

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

Committee Reports and Recommendations

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. Terms of Reference and Membership

1.1 The Technical Committee (TEC) was established by a Resolution of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Conf. 4.4) and is based on the Technical Expert Committee which goes back to a decision of the second and third meetings of the Conference of the Parties (Conf. 2.5 and Conf. 3.5). Its mandate is based on several further Resolutions of the last three regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties (Conf. 2.6, 4.12, 4.14 and 4.20). According to the Resolutions, the main tasks assigned to TEC are:

- Review of the annual reports
- Significant trade in Appendix II species
- Trade in ivory of African elephants
- Preparation of amendments to the
 - CITES Guidelines for Transport and Preparation for Shipment of Live Specimens, and
 - IATA Live Animal Regulations
- Evaluation of ranching projects
- Improving the implementation of the Convention for plants
- The preparation of draft resolutions covering problems of the interpretation and implementation of the Convention.

1.2 The Committee is chaired by the Federal Republic of Germany. Vice-chairman is Australia. The current six regional co-ordinators are the following Parties: Australia, Columbia, Denmark, Nepal, Senegal, United States of America.

2. Work of the Committee

After the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties at Gaborone, the Technical Committee met once in Brussels from 25 to 30 June 1984. Furthermore a meeting of the regional co-ordinators was held in Kuala Lumpur from 1 to 12 October 1984.

The summary report of the first meeting of TEC [Plen. TEC. 1.1, Summary Report of the First Meeting of the Technical Committee, Brussels (Belgium) 25-30 June 1984] was distributed by the Secretariat to all the Parties with Notification No. 325 19 November 1984. The summary report of the meeting of the regional co-ordinators in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) will be distributed by the Secretariat after the meeting.

During these meetings the TEC dealt with the following issues:

- Trade in ivory of African elephants
- Ranching projects for crocodiles and sea turtles
- Improving the implementation of the Convention for plants
- Significant trade in Appendix II species
- Review of the annual reports
- Interpretation and implementation of the Convention
 - Control of "readily recognizable" parts and derivatives
 - Control of specimens "that are personal or household effects"
 - Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendix III
 - Certificates of origin for Appendix III specimens
 - Captive-breeding and long maturing species
 - Definition of pre-Convention specimens
 - Definition of "primarily commercial purposes"
 - Trade monitoring
- Relationship between CITES Transport Guidelines for Live Animals and IATA Live Animals Regulations
- Special criteria for transfer of taxa from Appendix I to Appendix II
- Trade with non-Parties.

In addition to the above meetings, the following meetings of sub-committees or working groups of TEC took place:

- Working Group on Annual Reports in Gland (Switzerland) in December 1983;
- Plant Working Group in Tucson (U.S.A.) from 27 February to 3 March 1984;

- Air Transport Working Group in Ottawa (Canada) on 14 November 1984. A summary report of this meeting is attached as Annex to this report.
- Working Group on Significant Trade in Appendix II Species in Lausanne (Switzerland) from 6 to 7 December 1984.

REPORT OF THE AIR TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

During the first meeting of the Technical Committee held in Brussels, Belgium, during June 1984, an Air Transport Working Group was established. This Working Group, under the chairmanship of Canada, met in Ottawa on 14 November 1984. In attendance were representatives from Canada, the United States of America, and the IATA Live Animals Board Secretariat (LAB).

The Working Group discussed the need for such a group, the possible membership and the necessary terms of reference. It was agreed that:

- there was a very definite need for such a working group;
- because the IATA-LAB Secretariat was located in Montreal, Canada, the Chairman of the Working Group should be the Regional TEC Co-ordinator for the North American Region;
- membership of the Working Group should be open to all CITES Parties and IATA members;
- the Working Group, when necessary, seek advice from other organizations involved or interested in animal air transportation;
- participation of non-CITES Parties and non-IATA members must be approved by both CITES and IATA prior to attending a Working Group meeting; and
- meetings be held on a regular basis and scheduled far enough in advance to allow the attendance of as many Parties and IATA members as possible.

It was agreed that the proposed terms of reference for the Working Group should include:

- to improve the technical content of the IATA Live Animals Regulations including but not limited to Sections 1.2, 1.3, 8 and 9;
- to study and develop means by which IATA, and possibly individual airlines, could distribute information about CITES to the travelling public;
- to improve international acceptance of the IATA/LAB Regulations by working with IATA members and CITES Management Authorities for the establishment of better controls and regulations for the live animal trade in general and, in the context of CITES, through the use of the permit system which provides for living specimens being prepared and shipped so "as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment" (CITES Articles III, IV and V);
- consult when necessary with non-CITES and non-IATA advisors on the technical aspects of the IATA Regulations; and
- undertake any other action which will further co-operation between CITES and IATA and foster greater awareness of the objectives of CITES and the IATA Live Animals Regulations.

The Air Transport Working Group recommends that a formal Air Transport Working Group be established and that the proposed membership and terms of reference be approved.