

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

The attached information document has been submitted by Israel

COMMERCIAL TRADE IN APPENDIX-I SPECIES

1. *Background:*

Decision 13.20, adopted by the Parties at CoP 13 (Bangkok, 2004), states:

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) conduct a review of trade in Appendix-I plant and animal species, through UNEP-WCMC. The review should take into account all exports, re-exports, and imports of Appendix-I specimens, including the species name, the source and purpose codes, existing exemptions and all other relevant information for the last five years. The identity of individual Parties should be protected in the report; and
- b) consider the UNEP-WCMC report and draft recommendations, if necessary, based on the analysis of Appendix-I trade, at its 54th meeting, and present these recommendations for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. At its 54th meeting (Geneva, 2006), the Standing Committee reviewed a report on Commercial Trade in Appendix-I Species prepared by UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (SC54 Doc. 20). The summary of the discussion of this report, which appears in SC54 Sum. 3 (Rev. 1) (03/10/06), states:

The Secretariat introduced document SC54 Doc. 20. The Standing Committee adopted recommendations a), c) and d):

- a) The Secretariat should examine the evidence of cases where it appears that there might have been a contravention of the Convention and discuss this with the States concerned. If necessary, it should initiate the procedure provided in Article XIII of the Convention and, in this case, it should inform the Standing Committee.
- c) The Clearing House should be asked to advise the Standing Committee as to which body should consider how to deal with the problem that Management Authorities may be unaware of imports that have taken place when specimens are shipped by mail (seeds of cacti and orchids for example).
- d) With regard to the use of source codes on permits and in annual reports, the Animals and Plants Committees should take into consideration the comments in the report from UNEP-WCMC when preparing their document for CoP14 regarding production systems.

The SC also agreed to the following:

- The Secretariat should investigate the cases of anomalous records and seek to solve any problems in consultation with the Parties concerned; and
- Where records from annual reports appear to indicate that a Party has been authorizing commercial exports of captive-bred animal specimens that do not originate from operations included in the Secretariat's Register, the Secretariat should ask the Parties concerned to investigate and remind them that such trade is contrary to the agreement in Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13).

3. The UNEP-WCMC report clearly demonstrated that:

- a) zoos and circuses are responsible for much of the commercial trade in Appendix-I species;
- b) there is ongoing commercial trade in specimens of Appendix-I species that were not captive-bred at a registered breeding operation , contrary to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13) (Guidelines for a procedure to register and monitor operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes), which states:

“Parties shall restrict imports for primarily commercial purposes, as defined in Resolution Conf. 5.10, of captive-bred specimens of Appendix-I species to those produced by operations included in the Secretariat's Register and shall reject any document granted under Article VII, paragraph 4, if the specimens concerned do not originate from such an operation and if the document does not describe the specific identifying mark applied to each specimen”; and

- c) there are large numbers of wild-caught Appendix I specimens, especially *Ara macao*, being exported to Parties without a reservation;
 - d) there are large numbers of wild-caught Appendix I specimens being traded as scientific specimens;
 - e) purpose codes are commonly misapplied or misused for Appendix-I species in trade. For example, many live animals are traded with purpose code P, often in shipments containing large numbers of specimens that are clearly not personal pets. Also, different purpose codes are often used for the same animal on the import and export permits issued for one transaction, making enforcement and monitoring more difficult. These problems may be attributed to the fact that Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13) does not provide clear definitions for the purpose codes nor does it address the need to use the same purpose code on both import and export permits,
4. Such an abundance of cases of commercial trade in specimens of Appendix-I species, apparently in contradiction of the Convention, shows the need for closer monitoring and follow up by the Secretariat and the Standing Committee.
5. Israel recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopts the following three Decisions:

Decision 14.XXX - Directed to the Secretariat:

The Secretariat shall report to each meeting of the Standing Committee on its investigation of all anomalous records and all cases of commercial trade in Appendix-I species, including trade of wild-caught specimens and specimens from non-registered captive breeding facilities contrary to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13), and on the results of all discussions with Parties about such cases.

Decision 14.YYY - Directed to the Standing Committee:

The Standing Committee shall establish a working group (and its TOR) at its 57th meeting to continue the investigation and analysis of data and information on commercial trade in specimens of Appendix-I species provided by the Secretariat and other sources. The working group's reports will assist the Secretariat in finding cases to investigate as per Decision 14.XXX. The working group will make recommendations to the Standing Committee on additional actions that need to be taken to address ongoing commercial trade in specimens of Appendix-I species.

Decision 14.ZZZ - Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees:

The Animals and Plants Committees shall form a joint working group which will prepare recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees on the definitions of the Purpose Codes listed in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13), and possible changes to the list. The Animals and Plants Committees will provide their recommendations to the Parties for consideration at CoP15.

6. As a way to address the problems mentioned in paragraph 3 e) above, with different purpose codes being used on import and export permits, Israel recommends the following addition to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13) Part I, under, RECOMMENDS, subparagraph f).

[added text is in **bold**]

- f) Parties state, on each of their permits and certificates, the purpose of the transaction using the following codes, **and also ensure that the identical purpose code is used during each transaction on both the import and corresponding export, or re-export permit issued for all transactions involving Appendix-I listed specimens.**