

WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE,
DR. CARLOS R. VILLALOBOS SOLE

Your Excellency,
President of the Republic, Rodrigo Carazo,
Vice-Minister of Natural Resources, Mario López,
Ministers of the Government of Costa Rica,
Ministers of Friend Countries,
Representatives of International Bodies,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to speak to you this morning, to welcome you most cordially at the official opening of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

This event is the culmination of an enormous collective effort which began in late 1977 when our country was selected as the site of this second meeting. From that moment, many institutions and individuals contributed in one form or another towards the organization of the meeting. I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Dr. Rodolfo Quiros Guardia, former Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, for the enthusiasm and assistance he gave to the original initiative; to His Excellency the President of the Republic for his firm support; to His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. Hernán Fonseca; to Her Excellency the Minister of Cultural Affairs, Youth and Sports, Dr. Marina Volio; to the Costa Rica Tourist Institute, the Presidential Cabinet Minister; to the National Insurance Institute, and to the Costa Rican Oil Refinery.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In recent years, we witnessed a significant increase of concern among the peoples of the world with the rational utilization of renewable natural resources, and with the conservation of species suffering from the impact of an expanding society with an ever more sophisticated technology at its disposal.

Even so, we still have a long way to go, and only through a joint effort will we be able to reach our fundamental goal. In this sense, I consider this second meeting of the Parties as taking on a transcendental role for the future of the Convention.

Distinguished visitors, let me express, in the name of the Local Organizing Committee, our most sincere wish that the discussions and agreements resulting from the two weeks to come will positively contribute to the consolidation of the aims of the Convention and thereby to the philosophy underlying it.

SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE,
DR. PETER GAFNER

Mr. President,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Steering Committee I would like to express my thanks to the Government of Costa Rica for hosting this second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In particular, I would like to thank the members of the Local Committee here in Costa Rica who have helped to organize the meeting and the Secretariat for the tremendous amount of work and skill which has gone into the international organization of this meeting.

As you know, arrangements for a meeting of this sort are very complex and difficult. At the time of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Berne, Switzerland, there were only 32 Parties. One year later, when the special working session was held in Geneva, the number of Parties had increased to 37. Now we have 50 Parties. Indonesia will become the 51st Party during this meeting. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties created a five-nation Steering Committee to help in the organization of these meetings. The Committee has worked with the Secretariat and with the Local Committee in Costa Rica on organizational matters, particularly on the establishment of the Agenda. The Steering Committee has also been active in representing the Parties to UNEP on the question of financing the Secretariat.

The Steering Committee also helped to organize the special working session held in Geneva in 1977. That session dealt with a number of matters of practical significance for the implementation of the Convention, most of which would be acted upon by you at this meeting.

The question of appropriate financing of the Secretariat was also raised at the special working session. On behalf of all the Parties, I would like to thank UNEP for the financial and moral support provided to CITES.

At the present meeting, I believe that some of the most important topics for the Parties to consider are adequate financing of the Secretariat, a critical review of the appendices, and the exchange of information and views on the practical operation of the meeting. I urge the Parties to give objective and careful consideration to these matters and to the other items on the Working Programme. I am sure that in the spirit of open discussions and willing cooperation to solve mutual problems in the interest of conservation of wild animals and plants, this will be a successful meeting.

SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, DR. MOSTAFA K. TOLBA

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable President,
Distinguished Delegates,

May I first, Mr. Chairman, join the participants in congratulating you on your designation as Chairman of this important international gathering.

May I also take this occasion to pay tribute to the President, the Government, the local organizers and the people of Costa Rica for hosting this meeting and for having so generously devoted their time to ensuring that the preparations for it have been so successfully undertaken. A special word of thanks and deep gratitude goes to Costa Rica for its continued support and interest in the United Nations Environment Programme.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Six years have already passed since the United Nations Environment Programme was established by a General Assembly decision in December 1972 on the recommendation of the Stockholm Conference. With the cooperation of Governments, UN agencies and organs and many national and international non-governmental bodies, UNEP acts as a catalyst in implementing specific activities that illustrate appropriate means of managing the resources of the environment and promoting the adoption of patterns of development and life styles that are environmentally sound. Our major goal is to ensure the satisfaction of man's requirements for present and future generations and the availability of better quality of life for all without depleting or destroying the natural resource base upon which our well-being and survival depends. And this must be done through rational use of natural resources, and ensuring that we are not transgressing the limits of the biosphere within which we live. We would like to feel that when we take stock of the situation in 1982, ten years after Stockholm, the environment will be in better health, in most if not all its aspects, that it was when that most significant Conference was held.

