

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

Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Kyoto (Japan), 2 to 13 March 1992

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT (1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1991)

Report from the Secretariat

Introduction

In accordance with paragraph 2(g) of Article XII of the Convention, one of the functions of the Secretariat shall be "to prepare annual reports to the Parties on its work and on the implementation of the present Convention..."

The CITES Secretariat hereby presents its sixteenth annual report, for the period of 1 January - 31 December 1991.

This report, does not include information on projects, administration and finances because it can be found in other Conference documents.

1. A Living Convention

1.1 More and More Parties

In 1991, the following States became Parties to the Convention

	<u>Date of entry into force</u>
Namibia	18.03.91
Bulgaria	16.04.91
Mexico	30.09.91
Uganda	16.10.91

As of 31 December 1991, 112 States had joined the Convention.

1.2 Amendments Approved

Amendment to Article XI, paragraph 3(a) (financial amendment adopted in Bonn, on 22 June 1979)

This amendment entered into force on 13 April 1987. In 1990, the USSR accepted it (effective from 1.1.91). As of 31 December 1991, 54 Parties had accepted the amendment and it was in force in 72 States (it automatically enters into force in any State becoming a Party after 13 April 1987).

Amendment to Article XXI (adopted in Gaborone, on 30 April 1983)

In 1991, this amendment was accepted by Spain (on 29.1.91) and Australia (on 13.11.91).

This brought to 28 the number of Parties (from among those who were already Parties on 30 April 1983) that had accepted the amendment as of 31 December 1991. For this amendment to enter into force, the number of acceptances required is 54.

### 1.3 Appendices Revised

#### Appendices I and II

No changes

#### Appendix III

Canada, *Ursus americanus*.

### 1.4 New Reservations but also some Withdrawals

In 1991, the only reservations which entered into force with regard to the CITES appendices were those on *Acinonyx jubatus* and *Loxodonta africana*, included in Appendix I, made by Namibia at the time of its accession to the Convention on 18 December 1990.

In 1991, however, Brazil, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Thailand withdrew reservations regarding the following species:

#### Appendix I

*Balaenoptera edeni* Brazil

*Caperea marginata* Brazil

#### Appendix II

*Psittacus erithacus* Liechtenstein, Switzerland

*Varanus salvator* Thailand

#### Appendix III

*Semnornis ramphastinus* Luxembourg

*Marmota caudate* Netherlands

*Marmota himalayana* Netherlands

*Canis aureus* Netherlands

*Vulpes bengalensis* Netherlands

*Martes flavigula* Netherlands

*Martes foina intermedia* Netherlands

*Mustela altaica* Netherlands

*Mustela kathiah* Netherlands

*Mustela sibirica* Netherlands

*Arctictis binturong* Netherlands

*Paguma larvata* Netherlands

*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* Netherlands

*Paradoxurus jerdoni* Netherlands

*Viverra megaspila* Netherlands

*Viverra zibetha* Netherlands

*Viverricula indica* Netherlands

*Herpestes auropunctatus* Netherlands

*Herpestes edwardsi* Netherlands

*Herpestes fuscus* Netherlands

*Herpestes smithii* Netherlands

*Herpestes urva* Netherlands

*Herpestes vitticollis* Netherlands

## 2. The Secretariat in the Field

The best way for the Secretariat to familiarize itself with the real problems faced by the Parties in implementing the Convention is to go and meet the people directly responsible for its implementation.

Besides gaining a more thorough knowledge of the conditions and practices in each country, the aim of these visits is to get to know those people whose day-to-day job is the implementation of CITES. A thorough understanding of their problems (staff, financing, technical details, etc.) is essential.

Once it is better informed about the CITES activities in different countries, the Secretariat can then advise the Parties more effectively and suggest suitable solutions to their specific problems.

In order to limit the number of these visits and the resulting absence of personnel, visits usually have several objectives. Among these, several crop up almost systematically (although there are many others):

- raining of personnel (Management Authorities, Customs, etc.)
- organizing and following-up projects
- meeting with politicians (ministers or members of parliament)
- analyzing specific problems (administration of a Management Authority, infractions, etc.)
- meeting with non-governmental conservation or utilization organizations
- participating in national or international meetings
- fund-raising
- iving talks on CITES to very diverse groups.

