

SPEECH BY THE UNION MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE,
RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION
THE HONORABLE RAO BIRENDRA SINGH

Mr. President,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the very outset, may I say that I am delighted to be here this morning for the opening of this Conference, and I extend a warm welcome to all the participants from different countries of the world who have gathered here on this occasion.

I am aware that sixty-seven countries have already become contracting Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. This is certainly an achievement considering the fact that the Convention came into force only about five years ago. It has thus acquired an importance of its own in the field of international cooperation and we are happy that the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to this Convention is being held in India and is being hosted by our Government.

The very *raison d'être* of this Convention is the concept of "Conservation" and India's history, tradition and folklore is steeped in this concept. While launching the World Conservation Strategy in India a year ago, our esteemed Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi said: "The interest in conservation is not a sentimental one but the discovery of a truth well known to our ancient sages. The Indian tradition teaches us that all forms of life - human, animal and plant - are so closely inter-linked that disturbance in one gives rise to imbalance in the other". It is thus befitting that India is providing the venue for the get together of all those committed to this ideal.

In recent years, more particularly during the past decade, there has been considerable concern among the community of nations regarding the rapid pace at which living natural resources are declining all round the world. This concern is well justified because the prospects for the future are indeed grim. According to the "Global 2000" report, which has evoked great interest around the world and is perhaps the most recent study in this field, "serious stresses involving population, resources and environment are clearly visible ahead the world's people will be poorer in many ways in the year 2000 than they are today and the environment will have lost important life-supporting capabilities". According to an estimate prepared for the study, in the next two decades, about 15 to 20 per cent of the earth's total species of plants and animals may become extinct, if the present trends continue. This works out to a loss of about 500,000 species. Extinction on this scale is without precedent in human history and the consequences are far too staggering to recount. Most of this havoc is attributed to destruction or loss of habitats, resulting from clearing or degradation of forests, especially the tropical forests with the largest storehouse of plant and animal species.

The second biggest cause for the extinction of species is over-exploitation for commercial interests or trade, and it is well known that big money is involved in this business. World trade in wildlife and its products is now a phenomenon to reckon with and poses a major threat to the survival of species and their environment. Perhaps the most effective way of dealing with this threat on a global scale is through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and it is a matter of great satisfaction that so many nations of the world already subscribe to its ideology and objectives. Yet, so long as non-members continue to outnumber the members of the Convention and as long as the ranks of the former include unscrupulous traders in wildlife and forest produce, the effectiveness of CITES is bound to be partial. Of course, it is equally necessary that member nations perform as they should and implementation follows the spirit of the Convention. These are matters to which you would no doubt be addressing yourselves during the next few days. I sincerely hope the outcome would further strengthen the aims as well as the implementation of this international agreement.

As far as India is concerned, we have subscribed to the philosophy of CITES since its inception. India is a contracting Party to the Convention since 1976, soon after it came into existence. Steps have been taken to implement the provisions of CITES by setting up a network of national Management Authorities along with four regional offices as well as Scientific Authorities operating in direct communication with each other and with the CITES Secretariat. The schedules to the Central Law on Wildlife Protection have been amended suitably so as to include more species of wild fauna and flora as well as to provide for greater protection and more effective control on trade in this area. This approach is also reflected in the export policy on wildlife and its products, which has introduced general control and regulation in this field. Some live animals or birds or products thereof are totally banned for export, keeping in view their status in the country and the overall implications from the conservation angle.

Nature has endowed India with such abundant and varied fauna and flora that it compares favorably with that of any other region of the world. Of course, as elsewhere, it is now in serious jeopardy by human competition for food and habitat. The two decades covering the 50's and 60's witnessed massive and unprecedented destruction of our natural living resources and their environment. Fortunately, however, during the past one decade there has been a significant change of approach and a new sense of awareness, inspired no doubt by the repeated exhortations of our Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, whose commitment to this cause is known universally. As a result, there is now growing concern in this regard and, under Central guidance and leadership, steps are being taken not only to protect and preserve what remains of our wild fauna and flora, but also to devise ways and means of augmenting this priceless natural heritage. The main thrust is on the following lines:

- a) To develop appropriate management systems for wildlife resources and to integrate these with rural development to the extent possible.
- b) To help in the formulation and adoption of a National Conservation Strategy, on the lines of the World Conservation Strategy, with special reference to living natural resources.

