

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

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Regular and special reports

TRANSPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat is directed in Resolution Conf. 10.21, under the third DIRECTS with the following, "in consultation with the Animals and Standing Committees, to monitor the implementation of these recommendations and of other aspects of this Resolution and report its findings and recommendations at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties". The present document is the report required by the Resolution, and is largely based on the activities of the Animals Committee and its Transport Working Group, which, as has been the practice for the past few years, has taken the lead on matters related to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.21. The Secretariat wishes to thank the Animals Committee, and its Transport Working Group in particular, for their contributions in this regard.

CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants and the IATA Live Animals Regulations

3. The CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants are widely recognized to be out of date, and often not readily available to Management Authorities or the public. According to Resolution Conf. 10.21, under RECOMMENDS, paragraph d), these guidelines should nevertheless be complied with, despite the parallel development of the IATA Live Animals Regulations for air transport. The Animals Committee conducted an assessment of the feasibility of updating the CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants, but concluded that available resources should rather be used to support the further development and updating of the IATA Live Animals Regulations. The Committee believes that the IATA Live Animals Regulations are the appropriate guidelines for almost all cases of live transport, and that as these regulations are continuously reviewed and improved they can be adapted to accommodate any specific need concerning CITES-listed species. IATA has welcomed input from the Committee in this regard, and good working relations have been maintained.
4. The Secretariat has not recently been made aware of major shortcomings in the IATA Live Animals Regulations for the transport of CITES-listed species by air or any other form of transport. Similarly, no problems have been reported with the application of the CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants, possibly because the great majority of shipments of live animals are transported by air. The Animals Committee has advised the Secretariat that an assessment of the appropriateness of the IATA Live Animals Regulations for forms of transport other than air would require specialist expertise in the field of live animal transport that may have to be sought outside the Committee.
5. The Secretariat, in view of the apparent low incidence of problems concerning guidelines and regulations for transport in live animal specimens, is of the opinion that further work on the updating of the CITES

Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants can not be justified at present, and that it may not be worth redistributing the Guidelines in their current form. The Secretariat welcomes, however, the undertaking by the Animals Committee to prepare additional recommendations regarding transport by road, rail or ship, to supplement the IATA Live Animals Regulations where necessary.