To sum up: our aims are to **ASSIST, SUPPORT** and **ADVISE** the Parties.

In 1991, the following Parties had at least one visit from a member of the Secretariat:

#### Europe

Belgium	Italy
Denmark	Netherlands
France	Portugal
Germany	Spain
Hungary	United Kingdom

#### North America

Canada	United States of America
Mexico	

#### Africa

Benin	Madagascar
Botswana	Malawi
Burkina Faso	Namibia
Ghana	Senegal
Guinea	South Africa
Guinea-Bissau	United Republic of Tanzania
Kenya	Togo
Zimbabwe	

#### South and Central America and the Caribbean

Argentina	Panama
Brazil	Paraguay
Colombia	Peru
Cuba	Saint Lucia
Guyana	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Honduras	Trinidad and Tobago
Nicaragua	

## Asia

Hong Kong	Japan
Indonesia	Thailand

Non-Party countries were visited with a view to studying the possibility of their accession:

Aruba	Jamaica
Barbados	Netherlands Antilles
Czechoslovakia	San Marino
Grenada	

### 3. A Tour of the Regions

#### 3.1 Africa

The year saw the accession of Uganda to CITES, thus closing one of the most glaring gaps in eastern Africa sub-region.

Two missions were undertaken by the co-ordinator for Africa. The first one, in June/July, included Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Togo. The second included Kenya, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania. The visit to Kenya was to assist UNEP in preparing documents for the Elephant Range States/Donors Meeting, and the visit to Malawi was to represent the Secretariat at the Donors Meeting on the Conservation of the African Elephant in Southern Africa in Lilongwe, Malawi, 25-27 November. Many CITES implementation issues were discussed during these visits, resulting in some improvements in CITES enforcement in the countries visited.

One result from the visit to West Africa is the possibility of developing closer collaboration between the Parties based on joint sub-regional programmes covering the scientific management of CITES species and their ecosystems and general CITES enforcement with the financial assistance of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa in New York.

Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe were also visited by other staff of the Secretariat.

General problems regarding the implementation of CITES: The regular advice provided by the Secretariat, directly and indirectly, to Parties and non-Parties appears to bear fruit, especially regarding control of the issuance of CITES documents. Judging from the few countries visited, there is a real need for more frequent visits to the region, CITES enforcement training seminars and assistance in the provision of basic equipment and materials.

Political and/or civil disturbances in a number of Parties affected their effectiveness in the implementation of CITES. Communication with their Management Authorities has been difficult if not practically impossible.

Furthermore, despite encouragement by the Secretariat, only a few Parties communicate or collaborate with each other on CITES enforcement matters. During the visits mentioned above it was observed that where there are suspected illegal shipments from neighbouring countries many Parties do not seek the assistance of the Secretariat or even inform it of such shipments or of successfully prosecuted cases of this nature.

An important development is the approval, in December 1991, of a project on the conservation of biodiversity through effective management of wildlife trade in Central & West Africa, financed through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and administered by the UNDP, New York. The project includes the reinforcement of wildlife agencies in the sub-region through training, basic equipment and materials. The first phase of the project was approved to a funding level of US\$ 1,000,000. The Secretariat is likely to be asked to execute some of the activities of this project.

Conclusion: An increasing number of Parties are now co-operating with the Secretariat in implementing the Convention. There is, however, an urgent need to resolve the communication problem, possibly through the assistance of other Parties.

### 3.2 North America

The Secretariat has continued to have close contact with Management Authorities in the United States of America and Canada. In addition, 2 July 1991 marked the date of Mexico's accession to the Convention. This historic moment was the result of long-term efforts by the Secretariat and many individuals and organizations (both public and private) in the region. In co-operation with the Secretariat, officials from the Management Authority of the United States of America have continued to take an active role in providing training, information and expertise in CITES matters to Mexico. The Secretary-General and other professional staff members of the Secretariat also assisted by scheduling missions to Mexico. Plans are currently being made by the Secretariat for a formal CITES training seminar in Mexico.

The Management Authority of Canada, hosting the second regular North American regional meeting in December 1991, welcomed the representatives from the Management Authority of Mexico to CITES. It was very clear during this meeting, attended by the Secretariat's North American regional officer, that Mexico intends to take a very active and positive role with regard to CITES issues in the region, as well as implementation of the Convention worldwide.

