

OPENING SPEECH BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
TO THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
MRS. PAULINE BROWES, M.P.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Diplomatic Community, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the sixth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. I would like to extend a special welcome to our international guests, especially to those visiting Canada for the first time. It is my sincere hope that we shall be seeing more of you in the future, when you will return perhaps on a holiday.

During the next twelve days, you will be making decisions that will affect the fate of wildlife species throughout the world. I would like to talk briefly about the special place wildlife - the animals and plants we all work so hard to protect - has in the hearts of Canadians. For Canadians, wildlife has great significance beyond its capacity to increase our enjoyment of the second biggest piece of real estate in the world. Wildlife is woven into the very fabric of our identity as a people. In fact, wildlife helps make up Canada's physical environment - a vast land blessed with a natural abundance, still teeming with life forms not seen elsewhere for centuries.

Could anyone envision Canada without caribou, without the polar bear, the great blue heron, the trillium, the wild rose, the musk-ox, the beaver, the blue jay, the bison, and the thousands - indeed millions - of other species? They are as much a part of our national soul as our rich multicultural heritage, our languages, our performing artists, our small towns and thriving cities, and our architecture.

The Canadian persona has long been linked to the land. We Canadians could no more separate ourselves from our geography than from the air we breathe, and water we drink. It nourishes our character. The culture of our Native Peoples flourished in a rich and rugged environment, many centuries before the first Europeans set foot on North American soil. Later, the explorers, and the fur trade they opened, gave birth to the Canadian economy. In other words, wilderness and wildlife were part of the psyche of Canada, even before the country itself existed. Today, it is essential to how we see ourselves and how, in turn, others see us. We are a people determined to respect and preserve our wilderness and wildlife heritage, both for its own sake and for the riches it contributes to us all.

Both before and since Canada joined CITES in 1975, we have fought to preserve that heritage. Recently, as part of our contribution to "Wildlife '87", a special year for Canadian wildlife conservation, Canada played host to a meeting of signatories to the Ramsar Convention, which is dedicated to preserving wetlands of international importance. On that occasion, we added another 11 to the 17 wetlands we had already designated as protected Ramsar sites.

In fact, I am proud to say that Canada now has more land designated under the Ramsar Convention than all the other signatories combined and will continue to encourage other countries to follow suit.

Canada's commitment to the protection of wildlife is further evident by a number of other key initiatives. Environment Canada is currently consulting the provinces and territories, and other federal departments, on legislation that

will better control the export, import, and interprovincial transport of wildlife and plants. In another area, proposed legislation will help put a stop to the killing of wildlife in our national parks at the hands of poachers.

Other programmes contribute to the rehabilitation of some of our most precious and endangered species. The whooping crane is now making a slow but steady recovery from the edge of extinction. Similarly, the white pelican this year became the first species to be removed from the endangered list. These are two outstanding examples of our determination to conserve our Canadian wildlife.

Unfortunately, despite our work and the work of all nations belonging to CITES, the threats posed by ecological degradation and over-exploitation of natural resources world-wide remain. Dr. Edward O. Wildon, Harvard Professor of Sciences, warns that the current extinction of species threatens to be as great as that which ended the dinosaur age. And Canada's eminent naturalist Dr. Davis Suzuki recently wrote: "We now consume nature at such a rate that there will soon be no wilderness areas left anywhere on the planet -- within 30 years, it will all have been destroyed." Dr. Suzuki may be correct, but we believe it does not have to happen.

As members not only of CITES but of the human race, we must ask ourselves if that is the world in which we want to live. Is this the world we wish to leave to our children: stripped of biological diversity and, therefore, of future richness, barren of the life forms so integral to our own quality of life and, indeed, to life itself?

Every human being has a stake in preventing such a scenario. The protection of wildlife affects and touches us all. We use wild natural resources for food, clothing, shelter, medicine, for recreation, and for industry. We use wildlife in ways many of us never think about. Many life-saving drugs sold today, for example, are based on the unique compounds found in plant life. There are probably thousands of others whose secrets are still locked away. And they will be lost forever if we do not conserve our natural endowment.

We are all aware of why CITES came into being, but there is no harm in reminding ourselves since the reasons are as valid now as in 1973, when this organization was founded. It was recognized then, and it is still true today, that wild fauna and flora, in their many beautiful and varied forms, are an irreplaceable part of the earth's natural systems, and must be protected for both present and future generations.

