

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

POTENTIAL RISK OF WILDLIFE TRADE TO THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

1. This document has been submitted by Kenya.

Introduction

2. In 1998 global tourism expenditure amounted to USD 444 thousand million, of which USD 9.5 thousand million was generated by the continent of Africa.
3. As nature tourism grows globally, there is an increasing premium on wilderness and wildlife, from which those countries with attractive and abundant natural resources are able to benefit.
4. However, tourism depends to a great extent upon conditions of security and stability, and any significant increase in poaching of wildlife can have extremely negative consequences for the tourism industry. In countries where tourism contributes a significant proportion of the national income, this can have a profound effect on the national exchequer generally and on the conservation of wildlife and wild areas in particular.
5. Firstly, tourism and wildlife trade, while both are forms of wildlife utilization, differ in the sense that wildlife tourism depends entirely upon live animals, preferably in abundance, remaining in their natural habitat.
6. Secondly, the "bush wars" than can occur when poaching becomes a major problem are not conducive to the tourism industry.
7. It is therefore clear that decisions regarding wildlife trade should be made in light of the potential for increased poaching and the resulting increase in anti-poaching activity.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. Regarding the points in paragraph 4 above, the Secretariat believes that security, stability and any significant increase in poaching of wildlife are heavily dependent on internal domestic actions. Only if appropriate measurements are taken at the national level, can these issues be dealt with satisfactorily.
- B. The Secretariat considers that thorough analysis is needed in order to understand whether a decision regarding trade in a CITES-listed species leads to an increase of poaching. The system for Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE), established in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10, is a good example of a system created to enable such an analysis.
- C. However, issues of security and stability are not entirely dependent on any decision regarding whether trade in certain species is permitted.
- D. The Secretariat therefore does not support the proposed draft resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Potential risk of wildlife trade to the tourism industry

RECOGNIZING that tourism is the world's fastest-growing industry;

NOTING also that revenue from wildlife-related tourism is increasing yearly throughout the world;

RECALLING that, in June 1997, the UN General Assembly requested the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism development;

RECALLING also that the UN General Assembly, in resolution 53/200 of 15 December 1998, proclaimed the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism;

AWARE that widespread poaching can have devastating effects on the tourism industry by destroying visitor confidence and diverting funds from the provision of infrastructure;

CONSCIOUS that badly-planned wildlife-related tourism can also be detrimental both culturally and ecologically;

RECOGNIZING, however, that well-planned wildlife-related tourism has the potential to transform both local and national economies;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 10.6 recommends greater collaboration between Parties and the tourism industry in enforcing CITES;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES Parties to recognize the potential for appropriate wildlife-related tourism to be a highly lucrative form of wildlife utilization;

INVITES Parties to be aware of possible threats to their tourism industries when making decisions relating to wildlife trade; and

RECOMMENDS that, in order to achieve the greatest harmony between people and wildlife, tourism planning should minimize the social, cultural and ecological impacts of tourism, while maximising the economic benefits to rural people.