Representatives from the Canada and the United States of America played important roles in several CITES Committees, including the Standing Committee (Vice-Chairman), the Plants Committee (Chairman), the Animals Committee (Chairman), and participating in meetings of the Transport Working Group and the Bird Trade Working Group of the Animals Committee. As noted above, communication between the two Parties was enhanced by the regular regional meetings that were held twice during 1991.

Fund-raising resulted in substantial donations to a number of important CITES activities from the two governments (including contributions for the two secondments), as well as from several NGOs. The United States of America was very active in its support of the co-operative agreement programme with the Secretariat, providing funding for the nomenclature review and for participation in meetings of the Animals Committee, Plants Committee, and Transport Working Group. Significant contributions were also made to the Delegates Project for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and a CITES training seminar in Africa (planned for July 1992). In addition, the United States Government is completing an administrative process which will hopefully result in an additional contribution to the Secretariat for enforcement work or another area which focuses on implementation of the Convention.

During 1991, the Secretariat advised the Parties of problems in Grenada regarding unlawful trade in specimens of psittacines and other CITES species from that country (see Notification to the Parties No. 637; April 1991). In August 1991, representatives of the CITES Authorities of the United States of America visited Grenada, to provide assistance in the care and feeding of illegally imported animals which had been seized by the Government of Grenada, and to brief government officials on CITES matters. In September 1991, the United States of America also sent a delegation to the People's Republic of China to learn about implementation of the Convention in that country. The Management Authority of the United States of America also gave a CITES training workshop in Sri Lanka.

The Management Authority of Canada has drafted new legislation for improved implementation of the Convention in that country. As a result of a review of the document, the Secretariat believes that such legislation, once passed, will be a significant step forward for CITES implementation in the region. The Government of Canada is to be commended for this endeavour.

Enhanced communication between the Secretariat and the Management Authorities and NGOs in North America resulted in a more effective exchange of information regarding project proposals and requests from the Secretariat for funding. It has also insured that information pertaining to enforcement of the Convention was quickly forwarded to relevant organizations.

The Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, located in the State of Oregon in the United States of America, is continuing to work on the development of advanced techniques of wildlife identification for the purpose of producing evidence in court. The techniques are designed to assist authorities throughout the world that are involved in enforcement of legislation related to wildlife protection. The Laboratory continues to make its services available to all CITES Parties at no cost. Additional information about the Laboratory is provided by the Secretariat in Notification to the Parties No. 665 (16 January 1992).

### 3.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean

The Secretariat has continued to develop its co-operation with countries of this region. The Secretariat, together with many governments, is carrying out several projects on crocodiles, in collaboration with the IUCN/SSC

Crocodile Specialist Group, as well as studies on other species of economic importance. These projects are being carried out in order to assist the Parties to comply with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention. To achieve these tasks, the Secretariat has made a great effort to obtain the necessary funds.

An extraordinary regional meeting of the IUCN/SSE Crocodile Specialist Group was held in Santa Marta, Colombia, with the active participation of the Secretariat. In this meeting, an important debate took place in order to formulate a regional approach to the conservation of crocodilian resources.

Special attention and support was given to tackle the problems of enforcement of the Convention in Argentina, Colombia, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela. A constant contact with the Management Authorities of those countries is maintained.

A CITES seminar for all national authorities linked with CITES was held in Cuba with the participation of the Cuban Customs Office which was of particular importance.

The Caribbean region was also one of the Secretariat's priorities, in order to get a better understanding of how the Convention is implemented in the English-speaking countries of the region. In addition, several non-Party States were visited to obtain a better comprehension of their domestic procedures in relation to wildlife exports as well as to encourage them to become Parties to the Convention. Special attention was given to Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, which is a matter of concern for the region and, of course, for the Secretariat because of the role these islands play in the illegal wildlife trade.

It is also necessary to mention the close co-operation established with TRAFFIC South America, which has represented the CITES Secretariat several times in meetings held by CITES Parties and NGOs when, for financial reasons, the Secretariat was not able to attend.