In the short history of its existence, UNEP has tried to draw attention to several important issues. In doing so it has played not too small a role in promoting conservation of natural terrestrial and marine ecosystems as an integral part of our economic and social development. One of our major contributions in this area, resulting from our long-standing cooperation with IUCN, is the World Conservation Strategy which is being finalized and will be ready for launching some time in September of this year.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable President,
Distinguished Delegates,

In 1973 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was adopted and UNEP, then less than a year old, was given responsibility for providing the Convention's Secretariat. Concern for the survival of endangered species has been evident for many decades and was reflected in a number of national actions during the first quarter of this century. However, increasingly efficient means of transport and communication, coupled with an ever increasing demand, led in recent decades to an increase in the international trade in wild animals that constituted a real threat to the survival of many species. Many of the present uses of wild animals and their products can be considered as quite irrational. It was against this background that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species was prepared. It was initialled in Washington by 80 nations and signed by 20 nations. It came into force in July 1975. Fifty States are now Parties to the Convention.

While this is an important achievement, much remains to be done. Only with a considerably larger number of Parties can the Convention be implemented and made effective in halting the uncontrolled international trade in wild animals and plants with all its adverse effects. I would like to urge all those States which have not yet ratified the Convention and deposited their instrument to do so as soon as possible.

This Second Conference of the Parties will no doubt, provide an excellent further opportunity for you to exchange information and views on how to make the Convention's mechanisms and procedures more fully effective. It also provides an opportunity to identify and resolve any existing problems that may be preventing the effective implementation of the Convention by Governments. This is a tremendous and complex global task which needs your collective wisdom and serious consideration. It is vital that the exchange of views at this conference be candid, open and constructive. I am sure your objective in gathering here is to put the Convention to work.

I am sure you would agree with me that effective international cooperation in regulating trade in endangered species of wild animals and plants would diminish threats to those species. However, trade regulation alone is not enough, since many species are facing the threat of becoming endangered not only through trade, but also through environmental and habitat degradation and large scale land development activities. The UNEP/FAO scientific consultations on Marine Mammals held in Bergen, Norway, in September 1976 identified a larger number of cetaceans, for example, as deemed endangered, than your present list in Appendix II to the Convention contains. This is but one example of the issue you have to seriously consider.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Article XII of the Convention stipulates that a Secretariat shall be provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and that, to the extent and in the manner he considers appropriate, he may be assisted by suitable intergovernmental or non-governmental, international or national agencies and bodies technically qualified in protection, conservation and management of wild fauna and flora.

Fully conscious of the responsibility laid upon him by the Convention, the Executive Director of UNEP at the time, my predecessor, Mr. Maurice Strong, concluded, and rightly so in my belief, that the best way to discharge his responsibility would be through an agreement with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources whereby IUCN would provide the staff and facilities to undertake the Secretariat function. That decision was taken in light of the facts that IUCN had a long history of expertise in and constructive concern with the conservation of wild animals and plants, and had been instrumental in the preparation for the Plenipotentiary Conference. The fact that UNEP contracted with IUCN to carry out the Secretariat functions by no means reflected an abdication of interest or responsibility. On the contrary, UNEP's Governing Council has designated the preservation of endangered species as a priority area of UNEP activities.

You may be interested to know that during the past five years of collaboration with IUCN, UNEP has committed a total of approximately US \$ 1,135,000 to IUCN for the purpose of the Convention, including the first and this second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and a special working session of the Conference of the Parties held in Geneva in October 1977. The contribution made by UNEP in providing Secretariat services for the Convention was recognized with appreciation in a decision by the Governing Council of UNEP when it met at its Fifth Session in Nairobi in 1977.

My letter to the Parties dated 1 March 1978 confirmed my intention to enlarge the already established Secretariat under the terms of a UNEP project within the limits of available financial resources.... The letter also conveyed to the Parties my proposals for cost-sharing arrangements, including direct financial support by the Parties for the operation of the Secretariat and the convening of meetings of the Conference of the Parties. In making these proposals I was not forgetful of UNEP's responsibility towards the Convention Secretariat. Rather I was being mindful of the basic philosophy underlying all UNEP's activities, namely that they are catalytic in nature. Activities initiated with UNEP's support are expected to attract additional financial support if they prove successful, so that within a reasonable time they can continue without relying on UNEP for financial inputs, or with minimal financial involvement on UNEP's part. In this way only can we phase out of what we would consider successful achievements and thus be able to turn our attention to the identification of the various other priority spheres where catalytic support by UNEP is necessary to promote environmental action.

