

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

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Reports on National Reports under Article VIII,  
Paragraph 7, of the Convention

PERIODIC REPORTS

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Technical Committee.

BACKGROUND

1. At its first meeting in Brussels in June 1984, TEC considered the report of the Working Group on Annual Reports (Doc. TEC. 1.12) and approved its recommendations, including a draft resolution on "Periodic Reports". This draft resolution, with minor editorial amendments suggested at the meeting of the TEC Regional Co-ordinators in Kuala Lumpur, in October 1984, is attached hereto as Annex.
2. In addition, there was a suggestion at the TEC Regional Co-ordinators' meeting that a paragraph might be added to this draft resolution calling upon non-Parties to submit annual reports on trade in CITES species and on reserving Parties to include in their annual reports data relating to trade in species for which reservations are held. The Secretariat feels that the latter is unnecessary since it is already included in Resolution Conf. 4.25 on "Effects of Reservations". With respect to the submission of annual reports by non-Parties, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the resolution would be weakened by adding a recommendation calling for such reports. In addition, the Secretariat believes it to be inappropriate to ask, in a formal resolution, for non-Parties to voluntarily fulfil a CITES obligation that the same resolution notes is not fulfilled by many Parties.
3. Therefore, the Secretariat suggests that the best approach would be for the Secretariat to correspond directly with the competent authorities of those non-Parties involved in significant trade in CITES species on the matter, urging them to submit statistical reports. However, should the Conference of the Parties decide that a formal resolution is desired, the following paragraph could be added to the draft resolution:

"CALLS on the competent authorities of non-Party states to submit to the Secretariat annual reports including statistical information on all trade in species listed in the appendices to the Convention."

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Periodic Reports

CONSIDERING the obligation of Parties to submit periodic reports under the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

CONSIDERING also the importance of the annual reports as the only available means of monitoring the proper implementation of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING the importance of trade monitoring in assessing the impact of trade on the populations of wild species of fauna and flora;

RECALLING Resolutions Conf. 1.5 (paragraph 13), Conf. 2.16 and Conf. 3.10;

NOTING the work of the Technical Committee at its meeting in Brussels, 1984, and the contents of documents Doc. 4.18 and Plen. TEC. 1.1;

NOTING also that many Parties are still failing to comply with the reporting requirements of the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

EMPHASIZES that the annual submission by each Party of a statistical report and the biennial submission of a legal and administrative report are mandatory; and

URGES every Party to submit their periodic reports in conformity with Article VIII, paragraph 7, of the Convention and in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Preparation of CITES Annual Reports" developed in accordance with Resolution Conf. 3.10 and distributed by the Secretariat with Notification to the Parties No. 205 dated 22 March 1982 (and as may be amended by the Secretariat from time to time).