CITES is slowly becoming more important in this region, due to the close relationship that all countries maintain with the Secretariat and especially because the decision-makers in governments are giving a higher priority to ensuring that the Convention be correctly implemented.

### 3.4 Asia

As no new Asian States became Party to CITES in 1991, the main points that the Secretariat must underline regarding the region are the preparation of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Kyoto, Japan, and the decision of the Standing Committee to support the Secretariat proposal to recommend a total ban on trade in CITES specimens with Thailand.

Regarding the preparation of the meeting, the Officer-in-charge of the Secretariat in the absence of a Secretary General twice visited Japan, including the Conference Centre in Kyoto, and had considerable exchange of views with the Japanese authorities involved in the preparation. The new Secretary General also went to Japan, as such a visit appeared of great importance. Such visits gave, of course, also the opportunity to consider other issues regarding CITES implementation in one of the most significant Parties in terms of trade in CITES specimens.

As repeatedly mentioned in Secretariat reports, the implementation of the Convention in Thailand has been a cause of serious concern for many years. In spite of great efforts, the situation never improved and the Secretariat had the feeling that the only way to solve the problems would be to recommend a ban on CITES trade. The case was submitted to the Standing Committee which, at its 23rd meeting held in April 1991, unanimously decided to recommend the proposed ban. It appears that this decision had an impact and that a positive reaction took place in Thailand. The Secretariat does hope that Thailand will soon be in a position to fully implement CITES and, consequently, that it will soon be possible to lift the ban.

It is also worthwhile to mention that seminars on plants and animals were simultaneously conducted in Indonesia, for the representatives of the Asia and Oceania regions, in June 1991.

### 3.5 Oceania

No new Oceanian countries joined CITES in 1991, and no representatives of the Secretariat were in a position to visit any of the countries of the region, where the implementation of the Convention does not appear to raise serious problems. This is in part due to the excellent work done in this region by TRAFFIC Oceania which has established a very good relationship with the government authorities of the countries and with the CITES Secretariat.

### 3.6 Europe

As the headquarters of the Secretariat are located in Europe, it has developed strong relations with the region's Management Authorities. This is essentially an importing region and an important part of the Secretariat's activities consists of confirming export permits and helping countries in their enforcement activities.

The Secretariat has also developed good relations with the Commission of the European Communities. The CEC supports many of the Secretariat's projects and there is a considerable exchange of information between the two organizations. Besides the relations that have long existed with the Directorate General for Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection (DG XI) and the Directorate General for Development (DG VIII), the Secretariat has strengthened its ties with the Directorate General of the Customs Union and Indirect Taxation (DG XXI), which has accelerated the diffusion of information to EEC Customs authorities. The first meeting with the Director General of DG XI took place in December 1991.

Discussions took place with the Commission concerning the problems encountered in implementing the EEC regulations and the admission of the two States which apply the regulations but still are not party to CITES (Greece and Ireland). The Secretariat was also consulted on the draft for new EEC regulations on the application of CITES.

The Commission of the European Communities distributed to its Member States the many notices it had received from the Secretariat (trade with Côte d'Ivoire, trade with Eastern Europe, etc.).

The Secretariat kept in close touch with TRAFFIC Europe and its national offices, and played an active role in setting up a study on trade in reptile skins in Europe and the survey of European orchids and cacti nurseries which should get under way in 1992.

Relations with the east European countries increased considerably and regular contacts took place with the Management Authorities.

Finally, the Secretariat had discussions with certain non-Party States (Czechoslovakia, Greece, Ireland, Romania and Turkey) to elicit their possible accession.

## 4. Implementation and Enforcement

Implementation and enforcement include both action to prevent infractions from being committed and corrective action when they have taken place.

### 4.1 Infraction Prevention

Efforts by the Secretariat to prevent infractions mainly consist of training the people in charge of the monitoring of all stages of international trade and procedures from the issuing of permits to Customs controls, and of circulating information likely to assist these people.

From the long-term perspective, the most important achievement in 1991 was the successful development and signing of a contract with UNITAR to prepare a comprehensive training programme for Management Authorities and Customs officers from different regions.