- c) To establish a network of Wildlife Reserves designed to cover representative samples of all major ecosystems.
- d) To restore degraded habitats and depleted fauna - particularly of major species - in the Wildlife Reserves.
- e) To rehabilitate endangered and threatened species and restore them to their original habitats.
- f) To develop a cadre of trained personnel for the management of Wildlife Reserves and to provide proper orientation to all those concerned with wildlife management as well as to support the research and education needs in this field.
- g) To support captive breeding programmes of threatened and endangered species and to improve the management of the Zoological Parks in the country.

I wish to mention that an important measure has been taken recently in the form of the new law called the "Forest (Conservation) Act 1980", which provides that no State Government or any other authority shall dereserve any forest area or divert a forest area to any non-forest purposes except with the prior approval of the Central Government. There is no doubt that this new law will help greatly in checking the loss of habitats, which is the main cause for the world-wide decline of wildlife. The very fact that such a law has come into existence is a tribute to our political system and Federal set-up as well as a major achievement of the present Government.

For a country as large as ours, with a population which is the second largest in the world and dependent so largely for livelihood on the natural resources within the country, "Conservation" by way of wise and sustained use of resources is the one and only way of survival or existence. Looking at the global picture and keeping in view the realities of the situation, this argument is applicable with equal force to the entire community of nations. And it is in this context that there is real need for international effort, cooperation and collaboration in the larger interest of human society. International agreements like the CITES are the only effective way of providing legally binding means of ensuring that the conservation objectives they are concerned with are fulfilled. I sincerely hope that the deliberations of this Conference would generally promote these objectives and lead to a further strengthening of the Convention which they seek to serve.

In conclusion, I would like to quote from the Ishopamishads a passage which puts in a nutshell the whole argument in favor of conservation of species:

This Universe is the creation of the Supreme Power meant for the benefit of all His creations. Individual species must, therefore, learn to enjoy its benefits by forming a part of the system in close relation with other species. Let not any one species encroach upon the others' rights.

With these words, I have great pleasure in formally declaring the Conference open and wish all the participants a very fruitful exchange of views and an enjoyable stay in our country.

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
MR. RICHARD M. PARSONS**

Honorable Minister,
Mr. Secretary,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Standing Committee I would like to welcome you to this, the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is a unique world-wide endeavor to conserve those species which are threatened to one degree or another with extinction and are affected by international trade. The Convention recognizes that the people of each country are the best conservatives of species found within their boundaries, and that international co-operation is necessary to effectuate this conservation.

These principles are reflected in the basic structure of the Convention. First, each Party country is required to establish Scientific and Management Authorities. These institutions make the basic conservation decisions on the regulation of trade, using scientific data on the status of the species and the effect of international trade. Second, a system of documentation is established as the mechanism for international co-operation in carrying out these conservation decisions.

These are the cornerstones of the Convention. They are augmented by the Secretariat, which provides a channel for communication between the Parties and carries out special studies, and by the meetings of the Conference of the Parties. At these meetings we determine which species are in need of conservation through the regulation of trade, and we develop practical means to improve the effectiveness of the Convention

In the six short years since the Convention came into effect, many countries have become Parties. Scientific and Management Authorities have become established and are developing their legislative authorities and operational procedures. We are working on such practical tools as the identification manual, guidelines for transportation of living specimens, a standardized nomenclature for species, and the development of a uniform permit. Thus, it is clear that we are well along in the initial phases of implementation.

At this meeting we will discuss many significant issues that will have an impact on the effectiveness of the Convention as it moves into its maturity. These include changes in the lists of species covered by the Convention, practices followed in the implementation of the Convention, financing of the Secretariat, and the continued development of practical tools for implementation.

