

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

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

THE TRADE IN LIVE WILD-CAUGHT ANIMALS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

The attached draft resolution has been prepared and is submitted by Uruguay.

Note from the Secretariat

The attached draft resolution concerns a subject similar to those addressed in Doc. 8.23 and 8.23.1, although it extends it to all live animals instead of dealing with birds only. Therefore the Secretariat recommends that the proponents concerned, the United States of America, Honduras and Uruguay consider whether it could be possible to submit a single text to the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The Trade in Live Wild-Caught Animals for Commercial Purposes

CONCERNED that many species of wild animals traded for profit purposes are becoming rare, and even endangered, due to both over-exploitation and destruction of their habitats, and that the international trade continues to contribute to the depletion of wild populations and to affect their role in the ecosystems;

CONSCIOUS of the persistent high mortality rates amongst wild live animals captured for commercial purposes;

CONSCIOUS that many Parties have prohibited the export of wild live animals because of the difficulty of controlling the trade, while other Parties continue to authorize export in quantities which are not known to be appropriate in relation to the population status of the animals in the wild;

CONSCIOUS that the control is still inadequate to prevent live wild-caught animals originating from countries with an export ban being exported through neighbouring countries which allow export;

RECALLING that each Party, pursuant to Article XIV, paragraph 1, of the Convention has the right to take stricter domestic measures regarding the trade, including the complete prohibition thereof;

RECALLING that Article IV, paragraph 2(a), of the Convention requires that certification that an export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species concerned be provided by a Scientific Authority, and that Article IV, paragraph 3, requires the evidence from that Authority that the species is maintained throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystems in which it occurs and well above the level at which it might become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I;

NOTING that an inability to implement Article IV makes impossible the application of reliable policies directed towards sustainable use;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 4.7 adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gaborone, 1983) notes that many Parties exporting Appendix-II wildlife are effectively unable to implement Article IV, paragraph 3;

CONSCIOUS that many countries exporting live wild-caught animals are lacking sufficient resources to assess the trade effects on such animal populations and, therefore, are unable to take decisions regarding such trade on the scientific basis required under the Convention;

RECALLING that Article IV, paragraph 2(c), of the Convention requires that a Management Authority of the State of export be satisfied that any living specimen to be exported will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment, and that the Parties exporting such live specimens have not extensively implemented Article IV, paragraph 2(c), which provides so;

ACKNOWLEDGING that many national airlines of first category and other commercial carriers working on international routes have decided to ban the transport of birds caught in the wild for commercial purposes;

RECOGNIZING that the conservation of habitat is directly related to the rational use of the species which occur therein;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES all Parties, in order to protect wild populations, to suspend accepting shipments of live animal specimens made for commercial purposes until the Standing Committee has confirmed that the requirements of Article IV have been satisfied;

DIRECTS

- a) the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee as appropriate, to monitor compliance with and the implementation of this Resolution and to report its findings and conclusions to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including the preparation of a report on the stricter measures on export and import of wild animals; and

- b) the Animals Committee to assess the biological and trade status of all species in trade that are not currently listed in the appendices and to advise the Parties as to whether any of them should be listed; and

CALLS upon all the consuming countries (or importing countries) to co-operate with the producing countries (or exporting countries) in providing appropriate funding to conduct the necessary population studies to meet the requirements of Article IV of the Convention.