During the year, the Secretariat organized the following training seminars:

- Trade in Live Animals (May, Portugal, 60 participants, 3 days)
- Animals and Plants for Asia and Oceania (May, Indonesia, 53 participants, 4 days)
- Implementation and Enforcement (June, Cuba, 30 participants, 2 days)
- Trade in Live Animals (September, Denmark, 80 participants, 3 days)
- Plants (November, Netherlands, 77 participants, 3 days)
- Customs Officers for EEC (December, Brussels, 50 participants, 3 days).

This means that apart from the training during technical assistance missions, in 1991 there were 1073 man-days of training people in the implementation of CITES, organized by the Secretariat.

Most of the circulation of information is carried out by means of Notifications to the Parties. The Secretariat distributes information on national legislation, lost and/or stolen permits or security stamps, etc.

#### 4.2 Action in Cases of Infraction

Considering the Secretariat's lack of authority to carry out investigations, its role is limited to:

- circulating information about infractions as effectively as possible (information gathered in one country is transmitted to another through Management Authorities and Customs and police services);
- providing technical assistance during investigations (examination of permits, scientific and legal information, etc.);
- when live animals and plants are seized, providing immediate assistance in finding a solution ;
- advising as to the validity of documents; and
- analyzing the information available at the Secretariat (annual reports, permits) in order to detect possible infractions.

However the Secretariat should expand its role in the detection and analysis of certain infractions which involve several countries and which can not be investigated in just one of them.

In 1991, the Secretariat was informed about more than 300 infractions or alleged infractions and intervened in most of these cases.

The Secretariat's role as a crossroads of information enables it to bring serious infractions to light.

Although the Secretariat is often informed when an infraction is discovered, it very rarely hears about the follow-up to the inquiries. The Secretariat would appreciate hearing more frequently from the Parties about their modus operandi of the violators and the results of their investigations. Case histories could then be compiled for use by all Parties and would be of inestimable value to them. Thanks to the secondment of an officer by the United States Government, the Secretariat has been able to give increased and better assistance to the Parties in their fight against infractions and to organize a computerised filing system of all the available information. Furthermore, the Secretariat has been able to set up more specialized technical assistance missions in South America and Africa.

The officer responsible for each region or particular sector also follows up numerous reports of infractions or suspected infractions.

#### 4.3 Relations with INTERPOL and the Customs Co-operation Council

Given the specific interests of these two bodies, the Secretariat has developed different priorities for working with them: with INTERPOL, it is the fight against infractions; with the CCC, it is more a question of training and Customs co-operation.

##### INTERPOL

The exchange of information between the CITES Secretariat and the Secretariat General of INTERPOL has continued.

During the General Assembly of INTERPOL (Uruguay, November 91) a leaflet presenting CITES has been distributed to all participants and an exhibition has demonstrated the importance of the police in the fight against fraud in relation to CITES.

The Secretaries General of INTERPOL and of CITES both agreed to start the publication of a periodic bulletin on major infractions of CITES in three languages, with INTERPOL funding.

Presentations of CITES will continue to be made at regional meetings of INTERPOL National Central Bureaux (NCB).



## The Customs Co-operation Council (CCC)

The Secretariat has continued to work closely with the CCC.

The usual work in the Enforcement Committee has continued. The co-operation with the Central Intelligence System (CIS) has greatly increased and several cases concerning CITES have been presented in the "Enforcement Bulletin" of CCC.

The most important event in 1991 is the adoption by the General Assembly of the Customs Co-operation Council of a resolution which recommends to all Customs services in the world to increase their activities relating to CITES (including training) and gives the mandate to the Secretariat General of the Council to develop specific activities. Further to this resolution, the CITES Secretariat and the Secretariat General of CCC have prepared a programme for developing a Customs Training Package and are preparing a brochure on Customs and Wildlife. In order to prepare this brochure, a questionnaire has been sent to all members of CCC. The synthesis of the answers is in preparation.

The introduction of CITES matters in the training programmes of CCC is currently under discussion.

A meeting between the Secretaries General of CCC and CITES has established the basic principles for the development of co-operation between the two organizations.

## 5. Plants and CITES

The series of international Training Seminars, started in 1990, was continued for the Asian and Oceanian Regions in Cisarua, Indonesia in May (held in combination with an animals seminar; 53 participants from 15 countries) and for the European Region in Leiden, Netherlands in November (77 participants from 19 countries). National training was provided for CITES staff in the USA, Madagascar, Thailand (visited after the ban was implemented), Hong Kong and Switzerland.