The Standing Committee and the Secretariat have tried to structure this meeting to provide the maximum opportunity for communication on all these issues. We are especially thankful to the Government and the people of India for providing these excellent facilities and for the warm hospitality we are being shown, both so essential to the process of communication.

It has been and continues to be our experience that these opportunities to meet and discuss the complex business of the Convention are invaluable. We invariably find that we share common goals, and that when we listen to each other with open minds we can resolve our differing views and assist each other in finding ways to make the Convention useful and effective.

Speaking for the Standing Committee, we look forward to the next few weeks of discussion and to a successful meeting.

Thank you.

SPEECH BY THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MR. SVEN EVTEEV

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellency,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is my pleasure and privilege to represent the Executive Director of UNEP at this, the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. In 1973, when the CITES Convention was signed, few people foresaw that the newly signed Convention was but the beginning of one of the major global conservation treaties for which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme provides the Secretariat; a Convention which now in its eighth year, already has a membership of 67 States, which is still growing and may double by the CITES Convention tenth anniversary in 1983. The present status of the CITES Convention is the result of efforts of dedicated people, the CITES Secretariat, the Parties to the Convention, especially the concerned governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations represented here today, and the organization I represent.

The CITES Convention is recognized throughout the world as being unique, both in terms of promoting international controls over illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, which together with habitat destruction is considered the major threat to the survival of endangered species, and in facilitating procedures to promote legitimate international trade in non-endangered wildlife and its products, which can make an important contribution towards rational economic development of renewable natural resources. During the lifespan of the CITES Convention, massive illegal trade in wild animals and plants as well as their parts and products, have been reported by the Parties. In response, the Parties to the Convention in co-operation with the CITES Secretariat have been taking a number of steps to investigate the trade further, and to aid in the enforcement of wildlife protection laws in a coordinated effort to reduce the illegal trade through strengthening the national enforcement of the CITES Convention. A continuous monitoring of the import and export of endangered animals, plants and their products is prompted by rapidly growing evidence that illegal capture, transport and sale of live wild animals and plants as well as their parts and products is a booming business, contributing directly to the decline of many species. UNEP's support to the TRAFFIC Group, which is concerned with trade records analysis of flora and fauna in commerce, has facilitated recording of trade information from ports of entry and export, analysis of data, and the preparation and dissemination of reports on heavily exploited species to governments concerned, and to national and international governmental bodies and non-governmental conservation organizations.

In Costa Rica, it was agreed that the Secretariat of CITES would be financed in 1980-81 jointly by UNEP and the new Trust Fund. UNEP undertook to contribute \$ 350,000 for the biennium and the Parties to the Trust Fund undertook to contribute some \$ 673,000. It was to be expected that there might be some delay in the Parties securing appropriations through their national budgeting procedures and UNEP agreed to put down

the bulk of its money - \$ 280,000 - in the first year. This was just as well, as by September 1980, only \$ 206,000 had been paid to the Trust Fund, and the Secretariat had to cut back planned activities and make savings from the budget agreed at San José.

For 1981, UNEP is in no position to contribute more than the balance of its agreed \$ 350,000 - that is \$ 70,000. All the remaining costs of the Secretariat, including the cost of this meeting must be met from the Trust Fund. This should not be difficult if you - the Parties - will pay - as I am sure you will - the contributions to the Trust Fund agreed at San José. I must, however, stress that it is important that these contributions are paid quickly, as in order to approve a budget for the Secretariat, we must have the money in advance. Although UNEP stands ready to help where it can, its financial rules do not permit it to make advances to a trust fund on the assumption that it can reimburse itself from the fund later on. We are not allowed to do this by our auditors - even if we could afford to do this, which I have to inform the meeting we cannot.

Up to 21 February, that is a few days ago, out of the assessed contributions to the Trust Fund for 1980-81 increased by the adhesion of new Parties to \$ 761,913, there was \$ 474,576, of 62 per cent still outstanding. As a result, the Secretariat is only funded through to the end of April 1981, even though all the contributions received in the Trust Fund - and UNEP residual contribution - have been committed.