Since CITES was formed, we have seen its membership grow from 21 to 95 nations, a testament to the organization's worthy goals. We have also seen many important decisions made and regulations implemented to ensure the protection of our wild fauna and flora. But we cannot be satisfied with the advances already made.

During the next two weeks, you will face the challenge of taking action to help reverse the threats against our wildlife resources. The list of proposals to amend the CITES appendices is long and detailed, the issues are complex, and hard decisions will have to be made. But make them we must, for the burden is on us, now, to maintain our fauna and flora, preserve the genetic pools, and protect our wild natural resources for our children and their children.

It is my pleasure to wish you a very productive meeting, and to declare this sixth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora officially open.

SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, DR. M.K. RANJITSINH

It is my pleasure and privilege to extend, on behalf of the CITES Standing Committee, a warm welcome and greetings to all present here.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Pauline Browes, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment, Government of Canada to have come here amongst us to address us.

We would also wish to thank Mr. William H. Mansfield, the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP who has so kindly agreed to be with us and to deliver his address. The continued support of UNEP to this Convention is both an indication of the commitment of UNEP to CITES, as well as an acknowledgement of the success of this international Convention.

On behalf of all the Parties to CITES I express my gratitude to all the distinguished participants and guests who have come here to join us in this very important meeting. CITES has withstood the test of time and today 95 nations have joined hands together for the protection of threatened species of wild fauna and flora, against over-exploitation through international trade. The significance of this meeting is enhanced by its being held in Canada, a country which was amongst the first to join CITES and where the Government and the people take great determination in adhering to the regulations that the Convention imposes upon international trade.

Since we met at Buenos Aires two years back, nine more nations have joined and some more are likely to join shortly. Every year the tasks and the responsibilities on the Standing Committee and of the Secretariat are increasing. Some of the tasks assigned to us were very sensitive, such as the problem relating to Bolivia, major enforcement problems, evaluation of the Trust Fund and financial problems which we have tried to solve with the co-operation of all members of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat staff who have been extremely helpful and co-operative. I thank them most sincerely for the camaraderie and the unstinting support that they have always extended to me.

The lack of financial commitment by some Parties continues to be a serious difficulty which is affecting the operation of the Convention. The effectiveness of CITES can be secured only if all concerned work together in concert to remove the gaps and inadequacies, and each Party must make its contribution, financial and otherwise, in fully promoting the cause of CITES. I take this opportunity to urge all the Parties to observe the schedule for the payment of their contributions to CITES.

At this meeting, officials from governments, scientists, diplomats, lawyers, representatives of trade associations and a galaxy of NGO's have assembled and the next two weeks will be devoted towards significant discussions that will have impact on the effectiveness of the Convention. I am certain that in such a large gathering with such a diversity of problems and interests, we will have some disagreements and even frustrations, but since we are involved in an international accord for the common cause of conservation of wild species in general and the endangered ones in particular, we will overcome individual difficulties and differences of opinion and CITES will emerge stronger in its endeavour to safeguard the wildlife resources of the world.

I would wish to take this opportunity to share some thoughts with you. Firstly, while fully recognizing the fact that the responsibility of implementing CITES lies with the respective national governments, we must not

overlook nor belittle the role of the non-governmental agencies. In creating, co-ordinating and marshalling public opinion they have made a major contribution to the world conservation movement of which CITES is one manifestation, and I for one am convinced that if the movement is to continue to have an impetus and if CITES is to continue as a success story, we must heed and carry the public opinion with us.

My second point I would wish to address mainly to my colleagues from the developing countries and I may be forgiven for being forthright. CITES is acclaimed as one of the most successful international conventions. But that does not imply that we rest on our laurels for all of us know that there is still a great scope for improvement and for better enforcement. Further, CITES owes its success almost entirely to the commonality of purpose between the developed and the developing nations, between consumers and the producers. Normally, such commonality is achieved when the interests of all or both parties are balanced. In CITES the balance of interests is tilted in favour of the producers, and yet it is a success. That is what makes CITES rather unique. At the same time we from the "producing" developing countries must undertake a serious introspection to ascertain for ourselves whether we are fulfilling our obligations to the Convention in letter and spirit, and whether in fact we need to do more.