Monitoring of mortalities during transport

6. Through Notification to the Parties No. 848 of 18 April 1995, the Secretariat requested the Parties to provide data on mortality of live specimens during transport in a standardized form, as recommended in Resolution Conf. 9.23 (now replaced by Resolution Conf. 10.21, which similarly urges Parties to maintain and report information on the number of live specimens per shipment and of mortalities in transport of species listed in the Appendices). However, the limited number of responses did not allow a meaningful evaluation of the information received. The Transport Working Group of the Animals Committee therefore decided to concentrate on a limited number of species (*Chlorocebus aethiops*, *Macaca fascicularis*, *Saimiri sciureus*, *Amazona amazonica*, *Eos borneo*, *Psittacus erithacus*, Trochilidae spp., *Chamaeleo senegalensis*, *Python sebae*, *Testudo horsfieldii*, *Dendrobates pumilio* and *Mantella aurantiaca*) using an abbreviated reporting form, which was circulated with Notification to the Parties No. 1999/48 of 1 July 1999. Because of the very limited response, the Secretariat, on the request of the Animals Committee, agreed to forward letters to the Management Authorities of 58 selected Parties, requesting the collection of information on mortalities during transport through use of the data collection form developed for this purpose. At the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gigiri, April 2000), the Secretariat reported that it had received responses from 12 Management Authorities. The Secretariat and the Animals Committee urged the relevant Parties to make a renewed attempt to compile the required information.
7. At the 17th meeting of the Animals Committee (Hanoi, August 2001), its Transport Working Group was requested to collate and analyse all the mortality reporting forms received by the Secretariat or forwarded directly to the Transport Working Group. A draft report with the results of this analysis was presented and discussed at the 18th meeting of the Animals Committee (San José, April 2002). This report presented the analysis of 769 forms that were submitted by 12 Parties from November 1999 to December 2001, representing shipments of 83,971 animals. The average mortality rate on arrival was 1.25 per cent. Of the animals that arrived alive, 85.9 per cent were reportedly in good condition, 12.1 per cent in medium state, and 2 per cent in poor condition. Ninety per cent of the shipments did not experience any mortality upon arrival. For six of the 12 target species, statistically sufficient information could be gathered to conclude that there was no conspicuously high dead-on-arrival rate for any of the species [*Chamaeleo senegalensis* had the highest mortality rate (2.21%), and *Macaca fascicularis* the lowest (0%)]. Some of the reporting forms contained information on quarantine mortality, and in the case of two target species, this could be further analysed. Quarantine mortality in *Psittacus erithacus* (5.12%) was significantly higher than the dead-on-arrival rate (0.02%), while this was not the case for *Macaca fascicularis* (0% dead on arrival; 0.21% mortality in quarantine).
8. Since the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, considerably more reporting forms have been received than in preceding years, but relatively few Parties have provided them. Having discussed the draft report mentioned in paragraph 7, the Transport Working Group and the Animals Committee recommended that the Secretariat stop collecting mortality-related data using the reporting forms. The Secretariat concurs with this recommendation. The Transport Working Group suggested that further studies be undertaken on the causes of injury and mortality during preparation, transport, and in the post-transport period, and recommended that in-depth investigations should be conducted voluntarily by major importing countries to give a basis for preparing recommendations to other Parties. The Secretariat is of the opinion that it would also be important to identify good existing models and practices concerning the transport of live animals that can provide assistance to Parties that are exporting live animals, that cost-effective options for containers and packing materials should be investigated and that specific training of personnel involved in handling and transporting live animals would be beneficial in further reducing mortality.

Conclusion

9. Since 1995, efforts have been made to determine and monitor the incidence and impact of transport-related mortalities in CITES-listed species, which were initially hampered by a lack of reporting by Parties. Submission of data report forms has improved in recent years. An analysis of the information that was collected through mortality reporting forms between 1999 and 2001 indicates that for animals of selected CITES-listed species that are shipped by air, the overall transport related mortality appears to be low to very low. The Secretariat is aware of several other studies on transport-related mortality in animals that show similar results, suggesting that dead-on-arrival rates are generally low, with the exception of a few isolated, and occasionally high-profile cases. Rather than continuing to request Parties to submit mortality reporting forms and tasking the Animals Committee and the Secretariat with further review of this information, the Secretariat recommends that the focus be on other elements of Resolution Conf.10.21. The Secretariat encourages the Animals Committee to develop recommendations regarding transport by road, rail or ship to supplement, where necessary, the IATA Live Animals Regulation, and to investigate cost-effective options for containers and packing materials. The Animals Committee could assist in identifying model practices concerning the transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals, and develop recommendations to the Parties regarding the proper handling and transportation of live animals, particularly in exporting countries. The Secretariat encourages Parties to identify opportunities to improve training of personnel responsible for handling or controlling live animal transport. The Secretariat is of the opinion that consideration should be given at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the revision and updating of Resolution Conf. 10.21. The Secretariat therefore recommends the adoption of a draft decision presented in the Annex.

DRAFT DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The Animals Committee, in collaboration with interested non-governmental organizations and the Secretariat, should:

- a) develop recommendations regarding transport by road, rail or ship to supplement, where necessary, the IATA Live Animals Regulations;
- b) investigate cost-effective options for containers and packing materials that could be recommended for adoption in the IATA Live Animals Regulations;
- c) assist in identifying model practices concerning the transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals, and develop recommendations to the Parties regarding the proper handling and transportation of live animals, particularly in exporting countries; and
- d) report to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) – c) above.