

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

SIGNIFICANT TRADE IN APPENDIX II SPECIES

1. In accordance with the decision of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Working Group on Significant Trade in Appendix II Species has been placed under the responsibility of the Animals Committee. The Committee has nominated Switzerland as interim Chairman for the Group.
2. The report of the Working Group is attached as an Annex to this document.
3. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank Canada for having printed and distributed at its own expense the three volumes of "Significant Trade in Appendix II Species", which present the work of IUCN/CMC and have been printed pursuant to a recommendation made by the Technical Committee in 1986.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
SIGNIFICANT TRADE IN APPENDIX II SPECIES

As far back as 1979, the Parties expressed concern that trade in some Appendix II species may be detrimental to their survival. The Parties emphasized the options provided by the treaty to ensure trade is not detrimental to species survival and does not contravene national laws (Resolution Conf. 2.6).

At their fourth meeting (Gaborone, 1983), the Parties reiterated this concern and requested that the Technical Committee identify Appendix II species subject to significant international trade for which scientific information on their ability to sustain such levels of exploitation was insufficient to satisfy the Article IV, paragraph 3, requirements, and -- upon request of at least one of the countries involved -- to develop and negotiate measures required to ensure trade in such species was in conformity with these requirements (Resolution Conf. 4.7).

At the first meeting of the Technical Committee (Brussels, 1984), the Parties decided to establish a Working Group on Significant Trade in Appendix II Species to guide this work. The Working Group met for the first time in Switzerland on 6-7 December 1984 and adopted a time-table and terms of reference for the study. They agreed to limit their work to fauna, and further agreed that the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre (CMC) would be the most appropriate agency for carrying out the research necessary for identifying which Appendix II species were being impacted negatively by trade and which were insufficiently known.

At the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Buenos Aires, 1985), the Parties approved the procedure reference and time-table proposed by the Technical Committee for the implementation of Resolution Conf. 4.7 and instructed the Committee to proceed with the project. They further charged the Secretariat to secure funds for the project (Resolution Conf. 5.3).

At the second meeting of the Technical Committee (Lausanne, 1986), the Working Group on Significant Trade in Appendix II Species reviewed the information and recommendations prepared by the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre. Based upon this report and other information provided at the meeting, the Committee identified those species for which available information indicated over-exploitation (C1) and those for which available information was insufficient to allow a determination of the impact on wild populations of harvest for international trade (C2). The Technical Committee agreed that the species reports prepared by CMC should be published and the Working Group's assessment of Appendix II species subject to trade should be an on-going activity. In addition, the Committee identified categories of species as priorities for further research and investigation.

When the permanent CITES Committees were re-established at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ottawa, 1987), the Working Group on Significant Trade in Appendix II Species became part of the Animals Committee.

Field projects undertaken prior and subsequent to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties have focused on priority taxa, such as Caiman crocodilus, Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus, Probosciger aterrimus, Tupinambis spp. and Asian Varanidae. Other priority taxa have yet to be the object of further study.

The result of CMC's initial research into significant trade in Appendix II species were published in 1988 as a three volume report. The assessments made in this report were endorsed by the Animals Committee at its first meeting (Berne, 1988) with the following exceptions:

Saguinus labiatus - should be rated C3 instead of C2, considering that trade was low since 1982.

Dusicyon culpaeus - should be rated C3 instead of C2, taking note that even the relatively high trade from 1980 to 1985 was unlikely to pose a possible problem for the species as a whole.

Equus zebra hartmannae - no consensus could be reached within the Committee, and a letter addressed to the Namibian authorities remained without reply.

Two of the species rated as "problems" (C1) in the report have been transferred to Appendix I at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus and Probosciger aterrimus). To improve the situation of two more C1-species, proposals to include the whole species Rhea americana in Appendix II and to transfer Cacatua moluccensis to Appendix I have been submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the present meeting.

As a by-product of the study, a number of species that have never been registered in trade since their listing were removed from Appendix II at the Ottawa meeting. The following changes, after further examination, have been (re-)submitted to the Conference for consideration at the present meeting:

Delisting of Rhynchotus rufescens subsp., Francolinus ochropectus, Francolinus swierstrai and Cynolebias spp. by Switzerland and Uruguay.

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of Pseudochelidon sirintarae by Thailand and of Latimeria chalumnae by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The first and second meeting of the Animals Committee (Berne, 1988 and Montevideo, 1989) have considered continuation of the significant trade work and remedial measures to be taken with respect to problem species. It was noted that 26 parrot species and 22 reptile species not included in the published report have been traded in significant numbers recently, including e.g., 11,667 Brotogeris pyrrhopterus in 1985 and 5398 Chamaeleo senegalensis in 1986. A more thorough analysis of all available trade statistics subsequent to 1982 would be required. A report prepared for the second meeting by the representative of Europe (acting as interim Chairman of the Group) to the Animals Committee on the basis of statistics provided by the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) summarized the trade situation of 63 taxa included in Appendix II at the Gaborone (1983) and Buenos Aires (1985) meetings, taking into account trade data until the end of 1986. It was noted that in two taxa (Oxyura leucocephala and Rheobatrachus spp.) no specimens taken from the wild have been traded since the listing of the species, that no significant trade (i.e. not more than 100 specimens per year) has taken place in 16 other taxa, that more than an average of 100 specimens per year have entered international trade in the case

of Phoeniconaias minor, Phoenicopterus roseus, Anthropoides virgo, Crocodylus niloticus, Crocodylus porosus and Brachypelma smithii, apparently without negative effects on the populations, although some irregularities in the implementation of the Convention have become apparent and need to be addressed. These irregularities, which include false identification of species, exceeding of quotas and trade under the captive-breeding exemption of specimens apparently taken from wild, have been communicated to the Secretariat. Possible problems -- mainly relating to identifying the way in which they should be recorded in trade in annual reports -- were identified regarding Rana spp., Tridacnidae and stony coral species, and further research on these taxa was recommended.

While trade monitoring of Appendix II species being significantly traded is on-going, field projects remain to be implemented for a large number of species. It is evident that these projects require permanent scientific supervision and co-ordination and that the Animals Committee, meeting as it does only once a year, does not have the capacity to carry out these activities. Further, the Secretariat's ability to assume full responsibility is limited due to the extensive requirements associated with administering the treaty with the staff available. One possible solution to the problem would be to contract a suitable organization to provide the technical co-ordination in consultation with the Animals Committee/Working Group on Significant Trade in Appendix II Species and the Secretariat.

IUCN has indicated that they are in a position to assist in co-ordination of projects, in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). Because of the relative urgency to implement these projects, the Conference of the Parties is asked to consider the IUCN offer and appropriate funding to provide these services. The Secretariat has expressed interest in obtaining these services as long as they are appropriately co-ordinated with WCMC.