The Standing Committee and the Secretariat have tried to structure this meeting to provide maximum opportunity to solve the problems without side-tracking the main issues. We hope the issues to be discussed in the next two weeks are meaningful and practical. It may be worthwhile to mention here that the implementation of the Convention by some of the Parties has often figured for discussions at various meetings of the permanent Committees of CITES. This applies particularly to the Parties which are comparatively new to the Convention and have not had experience in enforcing it. We have discussed some of these issues in the meetings of the Standing Committee in the past two years and have referred some of them to this Conference. It should be our endeavour to find solutions to these problems through regional and international co-operation, and we must assist these Parties in every possible way to evolve and develop methodologies for better implementation of the Convention.

I would like to conclude, and I am sure that my words reflect the voice of all the Parties, by saying that we are especially thankful to the Government and the people of Canada for providing these excellent facilities and for the hospitality we are being shown. A famous Canadian poet, while referring to his motherland, said "My country is not a country: it is Winter". He may have been right as far as the physical climate of Canada is concerned, but it certainly does not apply to the warmth of the cordiality of Canada.

Speaking for the Standing Committee, we look forward to the next two weeks of discussions and to a very fruitful meeting.

CITES: The MOST Endangered Species

REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME,
MR. WILLIAM H. MANSFIELD III

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you today in this sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CITES. UNEP's Executive Director, Dr. Mostafa Tolba, has asked me to extend his greetings and best wishes to you in this critical meeting of the Convention.

Half a century ago, Aldo Leopold called for an end to what could be known as "uncreation", the reversal of evolution, the extinction of species.

For the first time he gave us an economic - as well as a moral and aesthetic - rationale for the preservation of genetic diversity. An ecosystem, he argued, is like a clock: remove one piece, however small and insignificant-looking, and the whole system can be disrupted.

In the years since Leopold died two important things have happened. One is that this radical theory is now no longer radical. It is accepted that man has unique responsibility to preserve genetic diversity. The second thing is the combined destruction of species. For all the high-minded talk, the work of uncreation goes on unabated. Headline writers talk anxiously about the greatest extinction of species since the end of the dinosaurs.

There is a curious dichotomy. On the one hand we have never been so aware of the importance of genetic diversity. On the other hand we can even more recklessly snuffing out the world's living things.

It was largely a realization of this paradox that led to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species.

The system proposed to deal with the dichotomy was ingenious. It should be possible, the Convention's inventors presumed, to conserve the array of species and genetic diversity, to promote economic development, and to clamp down on the exploitative profiteering of species in international trade.

International consumer demand was an important and growing threat to species. Rare species were protected, but their exploitation continued in the hands of poachers and unscrupulous traders. If international trade could be regulated, then both development and conservation would be advanced.

The past decade has shown that the system can work remarkably well. At the United Nations Environment Programme we are convinced that CITES is one of the ingredients of sustainable development. We are convinced that it is the best hope for species now facing extinction through illicit trade. We are convinced that it can be a benefit to the poor nations which are home to many of the world's threatened species. We believe that CITES can help take money out of poachers' pockets, and put it into the pockets of the Third World's rural poor.

You who implement this Convention have a very special representational responsibility. A number of years ago, during a series of investigations into suspicious land sales, an American Boston lawyer in Massachusetts named Louis Brandeis - later a famous Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court - appeared before

a committee as a representative of a group of citizens concerned about the public interest. When Brandeis took the witness stand, his right to be present was challenged. "Who, sir," he was asked, "do you represent?" "I, sir," Brandeis replied, "represent the people. The public is my client."

You have an equally important task under the CITES Convention for you speak for those who have no ability to speak for themselves. Your clients are the world's endangered species of animals and plants. As we seek desperately to protect the earth's biological diversity there can be few higher callings than speaking for them.

And you have a number of recent successful stories that must be seen with particular satisfaction.

The current efforts to save the South American vicuna are indicative of the CITES process at its best.

UNEP figures show that in the 1960s the global vicuna population fell as low as 12,000. The threat to the vicuna represented an economic threat to the Andean people who spun its wool. Vicuna wool is a valuable commodity. A single vicuna wool coat has been known to sell for as much as US\$ 18,000.

