

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

TRANSPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS

1. This document was prepared and submitted by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 10.21, the Conference of the Parties:

URGES all Parties that permit imports of live animals: to maintain records of the number of live specimens per shipment and of mortalities in transport of species listed in the appendices; to note obvious causes of mortality, injury or damage to health; and to provide these data relating to the previous calendar year along with their annual reports; and

DECIDES that non-submission of these data will be noted in a report from the Secretariat to the Standing Committee.

3. The Secretariat has previously reported (Doc. SC.42.13) that only a few Parties have supplied such information, i.e.:

- a) Belgium has provided detailed reports for 1994, 1995 and 1996 on mortality of birds at Brussels National Airport;
 - b) Austria has reported on a regular basis that it has not detected any mortality during transport; and
 - c) Germany has provided information on a detailed study of mortality in shipments of live animals originating in the United Republic of Tanzania.

4. Resolution Conf. 10.21 also DIRECTS the Animals Committee in consultation with the Secretariat:

to establish the format for the presentation of data on mortality and injury or damage to health in transport.

5. Taking into account the disappointingly low response to the form distributed with Notification to the Parties No. 848 of 18 April 1995, the Transport Working Group of the Animals Committee decided to select a number of species on which to focus its attention, expecting that this might achieve a better response from the Parties.
6. The Transport Working Group discussed this subject during the 14th meeting of the Animals Committee (Caracas, Venezuela, May 1998) and at a meeting in Washington, D.C, United States of America (January 1999). Following further postal consultation of the members of the working group and of the members of the Animals Committee, agreement was reached about the design of an abbreviated reporting form. This form was approved by the members of the Animals Committee.
7. For reasons of expediency, rather than submitting this abbreviated reporting form to the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee requested that it be distributed to the Parties. It was consequently sent with Notification to the Parties No. 1999/48 of 1 July 1999. Virtually no

responses were received to this Notification. The Secretariat, on the request of the Animals Committee, agreed to obtain information by sending letters directly out to Parties that were identified as countries of significant import and/or export of the focal species referred to in paragraph 7. Letters were sent in October 1999 to the Management Authorities of 58 Parties, requesting the collection of information on mortalities during transport, through the use of the data collection form developed for this purpose.

8. At the time of writing (February 2000), the Secretariat has received responses from 12 Management Authorities (but completed data forms from only five Parties, i.e. China, Hungary, Senegal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). The only transport-related mortalities that were reported involved small percentage mortalities in some shipments of *Macaca fascicularis* exported from China to Germany, Japan and the United States of America. Intriguingly, these incidences were reported only by China and not by any of the importing countries. It is self-evident that the response to this additional request has been very limited. The Secretariat, and the Animals Committee would be grateful if the relevant Parties could make a renewed attempt to compile the required information.
9. Resolution Conf. 10.21 RECOMMENDS that:

The IATA Live Animals Regulations be incorporated into the domestic legislation of the Parties.

10. At the request of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat asked the Parties, through Notification to the Parties No. 1998/43 of 6 August 1998, to inform them whether these Regulations had been included in their national legislation.
11. Ten responses were received, of which 8 (including 7 from Parties in the European Union) were from Parties that had specific provisions implementing the IATA LAR in their legislation; one had an indirect reference by requiring that the relevant phrase be included in the permit and one had strict veterinary legislation, without specific reference to the IATA LAR.

Conclusion

12. Efforts to determine and monitor the incidence and impact of transport-related mortalities in CITES-listed species continue to be hampered by a lack of response from Parties to requests for information. Resolution Conf. 10.21 therefore appears to be implemented by very few Parties, and consideration should be given at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to its amendment or repeal.