

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

Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Buenos Aires (Argentina) 22 April to 3 May 1985

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS
AND ORGANIZATIONS

Report from the Secretariat

The number of other international agreements and organizations with which the Secretariat maintains regular or occasional liaison in response to external requests has increased over the past two years. The present report summarizes developments in the relationship with selected agreements and organizations since the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gaborone, 1983). It should be pointed out, however, that the Secretariat's relationship with other international agreements or organizations is not limited to the following.

1. International Whaling Commission (IWC)

In accordance with Resolutions Conf. 2.7 and Conf. 2.9 adopted at the San José meeting, the Secretariat maintained mutual observer and adviser status with the IWC on matters of trade in cetaceans and cetacean products, and in consultation with the Secretary of the IWC circulated to the Parties lists showing the species and stocks of whales listed under both conventions. A revised "List of Species and Stocks of Whales Protected from Commercial Whaling by the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling" was communicated by Notification to the Parties No. 291 dated 18 May 1984.

The Secretariat attended part of the 1983 and 1984 meetings of the IWC Scientific Committee. In accordance with the provisions of Article XV, paragraph 2(b), of the Convention and with Resolution Conf. 2.7, comments from the IWC regarding an amendment proposal on narwhal have been communicated to the Parties (Doc. 5.45 Annex 5).

2. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

While several discussions and consultations took place in 1984 between the CITES Secretariat and FAO, no formal activities took place between the organizations. However, depending on the outcome of the fifth meeting and mainly on the decisions of the Conference of the Parties on key issues (such as ivory trade) the Secretariat intends to reinforce its links with FAO particularly with respect to the management of wildlife and utilization of "the by-products of conservation".

3. European Economic Community (EEC)

At the end of 1983, only five of the 10 member states of the European Economic Community (Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom) were Parties to CITES. The coming into force, on 1 January 1984, of the Regulation on the Implementation in the Community of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, prompted the ratification in late 1983 and early 1984 of three more member states of the EEC (Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). Whilst two EEC members (Greece and Ireland) are still not Party to CITES, the Convention is fully applicable in these two countries by virtue of the EEC Regulation on the Implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat has maintained permanent links with the Commission of the European Communities, not only on the overall implementation of the Convention, but also on the developing and funding of special projects (see document Doc. 5.11).

4. International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Throughout 1983 and 1984, the Secretariat has maintained and further developed its links with IATA, participating in almost all the meetings of its Live Animals Board and maintaining consultations on a regular basis with its officials. In order to comply with Resolution Conf. 4.20, IATA has modified and updated two editions of its Live Animals Regulations (January 1984 and January 1985). In addition, IATA has sought the co-operation of its airline members with respect to transportation of by-products of CITES species such as ivory. Furthermore, IATA has recently distributed the CITES brochure to its airline members in the hope that it could be distributed to passengers on certain selected routes.

In March 1985, the Secretariat was invited to attend the 11th International Conference of the Animal Air Transport Association (AATA, an international body affiliated to IATA), whose main topic was "International Developments in Transportation of Animals".

5. International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)

In line with a resolution adopted at the 45th session of the Interpol General Assembly calling for "Police intervention and co-operation in connection with the illegal traffic in wildlife and its products" and considering Interpol's willingness to fully co-operate with CITES as stated by the Interpol's observer at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gaborone, Botswana, 1983), the Secretariat submitted to Interpol, in 1984, two cases for investigation:

- the appearance in Belgium at the end of 1983 of 26 golden lion tamarins Leontopithecus chrysomelas which were illegally taken from the wild in Brazil and illegally re-exported from Bolivia;
- the appearance in mid-1984, in certain European countries, of forged Bolivian "security permits".

6. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

In the light of the change in administration of the Secretariat which took place on 1 November 1984, the Secretariat, as requested by both the Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP, undertook to draft a memorandum of understanding to be signed by UNEP and IUCN, aiming at

enhancing the technical, scientific and legal co-operation between the CITES and IUCN Secretariats. It is anticipated that this document should be signed by both parties in the very near future.

7. Ministerial Conference of the Central African States for the Wildlife Conservation (MCCASWC)

This organization, to which five countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon and Sudan) currently belong, has recently been created and is expected to play an important role in this subregion in the heart of Africa and which occupies a major place in some sections of the wildlife trade (that of ivory in particular). The CITES Secretariat participated as an observer in the work which led to the establishment of this organization and its Permanent Secretary attended the Seminar on CITES Implementation in Africa (Brussels, 1984).

This organization might play an important role in the regulation of the ivory trade after this meeting, and there is no doubt that the CITES Secretariat will need to co-operate with it to a large extent. In a letter from its Permanent Secretary to the CITES Secretariat, MCCASWC requested the benefit of "an active collaboration from the importing or transit CITES members".

8. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Since the coming into force of this Convention, the CITES Secretariat has established links of communication with its Secretariat and has agreed to provide its officials with advice and guidance on procedures either for communication with Contracting Parties or for arrangements for conferences.