A decade of vigorous protection and support has seen the vicuna population bounce back to a relatively healthy 120,000. By preserving the vicuna, the international community preserved not only a cultural heritage, but an economic life-line, an entree into a better world of the poverty-stricken Andes. UNEP is unequivocally in favour of the rational management of species under the CITES umbrella.

CITES has been doing tremendous work with another - slightly less cuddly - South American animal: the caiman crocodile. It is showing that conservation can be an effective management tool for development. The project that comes to mind is a typical three-phase operation.

Phase one is essentially scientific. It is an investigation of the taxonomy, population and habitat of the caiman.

The second phase is a more detailed study of the biology of the caiman, as well as an attempt to document the causes of any decline of its numbers.

The third phase of the project puts in place a management programme. CITES is working with the Governments of Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil to develop quota systems, identify markets and generally promote the sustainable utilization of the animal. The caiman's best chance of survival is to make it too valuable to kill. If there is a decent revenue to be gained from caimans, there will be an incentive to conserve their numbers.

Half a world away another example can be found. The people of Zimbabwe are protecting elephants through similar economic advantage. A project in a village near Bulawayo, has shown that commercial products from elephant carcasses can be used to generate enough revenue to finance two schools and a small-scale tanning factory. If the poaching can be kept down, then elephant numbers can be kept up, and people who need the revenue most will benefit, and will be given added incentive to conserve the goose that lays the golden egg.

Mr. Chairman,

I am aware that what I am saying is not the approach accepted by everyone in this room. I know that there are people here who are not in favour of the economic utilization of species. They favour preservation.

But I am also aware that in large parts of the world, human perceptions of their needs and value systems do not now accommodate the pure preservation approach. Our experience shows that under existing circumstances, in some parts of the world, preservation by itself will lead to extinction. We simply cannot enforce a total preservation order on most species.

To talk of total preservation in those places where poverty reigns, where population is growing at three or four percent annually, where indigenous people survive on threatened or endangered species or where the value system does not encompass absolute preservation is to misjudge the realities and possibilities. It is a threat to the flora and fauna we want to save.

To achieve our goal of protecting wild plants and animals from over-exploitation through international trade in these areas, we must adopt flexible approaches that take into account the known needs and values of the people favouring rational utilization. At the same time we must continue our campaign against the annihilation caused by unscrupulous traders. They must be our constant target and we must not cease our pursuit of them until their activities are completely stopped.

I have mentioned elephants in Zimbabwe. Let me return to that subject. In most countries elephant numbers are declining. Let's not imagine that they are not. Poaching continues unabated in some areas. The figures presented to this meeting on the decline in the numbers over the last ten years should be given careful consideration in the next two weeks.

We have a new quota system for ivory. The major importers of ivory have agreed not to accept illegal ivory. Africa now has a political framework within which to combat poaching and illegal trade. There are welcome signs that the price of poached ivory is declining, and that the price of legal ivory is strengthening. But this has not yet had a sufficient effect on the decline of elephant populations. The quota system is only 18 months old, and although it may be early to judge its success, there are indications that it is beginning to work. It is a beginning. Enforcement must be improved. Poaching must be curbed. CITES and others must do more to follow the illicit international trade in poached ivory and to expose it.

Whatever delegates think about steps so far, we all agree that poaching must be made bad business, rational management must be made good business.

UNEP, which is responsible for the Secretariat of CITES, together with the Parties assembled here at this sixth meeting, can set up the framework for international trade within which conservation can occur. But that framework can only be administered if the Parties provide the means for this to happen.

It was understood - ever since San José - that the Parties would assume responsibility for the cost of funding the Secretariat of the Convention. At each meeting since then, you have agreed upon a budget for the Secretariat and the amount of contribution that would be made by each of you annually to finance that budget. Unfortunately, not all Parties have paid their agreed share. Others have paid late. If one budgets to spend 100 percent of contributions which are then not paid, one gets into trouble. The finances of the Convention are in trouble, deep trouble, and this is perhaps the most serious issue that the Parties have to face during this Conference.

So long as the US Dollar was rising in terms of the principal currency of expenditure - in case of CITES, the Swiss Franc - the onset of the financial crisis could be deferred. But once the tide turned and the US Dollar declined in terms of the Swiss Franc, as it has over the last year, the crisis has been upon us.

