

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

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CITES AND THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

This document has been prepared by the United States of America.

1. The second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties held on 30 April 1983, in Gaborone adopted an amendment to Article XXI of CITES which would enable regional economic entities established through regional trade agreements to accede to the Convention.
2. At that time, the observer from the European Economic Community expressed their views on a number of points relevant to their possible accession to the Convention and made clear their conviction that accession would benefit the Convention through increasing the scope of its membership to include all the individual EEC countries and through harmonization of implementation throughout the European region.
3. The EEC committed itself to filing the required annual record of trade transactions in the form of a Community wide report. The report would record transactions between the Community as a whole and non-member states but would not report intra-Community trade. At the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Buenos Aires in 1985, the Parties raised the question of annual reporting by regional economic entities and adopted a Resolution (Conf. 5.5) recommending that such groups include in annual reports information on specimen trade between member states unless that record-keeping and reporting was in irreconcilable conflict with the provisions of the regional trade agreement.
4. At the Technical Committee meeting in Lausanne on June 23-27, 1986, the United States distributed a report prepared at its request by the World Wildlife Fund-US entitled "Preliminary Assessment of the Implementation of CITES in the European Economic Community." That report, based upon 1984 reporting data, concluded that the harmonized system which was claimed to be the basis for Community accession to the Convention was lacking and that major deficiencies in implementation and enforcement by some countries within the Community had undermined the effectiveness of the Convention.
5. In November 1986, the EEC published a critique of the Preliminary Assessment which challenged the findings of that report. The Commission has also stated that its joining CITES would strengthen the Convention and

promote the goals of conservation through harmonization of enforcement and management throughout the Community. The Commission also claimed that the function of internal trade data reporting was overstated in the Preliminary Assessment by WWF-US.

6. In light of the foregoing, and the fact that acceptance of the Gaborone amendment by the United States and many other Parties is still pending, it appears appropriate that the relationship between the European Economic Community and the Convention be discussed in detail at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.