The programme of nursery visits (in order to ascertain the level of artificial propagation and to instruct the CITES staff in the countries concerned about the differences between artificially propagated and wild-collected plants) was continued with missions to Africa (Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi) and Asia (Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand). The visit to Thailand was very rewarding. Several discussions were held with representatives of traders organizations; the latter were very interested in co-operating in order to avoid any infractions to the Convention. One trader has already completely abandoned the trade in wild-collected plants.

During a mission to Cuba, where the Plants Officer attended a meeting of representatives of botanic gardens, special attention was given to improving co-operation with the botanic gardens all over the world, in order to involve them in the implementation of CITES. Specialists from the botanic gardens are very capable of assisting Management Authorities in the identification of plants and the recognition of artificially propagated and wild-collected specimens. This aspect will receive further attention in the coming year.

Contacts were developed with a number of international organizations representing plant producers as well as consumers. With them the specific problems regarding the high volume of trade in artificially propagated plants were discussed, and possible solutions analyzed. Part of the results from these discussions are incorporated in documents prepared, on request of the Plants Committee, for consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In 1991 the first phase of a significant-trade study for plants was initiated and completed. The trade data over the years 1985-1989 were analyzed by WTMU and the resulting report was discussed by a panel of experts. The recommendations which evolved from this discussion will be presented at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for approval. When approved they will form the basis for the development of further projects, dealing with population studies of species, analysis of vegetation in certain areas and improvement of CITES implementation for plants in certain countries.

## 6. The Secretariat Communicates

An isolated Secretariat would be ineffective; communication is therefore essential. As in any communication process, there is a sender and a receiver. The Secretariat plays both roles, but it has numerous correspondents; in particular, the official bodies of CITES (its Standing Committee, other Committees and working groups, governments and Management Authorities), international organizations (governmental and non-governmental), the media and the general public.

## 6.1 Relations with the Media

The Secretariat receives numerous requests for information from journalists from the printed press and other media. The Secretariat gives press interviews and is also asked to supply a lot of information on the Convention in general, on illicit trafficking and on the status of certain species. The majority of enquiries are still about the African elephant, but other species such as the rhinoceros, parrots, crocodiles and plants often interest the media. The Secretariat received over one hundred requests for information from journalists in 1991.

Besides these usual types of queries, the Secretariat answered many enquiries about itself and about the Secretary General. A large number of articles were published on this subject.

The Secretariat decided to develop a communication strategy. Given the funds at its disposal, however, it was impossible to put the planned programme into effect, but a certain number of events did take place:

The following press releases were distributed:

- Thailand, Ban on Wild Fauna and Flora
- July, Good News for CITES
- March 92, Kyoto, Nature Conservation Capital

Several members of the Secretariat participated in radio and television programmes, particularly on the French-speaking Swiss stations and the BBC.

The Secretariat took part in several "press points" at the United Nations in Geneva.

Press conferences on CITES have been organized in Geneva, Japan, Mexico and other countries.

## 6.2 The General Public

The Secretariat receives numerous requests for information from teachers, researchers, students and private individuals who wish to know more about the animal and plant trade or about CITES itself.

Furthermore, the Secretariat organizes or participates in events intended to inform both specialists and non-specialists about the risks to various species due to excessive or illegal commerce in wild fauna and flora.

The CITES game has been reprinted and 15,000 copies of it distributed all over the world. After its success in 1991, in the world scout jamboree in the Republic of Korea, UNEP'S regional office for Asia plans to print one million new copies for Thailand and South-East Asia.

The videotape "CITES: Trade and Survival" has been shown on television in Czechoslovakia, Cuba, Denmark, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The USA has offered assistance to prepare a Spanish version.

The Secretariat and the UN Postal Administration agreed on a project to start issuing 60 UN stamps on CITES species.

With the support of the Argentine Government, Aerolineas Argentinas and Banco Mayo (Buenos Aires), the Embassy of Argentina in Berne and the CITES Secretariat organized three very successful concerts in the most prestigious concert halls in Berne, Geneva and Zurich with full audience capacity. The cultural elite of the host country and the entire diplomatic corps in Geneva and Berne were present. They were given CITES brochures together with the programme. Any money coming from commercial advertising in the latter are for CITES.