All of the Parties have been advised individually by the Executive Director of UNEP that by early 1987 there were insufficient funds in the CITES Trust Fund to pay the salaries of the Secretariat staff and the costs of this Conference. The Executive Director also advised Parties that he would advance money from the programme reserve on UNEP's Environment Fund to meet the salary and conference costs up the end of July. He warned that he expected that advance to be repaid by the Trust Fund once overdue contributions were received.

Since that letter, some Parties have paid their contributions for 1987 and earlier years. Others have not. There is now sufficient money in the Trust Fund to pay the salaries of the staff of the Secretariat up to the end of 1987, but as yet no further. Some of the costs of this meeting, but only some, are being charged to the trust fund. The remainder is still being carried by UNEP's Environment Fund as are the salary costs of the Ivory Trade Co-ordinator which was to have been paid by external funds, the travel of Secretariat staff to this meeting, and communication and other costs. The Environment Fund has also financed the first issue of the publication "CITES Ark" so that you can see what it looks like before you and make a decision on whether it should be continued as a regular feature. We do not expect the cost of this first issue to be repaid.

The other costs that I have mentioned, however - part of the conference expenses, Secretariat staff travel, communications and the ivory trade coordinator - amounting to US\$ 96,000 must be repaid to the Environment Fund.

However, when the decline in the values of the U.S. Dollar in terms of Swiss Francs is taken into account, there remains a shortfall in the Trust Fund for 1987 only of some US\$ 230,000 to finance the budget approved by the Parties in Buenos Aires. In addition, we face the continuing problem of unpaid contributions in 1987 which amount to US\$ 380,000. For all years taken together the unpaid contributions now total just under US\$ 1,000,000.

Lest there are those among you who believe that UNEP's Environment Fund can be used to bail out the Parties from the financial crisis facing them, I have to tell you that the Executive Director has no mandate from the UNEP Governing Council to do this. Money was advanced from the Environment Fund to give you time to discuss in Ottawa what can fairly be described as the financial crisis of the Convention. It is now up to you to find a solution. UNEP is here to help by way of advice: the solution must come from the Parties.

We have established a mechanism to conserve endangered species, but the most endangered species in Ottawa today is CITES itself. Your first concern must be to preserve the Convention. Without that, nothing can be achieved. There will be hard decisions to be made in the next two weeks. We urge you not to back away from them.

Some time after the U.S. President Andrew Jackson died in the last century someone asked an old servant of Jackson's, if he thought his master would get into heaven on Judgement Day. The servant knew his tough and persistent boss. "If General Jackson takes it into his head to get to Heaven," he said, "who's going to keep him out." And similarly, if the governments and other interests represented here today, make up their minds to provide the necessary support the CITES Convention, we will achieve the worthy goals we embarked upon some 12 years ago.

CITES is one of the most important vehicles yet developed to protect the planet's precious plant and animal heritage. It gives this group of Party representatives, this Conference of the Convention a unique, indeed,

overwhelming responsibility to help in preserving animal and plant life on our planet. Future generations will not forgive us if we let the Convention itself to fall into extinction.

You can be sure that UNEP will work diligently with you in the weeks ahead so that that does not happen.

CLOSING SPEECH BY MR. BARRY TURNER,
MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am extremely pleased to speak to you, on this final day of the sixth meeting of the Parties to CITES. My country has been honoured by your presence and I hope you are returning home with fond memories of your stay in Canada.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity to close this meeting of the Parties to what I consider to be one of the most important international conservation convention.

Hosting this biennial conference, for the first time in North America since the founding of the Convention, has served to highlight the real importance Canadians place in their wildlife heritage. Following on the heels of the conference of the Ramsar Convention, this CITES meeting has played a major role in Canada's celebration of Wildlife '87, a special year set aside to focus attention on wildlife and habitat conservation.

At the beginning of the week, headlines were pointing to CITES itself as being an endangered species, as the financial problems besetting the Secretariat were being debated. The long and often emotion-filled discussions on whether the next biennial meeting could take place, has thankfully resulted in a pragmatic budget which has been adopted by the Conference of the Parties. The crisis mentioned by Mr. Mansfield of UNEP in his opening remarks has been averted.

All of us here in this room are well aware of the threats to genetic diversity and the fact that illegal trade, along with a loss of habitat are two of the most important factors.