Budgeting on hand-to-mouth basic, or more accurately a month-to-month basis, is not an efficient way to conduct our affairs. It creates work unnecessarily and therefore increases costs. Inevitably, it must create feelings of uncertainty in the minds of the Secretariat staff about the security of their contracts, although I have to say that the Secretariat has continued to work in these difficult circumstances without complaint. We owe a debt of gratitude to them for this.

The Trust Fund needs your contributions now, so that we can commit the budget for the rest of 1981 and hopefully the first few months of 1982. I am sure that you will agree with me that we ought to try to budget at least twelve months forward. We can only do that if we receive the contributions promptly.

For the biennium 1982/83, UNEP is prepared to stand by its pledge in Costa Rica to contribute a further \$ 175,000. Beyond that - as we said at the time - we believe the costs of the Convention should be the responsibility of the Parties completely.

The Executive Director is also prepared to "provide" the Secretariat and to administer the Trust Fund on behalf of the Secretary General if it is your wish that the contributions you make to support the Convention should be channelled through a United Nations trust fund. If you prefer to handle your funds in some other way that is of course up to you, and we would assist in any way we could to establish such arrangements with you. These matters will all be discussed in detail in the coming week, and I and a colleague are here in New Delhi to take part in these discussions. Whatever you decide - as it is your decision - I must, however, stress again that the contributions from the Parties will be required within an agreed time frame if the Secretariat is to be enabled to plan and organize its affairs in an efficient manner in the future.

The subject of this meeting is clearly of great interest to those concerned with wildlife and protected areas throughout the world. It is also central to the United Nations Environment Programme; the activities undertaken under the CITES Convention are a direct contribution to one of our major goals for 1982 in support of a global plan for the conservation of nature. UNEP acts as a catalyst in promoting conservation of natural terrestrial and marine ecosystems as an integral part of national economic and social development and in the rational management of the resources of the environment in such a way that we not transgress the limits of the biosphere within which we live.

In addition to supporting the CITES Secretariat, UNEP's conservation programme includes natural terrestrial, and marine ecosystems and helped to make possible the preparation of the World Conservation Strategy to stimulate a more focused approach to the conservation of living resources, and to provide policy guidance to governments on how this can be carried out by all people concerned. The preparation of the World Conservation Strategy marked the culmination of a five-year joint undertaking by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), assisted by the international scientific community and in close co-operation with FAO and Unesco. The Strategy was formally endorsed by the UN General Assembly at its 34th Session in 1979, and by the UNEP Governing Council in 1980. The implementation of this Strategy is a high priority item in UNEP's programme. It is therefore hoped that with the pooling of international resources involving governments, the UN system and the NGO community, the Strategy will provide a practical and useful tool for conservation of living resources and for sustained development.

Within the framework of co-operation between UNEP and IUCN, high priority is also given to the preparation and publication of the Red Data Books on Mammals, Birds, Fishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Invertebrates and Plants. Information on more than 600 threatened species was published by IUCN in 1979-1980 as new or revised sheets in the Red Data Books.

You are also familiar, I am sure with the UNEP-supported United Nations List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves. The recently published 1980 edition updates the list published in 1975 and covers world heritage sites, national parks, nature reserves and biosphere reserves. Another tool for supporting species conservation is the UNEP/IUCN World Directory of National Parks and other Protected Areas which covers more than 555 areas in 60 countries.

The development of an international identification manual is one of the priority tasks to be undertaken jointly by the Parties, the CITES Secretariat and UNEP. This is a long-term task involving considerable effort in international technical coordination of highly specialized scientific work. Accurate and quick identification of wild animal or plant species and their parts or derivatives in the CITES appendices is of critical importance to effective enforcement of international trade controls. International harmonization of individual country programmes for species identification aids at the national level is also crucial for the uniform enforcement of the Convention.