With this basic philosophy in mind, the Governing Council last year called upon the Second Conference of the Parties to the Convention to establish an arrangement for sharing the administrative costs of the Secretariat, and for gradually reducing the UNEP Fund contributions to such costs, and ending them at the earliest possible date, and in any event no later than the end of 1983. The Governing Council, however, invited the Parties to the Convention, 20 of whom were members of the Governing Council, to submit project proposals to UNEP from time to time to assist in the effective implementation of the Convention. In the same Decision the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to provide US \$ 700,000 to the Secretariat for the biennium 1978-1979, and I am pleased to inform you that this has been done. It also directed, that on the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, no subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties should be financed by UNEP. This Decision was communicated to all Parties.

As already stated in my letter to the Parties dated 9 November 1978, I propose that from 1980 onwards UNEP's financial contribution to the administrative costs of the Secretariat for the Convention should be gradually reduced, ceasing preferably by the end of 1982. I would also like to reiterate the view I conveyed a year ago to the Parties: that further support for the Convention should include direct financial contribution by the Parties, starting not later than the beginning of 1980. I therefore strongly appeal again to all Contracting Parties to reach agreement, at this meeting, on an appropriate cost-sharing arrangement for this purpose. This should cover not only the period when UNEP will still provide a contribution but also a future when, according to the Decision of the Governing Council, UNEP will terminate its contribution to the cost of the Secretariat of the Convention.

In order to facilitate such an arrangement, a working document was prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention at the request of the Steering Committee, and was sent to you. This document described the background, summarized options for action, and provided an estimate of the required expenditures for the next biennium. It also contained three possible alternatives for a cost-sharing arrangement, followed by an analysis of procedures relating to the administration of funds. Comments and alternative suggestions received from the Parties are provided in a supplementary document presented to this meeting.

It is my hope that, based on a serious consideration of the various options open to the Conference, you will reach an agreement that will lead to a further strengthening of the Secretariat, in the spirit of the Berne Resolution, and the Decisions of the UNEP Governing Council for the implementation of the Convention.

I would like to end by expressing my best wishes for a most rewarding conference and I await your conclusions and recommendations with much interest, since I am sure they will contribute greatly to your most appreciated global effort to preserve the diversity of species living on our planet, a pre-requisite for its stability.

SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DR. DAVID A. MUNRO

Let me begin by saying how pleased I am to see this meeting taking place in Costa Rica. Last week our Union completed important meetings here - meetings of our Survival Service Commission and the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas. The meeting of the Survival Service Commission was, indeed, relevant to the present meeting since the Survival Service Commission is the arm of IUCN that is primarily concerned with defining the status of species. Judging from the most hospitable and efficient way in which our Costa Rican colleagues helped in the organization of those meetings, I am already sure that the present conference will be equally successful.

Costa Rica has a splendid record in conservation, including the establishment of a number of excellent national parks. The President of Costa Rica is providing inspiring leadership in this and many other fields as he expounds exciting concepts, such as that of a World University for Peace. IUCN has a number of links with Costa Rica; one government agency and three non-governmental organizations in Costa Rica are members of IUCN; the Chairman of our Executive Bureau, Maurice Strong, has many contacts and interests in Costa Rica; and our former Director General, Gerardo Budowski, is now the Director of CATIE, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza at Turrialba.

Costa Rica is among the group of the States which first ratified the Washington Convention - in 1975 - the year it entered into force.

When I trace the involvement of IUCN in this Convention, I have to go back even further in history. It was a resolution adopted at the 8th General Assembly of our Union, in Nairobi in 1963, which called for the preparation of a convention on the export, import and transit of endangered species, and which initiated its drafting, in which IUCN participated continuously until the adoption of the Convention ten years later.

As the Executive Director of UNEP, my friend and colleague Dr. Mostafa Tolba has mentioned, the actual administration of the Convention Secretariat has since 1974 been carried out by IUCN, under a joint project arrangement with UNEP which I believe has produced good results. Because of the prior and ongoing work of our Union in the conservation of endangered species, and as a result of the active participation of the international expert groups collaborating through the IUCN Survival Service Commission, this was probably the most rational way of using the limited resources available for a task which is worldwide in scope and continuing in nature. It is our hope that the present meeting, which will have to make crucial and far-reaching decisions on future support for this task, will ensure the stability and continuity of Secretariat services required. IUCN holds no brief for any particular mechanism for providing continuing support for the CITES Secretariat. It does

have and wishes to convey to this meeting, the strong conviction that there should be no lapse in such support, whatever modalities for support may be agreed by all concerned.

