

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

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Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 22 April to 3 May 1985

General Matters of Principle Relating to the Appendices

GUIDELINES FOR THE SECRETARIAT WHEN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XV

This document has been prepared and is submitted by Canada.

Background

The basic responsibilities of the Secretariat are described in Articles XII, XIII, XV, XVI and XVII of the Convention. Apart from the very necessary organizing of meetings and distribution of documents, the main responsibility of the Secretariat is to co-ordinate, provide advice and make recommendations.

In order for the Secretariat to make recommendations in accordance with the requirements of Article XV, the Secretariat has consulted sources such as the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU) of IUCN.

However, the Secretariat has not previously quoted or referred to the references or sources on which recommendations have been based. If the credibility of the Secretariat is to be maintained, the sources and references must be quoted, especially when the Secretariat recommendations may be controversial. It is also essential that Parties making proposals be made aware of the sources of data used by the Secretariat to make recommendations supporting or advising against the proposals.

The Secretariat should concentrate on checking that proposals are in accordance with the Articles of the Convention, ensuring that proposals are not contradictory, providing a background or history if the species has been previously listed in the appendices or proposals made for listing or delisting, and reminding Parties of any applicable legislation or resolutions.

At no time or for whatever purpose should the Secretariat be perceived as being biased for or against any Party or non-governmental organization (NGO) participating in or having an interest in CITES. Thus, to avoid guesswork and biases entering into Secretariat recommendations it is advisable, in fact necessary, to establish guidelines and requirements to be followed by the Secretariat when making recommendations.

The attached draft resolution (Annex) seeks to establish guidelines to be followed by the Secretariat when making recommendations in accordance with Article XV.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Guidelines for the Secretariat when Making  
Recommendations in Accordance with Article XV

NOTING Article XV, paragraph 2(b) and (c), of the Convention requiring the Secretariat to make recommendations to the Parties for amendments proposed for Appendices I and II;

RECOGNIZING problems encountered by the Secretariat in obtaining credible data on which to base its recommendations;

RECOGNIZING also that data may be obtained from a wide variety of publications and sources;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

ESTABLISHES the following guidelines to be followed by the Secretariat when making recommendations in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 2(b) and (c), of the Convention:

- a) all references shall be cited in the text of recommendations so that specific items of data can be traced to a source;
- b) all citations shall be given in accordance with a recognized scientific standard for such citations;
- c) data, in unpublished form, may be used and referred to provided the source is indicated. If the information is classified as confidential, the fact must be stated;
- d) if published data are not available or cannot be traced, recommendations shall be limited to general comments concerning the acceptability of the proposal format and whether or not it meets the criteria established by the Parties (Conf. 2.17 - Format for Proposals to Amend Appendix I or II);
- e) if the species has been listed previously or proposed for listing or delisting, a brief history of such listing or proposals and their treatment under CITES shall be included in the recommendations;
- f) if applicable, reference shall be made to any existing applicable Resolutions affecting the proposal or to any draft resolutions that have been tabled and await consideration by the Parties; and
- g) additional biological and/or trade data may be requested from the proposing and/or range states to confirm or dispute other available data.