

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

Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Gigiri (Kenya), 10-20 April 2000

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

RECOGNITION OF RISKS AND BENEFITS OF TRADE IN WILDLIFE

1. This document has been submitted by Kenya.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The draft resolution annexed to this document aims to amend Resolution Conf. 8.3 'Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife'.
- B. Kenya proposes to interject into the current resolution on the benefits of trade in wildlife a text regarding the conservation risks associated with trade in wildlife.
- C. Of the numerous additions suggested by Kenya, the Secretariat supports only the inclusion of the clarifying text "provided that these are appropriately directed and benefit local people" in the fourth "RECOGNIZING" paragraph of the preamble of the current resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Recognition of risks and benefits of trade in wildlife

NOTING that the majority of species of wild fauna and flora that CITES seeks to protect and enhance occur in the developing countries of the world;

RECOGNIZING that over-utilization is detrimental to the conservation of wild fauna and flora and 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;

RECOGNIZING further that legal trade in a species should not lead to increases in illegal trade anywhere in its range and that, if it does so, it may be necessary to restrict or suspend legal trade to prevent such increases;

RECOGNIZING also that the returns from legal use may provide funds and incentives to support the management of wild fauna and flora to contain the illegal trade provided that these are appropriately directed and benefit local people;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational and other largely non-consumptive uses of wild fauna and flora are also of enormous importance;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO that economic uses of wildlife other than international trade, both consumptive and non-consumptive, may, if conducted sustainably, provide similar or greater benefits and incentives;

RECOGNIZING that there are many species for which trade would be detrimental to their survival;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that sustainable international trade is difficult to achieve and maintain, and that unsustainable levels of trade are damaging both species and ecosystems;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOGNIZES that commercial trade may, in certain limited cases where effective management controls are in place and the economic benefits gained are clearly directed to improve conservation management and to benefit local peoples, be beneficial to the conservation of species and ecosystems and/or to the development of local people, when carried out at levels that are not detrimental to the survival of the species in question;

RECOGNIZES, however, that:

- a) a great deal of commercial trade in wildlife is still conducted unsustainably;
- b) unsustainable trade provides a clear threat to the survival of many species of wild fauna and flora;
- c) achieving sustainable levels of trade can be extremely difficult in practice; and
- d) inadequate control of illegal trade, including illegal trade in other range States of a species, will generally result in unsustainable use and pose a threat to the survival of that species;

URGES Parties considering international commercial trade in wild species to examine alternatives, to determine whether these may provide equal or greater benefits with lower economic, social and environmental risks, including risks for other range States;

REAFFIRMS that the principles of the Convention, as set out in its preamble, are in accordance with the current global policies concerning the conservation of wild species; and

REPEALS Resolution Conf. 8.3.