

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



Sixteenth meeting of the CITES Animals Committee  
Shepherdstown (United States of America) 11-15 December 2000

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.21 on Transport of live animals

REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

This document has been prepared by the Chairman of the Transport Working Group (TWG) of the CITES Animals Committee.

Introduction

1. The Transport Working Group (TWG) of the Animals Committee reconvened at the 15th meeting of the Animals Committee, in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on 8 July 1999. At this meeting the TWG also discussed the working process and the results that were achieved with regard to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.21. Furthermore, the TWG discussed and formulated main topics for future work, which were adopted by the Animals Committee as the TWG's new working programme. This report takes account of the achievements under the new working programme.

Responses to Notification to the Parties No. 1999/48 (Mortality of live animals in trade)

2. The main topic of the TWG's work between the 15th and 16th meetings of the Animals Committee was the use of the form distributed with Notification to the Parties No. 1999/48. This Notification had been prepared by the Secretariat as a result of a recommendation resulting from discussions among members of the TWG. The main objective of the Notification was to concentrate the transport mortality monitoring process on a limited number of animal species that are traded in high volumes.
3. Based on trade data obtained from the CITES annual report database maintained by UNEP-WCMC of all imports and exports between 1995 and 1998 of those species specified in Notification to the Parties No. 1999/48, the main countries concerned were identified. Letters were sent by the Secretariat to all these countries to draw their attention to the Notification and to request them to support the data-collection process. The following countries were mainly involved in the import of the 12 species concerned: Japan (10 species); Belgium, Italy and the United States of America (nine species each); Germany (eight species); and the Netherlands (seven species).
4. Member States of the European Union had given special attention to the transport mortality issue. The importance of collecting transport mortality data was discussed at several meetings of the CITES Committee in Brussels with the result that most EU Member States are now collecting mortality data regularly.

5. The TWG felt that to ensure better use of the form attached to the Notification and better implementation of the associated monitoring process, it is important that the questionnaire be translated into local languages for better understanding and easier use. At the time of writing, only Belgium and Hungary have translated the questionnaires.
6. Furthermore, the TWG recommended that the questionnaire attached to the Notification should be attached to each export permit by the issuing Management Authorities. The Chairman of the TWG recalled this request when she presented her report in Committee I at CoP11 in Gigiri, in April 2000. It is not known whether any Management Authority of an exporting country of live animals of the selected 12 species attaches the questionnaire to the export documents issued for each shipment.
7. As a consequence of the discussions in the CITES Committee of the European Union, many EU Member States Management Authorities now attach the questionnaire to their import permits for the species concerned and Customs officers or veterinary authorities of these countries are requested to fill it in.
8. So far, data based on the questionnaire sent with Notification to the Parties No.1999/48 have been received from only 11 countries and other information on mortality from only five countries. Unfortunately countries that are major importers of one or more of the 12 species listed in the Notification - such as Japan (major importer of 10 species); Italy and the United States of America (nine species each); South Africa (four species); and the Russian Federation and Singapore (two species each) - have not yet provided any information on transport losses of the species of interest. Also China and Malaysia, which are known or assumed to have imports or re-exports of wild-collected live animals in large quantities, have so far not made any contribution to the process of monitoring transport mortality.

#### Collaboration with IATA

9. The Chairman of the TWG attended one meeting of the Animals and Perishables Board of IATA between the 15th and the 16th meetings of the Animals Committee. Because of financial constraints her attendance at another meeting had to be cancelled.
10. The TWG has started to review the IATA Live Animals Regulations. The Wildlife Conservation Society has provided a lot of useful proposals on amendments of the IATA Live Animals Regulations for mammals, birds, reptiles and insects to the Chairman of the TWG. After discussion in the TWG, it is planned to submit new proposals through the Chairman of the Animals Committee to the relevant IATA Board in order to further the process of reviewing the IATA Live Animals Regulations.

#### IATA statements on permits according to Resolution Conf.10.2

11. At the 15th meeting of the Animals Committee, the TWG agreed to conduct a review to evaluate the extent to which Parties have implemented the recommendation made in Resolution Conf. 10.2, Annex 1, paragraph n), that CITES permits include a statement that they are only valid for live animals if the transport conditions comply with the CITES Guidelines for Transport of Live Animals, or, in the case of air transport, with the IATA Live Animals Regulations.
12. The review has been carried out by the Chairman of the TWG on the basis of the CITES-export documents that are available from the Management Authority of Germany. The conclusion of this review is that at least 96 Parties have included the IATA statement on their permit forms and eight additional Parties have added the statement in the box for 'special conditions'. In total, at least 104 Parties have therefore implemented the recommendation made in Resolution Conf. 10.2. This means that 68,4 per cent of the CITES documents that are used by the Parties contain the IATA statement.
13. When comparing this result with the conclusions given by the Secretariat at CoP11 (Doc. 11.54) on the responses received to Notification to the Parties No. 1999/48 a major discrepancy is apparent. It is therefore recommended that the Animals Committee should continue to try to determine which Parties, in addition to those that have already responded, are implementing the IATA Regulations in their national legislation.

Comments from the Secretariat

14. The discrepancy referred to in paragraph 13 appears to reflect low reply rates to a specific question in the questionnaires received from the Parties in response to a Notification and a letter compared to a direct assessment of the implementation by the Parties concerning the same subject. The approach followed by the Chairman of the TWG is laudable in this regard and may indicate that alternative survey methods should be used more generally in CITES when time and resources allow. The TWG may also consider surveying export documentation from additional countries to ensure that all Parties are included in the assessment. The Secretariat notes, however, that it is still not possible to know how many permits have been rejected because of the absence of the recommended reference to the IATA Live Animals Regulations or the CITES Guidelines for Transport of Live Animals.
15. The Secretariat has noticed an increase in the rate of reporting the outcomes of transporting live animals of the targeted species subsequent to the distribution of document Doc. 11.54. Concern was expressed in this document about the low rate of response to various requests to collect information. The Secretariat welcomes the improved rate of reporting, notes the apparent low incidence of mortality in general and recommends that the TWG should report the analysis of reports received at the 17th meeting of the Committee.
16. The Secretariat is concerned that recording transport mortality in the present system would at best only represent a fraction of the total mortality associated with the exports of the species concerned. The TWG is encouraged to consider how information on mortality can be obtained from the major exporters of the targeted species concerning mortality prior to export and how such mortality affects trade control practices at the domestic level. A useful field to explore is for instance to determine whether authorization is granted for the removal, keeping, breeding or export of compensatory numbers of specimens when deaths occur before export or whether Management Authorities reconcile numbers authorized to be removed from the wild with actual numbers exported. The Secretariat is, however, not in favour of attempts to solicit such information through the issuance of a Notification. Alternative methods of survey should be considered, such as an externally-funded research project designed for such a purpose.