

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

Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Lausanne (Switzerland), 9 to 20 October 1989

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Review of Alleged Infractions

ABUSES OF DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGE

This document has been prepared and is submitted by the Secretariat.

At the second meeting of the African Elephant Working Group (Gaborone, 1989), the range states discussed the serious enforcement problem posed by the abuse of diplomatic privilege to export wildlife specimens illegally. The attempted export in early 1989 of a substantial quantity of ivory from the United Republic of Tanzania is a case in point. It was suggested in Gaborone that host governments bore responsibility for monitoring diplomat's activities, but that the problem was serious enough to warrant consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a draft resolution on this subject (Annex).

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Abuses of Diplomatic Privilege

CONSCIOUS that illegal trade in wildlife products is a serious threat to many wildlife species;

AWARE that some members of the diplomatic community have abused their diplomatic privilege to attempt to export wildlife specimens illegally;

RECOGNIZING that it is the responsibility of host governments to monitor the activities of diplomats on their territory;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOMMENDS that Parties ensure members of the diplomatic community are fully informed of CITES permit requirements in respect of wildlife;

URGES Parties to be particularly vigilant when advised of potential irregularities with respect to personal effects of departing diplomats; and

RECOMMENDS further that strong disciplinary action be taken against those members of the diplomatic community who violate the provisions of the Convention.