

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

Forty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 March 2002

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES RELATED TO THE LISTING
AND IDENTIFICATION OF SECONDARY PRODUCTS

1. This document was prepared by the United States of America.

Background

2. At the last Plants Committee Meeting in September 2001, the United States of America presented document Doc. PC.11.24.5 on implementation issues specifically related to Appendix-III timber species. The Plants Committee recommended that Parties bring these implementation matters to the attention of the Standing Committee.
3. However, because implementation difficulties related to secondary products (manufactured or finished products) extend beyond timber listings, this discussion paper raises implementation issues applying to a wide variety of animal and plant species in trade.
4. The interception, identification, and inspection of secondary products poses problems for many CITES species. Examples include animal and plant species used in traditional medicines, such as tiger bone or rhino horn, and the recently listed timber species, ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), which includes all parts and derivatives (e.g., furniture and cue sticks).
5. Other species are listed in the CITES Appendices primarily as a result of international trade in their secondary products. Examples include shatoosh shawls, vicuña wool products, and musk in perfumes or medicines.
6. For still other species, certain secondary products have been excluded from the listing although these products are the primary commodity in trade. This calls into question the effectiveness of the listing. An example is yew (*Taxus*) extract.

Implementation issues

7. Inspection officials in countries of import may encounter difficulties in intercepting, identifying, and inspecting shipments of secondary products. Difficulties may be caused by the large volume of secondary products, the ineffective use of Customs codes (which may not capture secondary products) to identify shipments, the mixing of regulated and unregulated products in the same shipments, or the use of unfamiliar trade names.
8. Furthermore, using and identifying Customs tariff codes for secondary products of CITES-listed animals and plants is complicated, especially since the codes are not species specific and many cover broad product categories.

Summary

9. Management Authorities have a broad range of expertise resulting from national implementation of the Convention, consultation with national experts, and working with other Parties that have similar problems. With varying levels of success, Parties have attempted to resolve implementation problems for trade in secondary products.
10. The United States of America believes that implementation problems, such as those detailed above that are common to many Parties, could be addressed through a permanent body within CITES that is comprised of experts from Management Authorities and other offices.