## 6.3 Publication of Documents

The revised edition of "Evolution of CITES" has been distributed to the Parties.

The book "Pythons in South-East Asia" and the Proceedings of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties have been printed and distributed.

The first volume of the Identification Manual in French (which includes some birds) has been printed and the second volume will be completed very soon.

The ivory identification manual, has been distributed. It was prepared by TRAFFIC USA, in conjunction with the Secretariat and the C.R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in the United States of America.

#### 6.4 Three Languages

Having to work in three languages (French, English and Spanish) puts a heavy strain on the Secretariat staff due to a lack of funds to hire full-time professional translators and of space for them to work.

Some Parties, fortunately only a few, continue to communicate with the Secretariat in a language other than one of the three working languages. This results in delays and, sometimes, misunderstandings.

### 7. The Secretariat and Others

#### 7.1 The UN System

As a member of the United Nations family, the Secretariat is in close contact with other members, particularly UNDP, FAO and UNESCO. A project to issue a series of postage stamps has been agreed with the United Nations Postal Administration. (The Secretariat is requesting the Parties to introduce a draft resolution to the General Assembly of United Nations providing for giving a portion of the revenue from the stamps to the Secretariat.) The Secretariat is, of course, in frequent contact with the United Nations headquarters in Geneva.

The Secretariat is obviously in closest touch with UNEP particularly for administrative purposes (budget, staff, etc.). However, the Secretariat has also taken part in several working sessions, including those on the draft Convention on Biological Diversity and that on the Action Plan for Marine Mammals. There are contacts with GRID, the Coastal Areas Action Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention) and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Transport of Dangerous Waste Products.

In June 1991, the Secretariat signed an agreement with UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) concerning the development of a training programme on CITES matters.

#### 7.2 Inter-governmental Organizations

In addition to the EEC, INTERPOL and the CCC, the Secretariat has maintained contact with the Council of Europe (including the Secretariat of the Bern Convention) and the International Whaling Commission.

The Secretariat also keeps in close contact with the Secretariats of the Conventions of Ramsar (Wetlands of International Importance) and Cartagena (Nature Conservation in the Caribbean).

#### 7.3 Non-governmental Conservation Organizations

The Secretariat is in frequent contact with a very large number of non-governmental conservation organizations at regional, national and international levels and is fully aware of the indispensable role played by these organizations in achieving the objectives of CITES.

It is impossible to list here the names of all those who have contributed to the effectiveness of the Secretariat by providing financial support, supplying information, carrying out studies, contributing to think-tank sessions and publishing documents.

The Secretary General had several meetings with representatives of more than 25 major environmentalist NGOs in the USA, which helped to develop a better dialogue between them and the Secretariat.

Three organizations in particular must be mentioned, however: IUCN - The World Conservation Union, TRAFFIC, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC).

IUCN has been of enormous help to the Secretariat, especially in the scientific and legal fields. Through the Species Survival Commission, the CITES Secretariat has rapid access to the most up-to-date information. To improve the co-ordination of activities with this organization, a trilateral meeting, including WWF-International, is organized every three months.

The efforts made by the TRAFFIC network throughout the world in monitoring the trade in specimens of CITES species have resulted in significant assistance to the Secretariat. The TRAFFIC network has been one of the most reliable sources of information regarding the implementation of the Convention in various countries throughout the world. Its regional representatives have also provided on-site assistance to professional staff members of the Secretariat during their missions to various countries. As another example of collaboration, TRAFFIC USA has worked closely with the Secretariat in publishing manuals on trade laws in various regions throughout the world. The Secretariat has given strong support to the study on trade in reptile skins (see document Inf. 8.1), particularly in Europe.

WCMC of course maintains the database of CITES annual report statistics and conducts studies for the Secretariat on the status of particular groups of species. Because of WCMC's unrivalled collection of information on the biological and trade status of species, and the broad knowledge of its staff, the Secretariat frequently seeks its assistance, particularly that of the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU).

#### 7.4 Business and Trade Organizations

In order to promote a wider knowledge of the objectives and provisions of CITES, the Secretariat is in touch with numerous professional organizations whose activities are related to CITES. They comprise mainly tanners, furriers, horticultural associations, orchids and cacti societies, travel agencies, airlines and dealers in pets and reptile skins.