UNEP also supports the further development and finalization of a world checklist of vertebrates based on the preliminary checklists on mammals, and on amphibians and reptiles, which were prepared by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the UK Nature Conservation Council in 1979. A quick and uniform reference to the CITES appendices is of critical importance to effective implementation and continuous updating of the Convention, particularly since many of the difficulties in national enforcement of international trade controls flow from the absence of a uniform global taxonomy and of checklists to facilitate identification of endangered species in export and import.

Another activity supported by UNEP to assure international uniformity in the implementation of the CITES Convention has been the preparation of Guidelines for Transport and Preparation for Shipment of Live Wild Animals and Plants which were adopted at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in San José, Costa Rica, in 1979, and which have been communicated to all Parties.

These are only a few of the manifold activities undertaken by UNEP as part of its conservation programme of direct relevance to the CITES Convention.

Mr. Chairman, the organization I represent has the task of developing a global programme of international co-operation to protect and enhance the quality of life of all countries, and we and our co-operating agencies in the UN system are dedicated to the concept that the quality of life for present and future generations requires a continued process of development, just as any sustainable process of development rests on the maintenance of the natural systems on which development and indeed life itself depends. The co-operative nature of this relationship between environment and development, and between all nations, rich and poor, is well-illustrated by the Convention which has brought you, the contracting Parties, together here in India today. It is a fact that the effectiveness of your international agreement rests on action at the national level, and that enforcement, especially in the importing states, is largely dependent on the effectiveness of licensing processes in the exporting states. We in the United Nations Environment Programme are proud to have been able to provide a small secretariat which, with the help of our friends in IUCN, has been effective in helping you to accomplish the objectives of this agreement. We hope it will be possible to continue to do so.

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, I would like to end by expressing my best wishes for a most successful meeting of the Conference of the Parties. I am sure that you will all contribute greatly to the most appreciated global effort for the maintenance of species diversity and conservation of ecological processes on our Only One Earth, a prerequisite for its stability and sustained development.

Thank you very much for your attention.

SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DR. LEE M. TALBOT

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), I wish to express our great appreciation to the Government of India for their hospitality and their fine arrangements for this important meeting; to the hard working CITES Secretariat for their on-going efforts to assure the operation of the Convention and their excellent preparations for this meeting; and most particularly to the States Parties for whom the Convention exists and through whom it is effected.

It is particularly fitting that this third and largest yet meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES should be held in India. At the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Government of India introduced the "Wildlife Principle" which was unanimously adopted by the 113 nations represented there as Principle 4 which reads as follows:

"Man has a special responsibility to safeguard and wisely manage the heritage of wildlife and its habitat which are now gravely imperilled by a combination of adverse factors. Nature conservation including wildlife must therefore receive importance in planning for economic development".

India also was one of the early nations to ratify CITES in 1976, one year after it came into force.

IUCN has had close links with India for some 30 years. India is a State member of IUCN, and we also have two valued Government Agency members and three non-governmental organization members from this country. Our Tenth General Assembly in 1969 was opened here in New Delhi with an inaugural address by Prime Minister Gandhi. We have had a number of joint field projects and meetings, the latest of which was the meeting of the IUCN Species Survival Commission held here during the past 10 days. This is particularly relevant to this present meeting since the Species Survival Commission is the arm of IUCN that is primarily concerned with defining the status of species. From this it should be clear that IUCN regards India as a particularly valued colleague in conservation.

Having used the word "conservation" I felt obligated to define it because there are probably few words in the English language which have more widely varying usages. In the sense that IUCN uses it, "conservation" refers to living resources. We have defined such conservation as "the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations".

Within the definition, "conservation" has three basic objectives:

- 1) to maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems;
- 2) to preserve genetic diversity; and
- 3) to ensure that the utilization of living resources and the ecosystems in which they are found is sustainable.

This definition and particularly objectives 2) and 3) are directly relevant to CITES. What CITES seeks to do is to manage one aspect of human use of the biosphere - international trade - for precisely the purpose in the definition, i.e., to yield sustainable benefit to present and future generations. And in terms of the objectives, CITES seeks to preserve genetic diversity through protection of endangered species in order to ensure that the utilization of the species involved is sustainable.

