

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

SALE OF CONFISCATED SPECIMENS OF SPECIES INCLUDED IN APPENDIX II

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

1. Several Parties have requested the assistance of the Secretariat regarding confiscated specimens of Appendix II species.
2. In many cases, Parties do not wish to destroy the specimens, but to sell them and use the proceeds for conservation projects, as recommended by Resolution Conf. 4.18.
3. Many Parties, because of domestic legislation or for other reasons, are unable to ensure that the money from the sale of confiscated items would be used specifically for conservation projects.
4. Some Parties have also requested the advice and/or participation of the Secretariat to ensure that the manner and conduct of a sale or auction are above reproach.
5. The following system has been proposed:
 - i) confiscated goods would be donated to the Secretariat;
 - ii) the Secretariat would organize international auctions;
 - iii) administrative and operational costs of the auctions would be deducted from the sale price;
 - iv) the proceeds would be used to establish conservation programmes under the direction of the Secretariat, including such things as:
 - a) biological surveys of the species involved;
 - b) development of management plans for the species; and
 - c) assistance to the country involved in the implementation of CITES generally.
6. Developing countries are facing a dramatic economic situation, and funds for conservation programmes are often low on the priority lists. The revenue gained from taxes on the international trade is often essential

for the operation of these programmes, leading to a reluctance to severely limit the trade. The establishment of a system that instead rewards enforcement activities would be extremely helpful.

7. The Secretariat seeks the guidance of the Conference of the Parties regarding the further development of this proposal.