As a former Parks and Wildlife officer both here and in Africa, I have had the opportunity to witness just how effective CITES has been and to fully appreciate its critical role in future efforts at wildlife conservation and sustainable development.

In spite of its past successes, CITES has a long way to go. There are still countries which are not Parties, and there are clearly instances where the Convention is not being implemented as well as it might. I want to assure you, however, that Canada is taking positive steps to improve our enforcement of CITES. For those of you who may have missed the presentation by our Minister of the Environment of Friday, I would like to reiterate his point that Canada is doing its part in international wildlife conservation by developing new legislation which will, among other things, prohibit the importation of wildlife taken in contravention of conservation laws in other countries, and provide for significant penalties.

It is always pleasant to be able to close off a conference with some good news. I am pleased to announce two recent developments in international wildlife conservation. As some of you are already aware, Canada and the United States of America have just signed an important agreement on the management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd - a herd which migrates annually between our two countries. Secondly, the Minister of the Environment has recently announced the creation of a National Park in South Moresby Island. The fight to preserve this unique area, often referred to as the "Gallapagos of the North", has attracted international attention, and I am proud to say that it is now part of our system of national parks.

I am pleased to learn that other important steps have been taken at this meeting to improve the functioning of CITES, and to address issues related to particular species. Most notably the adoption of a new committee structure combined with changes in the Rules of Procedure allowing for more time to discuss scientific and biological issues, the raison d'être of the Convention will, I am sure, result in a much more effective organization.

I was also interested to hear of your discussion on a proposal to place an import levee on African ivory. While I recognize that there are many legal and practical problems in implementing such a scheme, the idea is an excellent example of the kind of innovative thinking that we all must engage in if we are to continue to reach our conservation goals in these times of financial constraint.

The principle of a levee is not unlike one involved in an effort I have been making over the past couple of years to make changes in the Canadian tax system to allow for the collection of ear-marking of excise taxes on wildlife-related equipment. In both the ivory levee and the special tax, the primary users of wildlife resources would play a greater part in their conservation.

On the scientific side, extremely important decisions have been made regarding quotas for both leopard and crocodiles. The quota system, combined with requirements from CITES that must be met for these quotas to be allowed, has resulted in increased attention being paid to the status of these animals in the field. More surveys of populations have been instituted in recent years. Ways that mankind can live alongside these extremely valuable, but potentially dangerous animals, are steadily being devised. This is progress.

It appears that leopards may be more abundant in Africa than was once thought. Quotas, bringing in foreign exchange for those countries, are being extended. This will sustain an interest in conserving leopards as a valuable resource.

The crocodiles, leopards and vicuña are cases where CITES is permitting commercial trade under carefully specified conditions, rather than prohibiting it under Appendix I. These should be seen, not as setbacks, but as victories for CITES and for conservation - for a world where mankind and other animals can live alongside each other in harmonious and mutually supportive ways.

These cases are also prime examples of countries, and an international convention operating in line with one of the principles of world conservation strategy, namely the sustainable use of the earth's genetic resources.

While a number of species have been afforded additional protection - the hummingbirds, the hyacinth macaw - there have been numerous deletions from the appendices of species not now threatened by trade. This will allow our limited resources to be focused on species truly endangered by trade.

The end of this year's meeting is really on the beginning of the next biennial meeting and the challenges facing all of our nations will be just as daunting. But the threats against our wildlife can be reversed if we rise to these challenges by taking action and making hard decisions as you did at this meeting.

Two of my parliamentary colleagues, Pauline Browes and the honourable Tom McMillan have already spoken to you.

I would like to leave you all with a very special brief, personal message.

All of our good intentions, our planning and praying, our sincere scientific, well thought out collective efforts will be for naught, if there is no political will to see that they become law, are enforceable, and are enforced.

I know, I'm a politician, but I'm also practical enough to realize and honest enough to admit that we must do everything in our power to educate and to motivate our elected leaders into realizing the tremendous economic and social importance of our renewable wildlife resources.

This is your duty. This is my responsibility, for without the political will, better protection and better management will not happen.

I therefore ask of all of you from around the world to go back to your respective nations to cultivate politely but persistently your political leadership on wildlife issues.

Canada is especially proud to have been your host and honoured with your company. Before you leave, I hope you will be able to sample some more of Canada and what it has to offer. See you in Indonesia in 1989.

Good-bye - Au revoir.