</u> Agendas of CITES seminars as well as of special workshops should contain the live animals transportation as topic. MAs of Parties should establish ongoing contact with their airlines

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	for cooperation.
b) improved methods of liaison and information	<p>TWG members have attended regularly IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board meetings. Two representatives of IATA attended the one-week TWG meeting in Washington held in January 1999 on the revision of the IATA LAR of reptiles and amphibians.</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u>: The cooperation with IATA has proven to be useful and should be continued.</p>