

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

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Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Kyoto (Japan), 2 to 13 March 1992

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

ILLEGAL TRADE OF SINGAPORE

This document has been prepared and is submitted by Paraguay, but is open to agreement by the countries of the region.

Every year more than one million specimens of *Caiman crocodilus* are exported illegally from the central region of South America, in spite of the fact that the national laws ban hunting of and trade in this species. As has been said in the past, Paraguay was for many years a conduit for the illegal trade of wild animals and their products. With the new administration now in place, new practices for the conservation of fauna and flora are being implemented in Paraguay.

Considering the extent of the illegal trade, several countries of the region initiated, jointly with the CITES Secretariat, scientific studies which have permitted the determination of the population status and, from such information, the development of standards for rational exploitation which will ensure the conservation of the species. Brazil has already adopted the ranching system and has enacted legal regulations for this purpose. At the same time the controls have increased and, consequently, numerous illegal shipments have been confiscated in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

According to the information which is circulating in the region, one of the main destinees appears to be Singapore.

Such suspicion is strengthened by the fact that this country has entered a reservation with regard to this species. Although it had legally speaking the right to do so, as this species is listed in Appendix II, and therefore can be traded in accordance with Article IV of the Convention, Paraguay and other countries of the region consider that such a reservation is not established on any acceptable technical basis.

In addition, the Singapore reservation makes ineffective the controls of the exporting countries as the exports are mainly governed by demand. To implement a control system, it must be supported not only by the exporting countries but also by the importing and re-exporting countries. Such co-operation is not possible with the reservation entered by Singapore on *Caiman crocodilus*.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Illegal Trade of Singapore

RECALLING that the Preamble of the Convention recognizes that international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade;

RECALLING that Article II, paragraph 2(a), of the Convention states that Appendix II shall include species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation;

RECALLING that export, import and re-export of specimens of species included in Appendix II is possible provided that Article IV of the Convention is implemented;

RECOGNIZING the great efforts made by the Latin American and Caribbean countries to implement stricter domestic measures and/or management plans in order to protect their own populations of *Caiman* species;

NOTING that Singapore has entered a specific reservation with regard to *Caiman crocodilus crocodilus*, an Appendix-II subspecies;

NOTING with concern that this reservation is used in such a way that specimens of that genus illegally exported from countries which are Parties to CITES are authorized for import into Singapore;

NOTING with dismay that the reservation entered by Singapore with regard to *Caiman crocodilus crocodilus* undermines the spirit of the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES all importing countries to reject "export permits" or re-export certificates issued by Singapore for trade in any crocodilian products, as it can not be guaranteed that such products have not been made wholly or partially from skins of *Caiman* species illegally exported from the CITES party States from which they originated.