IUCN has over 470 members from 109 nations comprising 55 Sovereign States, 116 Government agencies and about 300 non-governmental organizations. While the conservation objectives of IUCN are broad as I have indicated above, the interests of some individual members may be much more concerned with protection and others with utilization, and they may take individual positions accordingly. These positions, however, do not necessarily reflect the position of the IUCN any more than the individual positions of the Parties to CITES represent the policy of the Conference of the Parties. IUCN and CITES have procedures for determining their policy directions. In the case of IUCN its base policy is best reflected in the World Conservation Strategy. This is a document prepared by IUCN with the collaboration of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Wildlife Fund and published with the endorsement of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It was released simultaneously just one year ago in the capitals of 35 nations worldwide, among them New Delhi. Most of these presentations were presided over by Heads of State and Government emphasizing the level of endorsement of the Strategy by the nations involved.

United Nations Secretary General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, described the Strategy as "a remarkable pooling of international resources which has resulted in an unprecedented degree of agreement on what should be done to ensure the proper management and optimal use of the world's living resources not only for ourselves but for future generations".

The Strategy defines IUCN's basic objectives and provides the framework for our on-going activities. Within this context, we regard CITES as a particularly significant international instrument, both in its substance and in terms of IUCN's relationship to it. In terms of coverage and worldwide adherence CITES is clearly the most comprehensive international conservation agreement and the speed with which nations have adhered to it has been unprecedented. There has, for example, been a 30% increase in the number of Parties in the past biennium alone, which also provides an important measure of the significance which the world's governments accord to the Convention and its objectives. In terms of general public recognition, CITES is probably the best known of the international conservation agreements.

CITES as a formal instrument has been in existence since 1973 and in effect since 1975. IUCN's involvement with it, however, goes back at least at 1960. The Seventh General Assembly of IUCN meeting in Warsaw passed a resolution "That the IUCN should urge all governments who do not yet restrict the importation of rare animals in harmony with the export laws of the countries of origin to do so now and thereby support the efforts of those countries to preserve animals in danger of extermination". In 1961 IUCN organized the Conference on Conservation in Modern African States in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, which concluded that an international agreement controlling trade in endangered species was essential if the developing nations of that region were to successfully manage their own wildlife and realize the benefit from it. Two years later at the Eighth General Assembly of IUCN in Nairobi a resolution was passed calling for the preparation of a convention on the export, import and transit of endangered species. Subsequently, IUCN prepared and circulated internationally several drafts of the Convention and assisted with the preparations and provision of a secretariat for the Plenipotentiary Conference held in Washington in 1973 at which the present CITES Convention was signed.

The actual administration of the Convention Secretariat has since 1974 been carried out by IUCN, and I believe that this has produced good results. Because of the prior and on-going work of IUCN in the conservation of endangered species and as a result of the active participation of the international expert groups of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, this arrangement has probably represented the most rational way of using the limited resources available for a task which is worldwide in scope and continuing in nature.

These brief historical comments have direct bearing on two questions that periodically arise in connection with CITES. The first, usually asked by press from the industrialized North, asks, "is CITES not an example of the industrialized North imposing its conservation ethics on the developing South?" I believe the Arusha origins show clearly that if anything the reverse is true. The southern nations assembled at Arusha emphasized that unless there was control over the demand in the North, they could not safeguard the supply, i.e. the endangered wildlife within their borders. The illegal export trade of wild flora and fauna represents a total loss to the country of origin - loss of the revenues the legal trade would bring, loss of the resource base and the on-going loss of economic and other values to the country which this lost resource represents.

The second question, more pertinent to this meeting is often phrased as "Is CITES a preservationist convention or a traders' convention?" As viewed by IUCN, it is neither exclusively, it is a conservation convention which through the regulation of trade seeks to avoid the loss of species and to assure the sustainability of the yield of benefits from wild flora and fauna to present and future generations.