CITES is represented at meetings of the IATA Live Animals Board by the Chairman of the Working Group on Transport of Live Specimens (the United Kingdom). The Secretariat participated in the 23rd Meeting of the Live Animals Board and has strengthened its relationship with IATA.

#### 8. The Secretariat Notices

Between 1 January and 31 December 1991, the Secretariat sent 47 Notifications to Parties. The subjects of the Notifications to the Parties can be summarized as follows:

- 12 enforcement and infractions
- 10 national legislation
- 2 scientific institutions
- 3 security stamps
- 3 breeding in captivity
- 6 transmission of documents
- 1 public information
- 3 reservations
- 4 meetings
- 2 Secretariat staff
- 1 annual reports

#### 9. Secretariat Staff

The Secretariat staff comprised:	<u>1 January 1991</u>	<u>31 December 1991</u>
Professional	8	9
Support staff	9	11
Consultant	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	17	21

\* The post of Secretary General was vacant and the appointed projects officer had not yet taken up his post.

The changes among the professionals were:

the departure of:

- David BRACKETT (Management Co-ordinator, March).

and the arrival of:

- Oluwafemi OWOLABI (Project Officer, April)
- Izgrev TOPKOV (Secretary General, July)
- Jonathan BARZDO (Consultant, July).

The changes among the support staff were the arrival of:

- Madlen TSCHOPP (Secretary, July)
- Suzanne SCHRIEK (Secretary, November).

The regional co-ordination officers are:

J. Kundaeli:	Africa
O. Menghi:	South and Central America and the Caribbean
J. Gavitt:	North America
J.-P. Le Duc and G. van Vliet:	Europe
J. Berney:	Asia-Oceania

Three governments have seconded civil servants to the Secretariat.

Since January 1989, the Secretariat has benefited from the secondment of Mr David Brackett, formerly Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department of Renewable Resources, by the Government of the Northwest Territories (Canada). Mr Brackett left the Secretariat in March 1991.

Since March 1990, the Government of the Netherlands has seconded for a three-year period, Mr Ger Van Vliet, former Director of the Botanical Gardens in Leiden (Netherlands).

Since April 1990, the Government of the United States of America has seconded for a two-year period, Mr John Gavitt, formerly a Special Agent with the Fish and Wildlife Service. This appointment has enabled the Secretariat to reinforce its potential to fight against infractions.

The Secretariat would like to thank again these three governments for their generosity and their important contribution to the Secretariat's effectiveness.

## 10. Conclusion

10.1 The year 1991 was distinctly marked by the arrival of the new Secretary General and by the growth to fruition of certain activities which were made possible by an increase in professional staff. These activities are the following:

- enforcement (including most notably specific missions to Latin America and the Caribbean);
- implementation of the Convention for Plants (notably an analysis of the problems encountered in dealing with nurseries); and
- training.

10.2 While solutions have been found to many of the long-existing problems for the staff, such as grading, there are still aspects which are far from being satisfactory and the Secretariat is faced with two major problems:

- lack of or late payment of contributions by the Parties (34% of the total for 1991 was not paid by 31 December), which then forces the Secretariat to change, reduce or discontinue certain activities on one hand and prevents UNEP from issuing the normal extension of work contracts, on the other hand; and
- lack of space in the present office, which prevents hiring staff already included in the budget (translators in particular), and which provides unsatisfactory work conditions for the staff.

10.3 The relationship between the Secretariat and the Parties has undoubtedly improved over the past year which is indicative of the Parties growing interest in the Convention. The implementation of CITES has become more

efficient. The withdrawal of many important reservations as a result of a continued effort by the Secretariat, is an indication of this improvement.

- 10.4 The year was marked by positive developments in the relations with UNEP and other UN agencies, such as UNITAR, as well as with some intergovernmental organizations - INTERPOL, CCC and EEC.

The second part of the year 1991 was mainly devoted to organizing the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Japan - preparation for the future. The future of the Convention is in the hands of the Parties and the staff of the Secretariat is ready as always to assist them in the constant struggle for the ever better implementation of the Convention which will be marking its 20th jubilee next year.