Looking ahead I would like to stress several points:

Wild flora and fauna are at greater risk now than ever before. The "Global 2000" report prepared by the United States Government indicates that if present trends continue, by the year 2000, 15 to 20% of all living species of plants and animals will be extinct. At the same time CITES has made significant accomplishments as have other international and national efforts. We have neither cause for complacency nor despair. As habitat shrinks, it becomes all the more important to regulate the trade in wild species involved to assure that it can be sustained. If CITES and other complementary conservation efforts succeed IUCN would expect to see - and would certainly support - a movement of species from Appendix I to Appendix II to off of the appendices entirely. At present, as the Secretariat has noted, the trend is the other direction. This may represent an understandable lag in the recovery time of species under CITES protection, it might reflect an information time lag, or actual deteriorating conditions. Clearly this must be monitored and analyzed carefully.

IUCN views the present arrangement with the CITES Secretariat at our new headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, as eminently satisfactory. While IUCN handles the administrative matters for the CITES unit under the joint project arrangement with UNEP, the CITES Secretariat interacts directly with the Parties and in all practical terms operates as an independent entity. For its part IUCN regards CITES as an important component of international conservation and one which deserves all of the support we can provide. Accordingly CITES has access to facilities and as necessary to some personnel assistance at our headquarters and, far more important, it can utilize the unique worldwide network of expertise which is represented by IUCN's combined governmental and non-governmental membership and the expert network of our Commissions. CITES has been making extensive use of our Species Monitoring Unit located at Kew and Cambridge in the UK along with our Trade Monitoring Unit, and of the Environmental Law Centre at Bonn. The UK facilities are currently being enlarged. Among other things a more comprehensive computerized system will be installed next month for monitoring of flora and fauna. In addition IUCN with World Wildlife Fund have provided technical assistance to CITES in the amount of over \$ 100,000 in 1980/81; in the form of projects ranging from the development of forgery proof security forms for CITES permits to examinations of the rhino horn trade. I should note in passing that while the number of Parties to the Convention has increased by 30% in the past biennium the CITES Secretariat has remained at the same size, i.e. just five persons. I believe that this is a tribute to their hard work and the inherent efficiencies of the present arrangements.

Finally, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of CITES within the context of the World Conservation Strategy; the basic message of which is that conservation and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. On a global basis, conservation cannot succeed without development, and development cannot succeed and be sustainable, without conservation. The bulk of the international trade in endangered species is a part of the "North-South" situation in world trade and politics. The dominant pattern in this trade is a steady flow from the developing "Southern" part to the industrialized "Northern" part of the world. As I have emphasized, those who originated and drafted this Convention were fully aware of this important dimension, and CITES focusses on assuring that the values of wild species are sustainable for the long-term benefit of both North and South.

Thank you very much.

VOTE OF THANKS
BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONVENTION
MR. PETER H. SAND

We have been privileged to listen to some very good and very high-level advice this morning - advice on how to conduct this meeting and how to steer our Convention on the right course in the future. I should like to express my appreciation to all speakers for their valuable comments and for the helpful orientation they have provided to our meeting. My special thanks go to the Union Minister of Agriculture, Rural Reconstruction and Irrigation, the Honorable Rao Birendra Singh, and to the Government of India whose hospitality we enjoy in this city and in this magnificent building. Mr. Minister, our Secretariat can only serve as a messenger, so I should like to convey to you a message of gratitude to India, on behalf of all foreign participants in this meeting. The Chairman of our Standing Committee has already expressed himself in the name of the Government Parties to the Convention. Further, to the representatives of UNEP and of IUCN who have also spoken, I wish to include in our message to you all the other organizations participating in this meeting as observers - and I am happy to say that this includes not only a wide spectrum of national and international nature conservation groups but also a respectable number of legitimate wildlife users, trade associations and commercial interest groups. I think it is fair to say that the one basic idea which we all share is a genuine concern for something very precious - so precious indeed that we not only want to make the wisest possible use of it during our lifetimes, but we want to safeguard it for future generations if we can. This is what CITES is trying to achieve.

Thank you for helping us.