The small IUCN unit provided by UNEP, which currently serves as the Secretariat for the Convention, and which organized the present meeting, is no more than a "core" - it provides the absolute minimum of services required to operate the Convention at its present level. Yet, at the same time, support for the Convention itself is growing rapidly: its membership has almost doubled since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and continues to increase at an unusually high rate. So, therefore, does the workload of the Secretariat. This means that even as we base our calculations on current figures, and knowing that the CITES unit is already understaffed, we are inevitably headed for a severe workload squeeze in the immediate future. I consider it my duty to warn you of this imminent and serious problem - which may be said to be the very price of success, a direct consequence of the impressive growth rate of this Convention.

I should also say, and I realize that you will be devoting most of your time to this sort of issue, that the status of a number of species of plants and animals, some already the subject of this Convention, others not, is deteriorating at a perilous rate. Thus, in spite of the advances that have been made, this is no time for complacency. The fate of species demands serious and continuing attention.

The first three and a half years of experience with the Convention have been challenging indeed. The structure of IUCN - its unique blend of Government representatives, conservation experts and "environmentalists" - has offered a number of advantages, and to some extent a model, for the implementation of this sort of Convention. For it is through a combination of three levels of organizational action that the day-to-day work of the Secretariat is now being carried out; these are:

- direct cooperation between a worldwide network of national Management Authorities, inter-connecting those who administer the Convention at the governmental level;
- a "pool" of advice from national Scientific Authorities, ensuring that decisions are made on the basis of the best available knowledge; and
- active participation by concerned citizens, including through IUCN, who contribute to the proper enforcement of the Convention by monitoring actual compliance and by voicing public interests in the conservation of our natural heritage.

There is, however, another dimension to conservation, which it seems worth emphasizing in conclusion. The bulk of international trade in endangered species is a factor in the "North-South" view of present day world politics. The dominant pattern in trade in endangered species is a steady flow of finite natural resources from the developing, "southern" part to the

industrialized, "northern" part of the world. The draftsmen of this Convention were, of course, not only aware of this dimension, they were responding to what they saw as the adverse effects of it from the viewpoint of conserving genetic resources. Thus they established a carefully balanced system of trade controls between exporting and importing countries. But there is obviously more to it than export/import mechanics. The decline in stocks of certain heavily-traded species continues, in some cases at a really alarming rate. At the same time, for certain countries and social groups the utilization of these resources is more closely related to their own economic survival today than to the distant goals of nature preservation in the future. In these circumstances, no trade controls will ever be effective unless we can find alternative ways of survival for those people most directly affected, and unless we can thus persuade them that conservation is not a "zero-sum" game which is bound to leave some partners worse off, but rather a common cause with the assurance of common and enduring benefits for all. What is perhaps a primary aim of this Convention is to ensure that the immense benefits of trade in the products of wild species can be made to endure and thus provide a solid base for the only kind of development that is really worthwhile - sustainable development.

SPEECH BY THE VICE-MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES OF COSTA RICA,
ING. MARIO LOPEZ LORIA

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to represent the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. Hernán Fonseca Zamora, on the occasion of the inauguration of the second meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Dr. Hernán Fonseca Zamora is on an official visit abroad and asks you to accept his apologies for not being able to be present. He would like to wish you the greatest success in the meeting you are inaugurating today.

Because of its natural wealth, since time immemorial Costa Rica has been singled out as one of the most beautiful and favoured of the countries on this earth. Studies and papers, both general and specific, have recommended that we take great care to ensure that our territory be administered with consideration and devotion so that its wealth lasts indefinitely. Reflecting this attitude, Costa Ricans have tried to avoid squandering these resources, which does not benefit anyone, and have enacted a varied body of legislation which guarantees that renewable natural resources are put to productive ends. Unfortunately, good advice is not always accepted when there are no shortages and some destruction of resources has taken place.

Legislation and sanctions for infringements alone cannot always ensure that wise attitudes are translated into lasting action. The issue is more complex, and there is always a need for human, technical and economic resources to study and assess the best options for the rational use of renewable natural resources.

Costa Rica does, in fact, possess a wide variety of natural systems, ranging from dray, tropical forests to wet moorlands found within short distances of one another between the seashore and the high mountains. Herein lies the great natural beauty of Costa Rica.

Man, as just one component of these natural resources, must achieve the goal of peaceful co-existence in harmonious equilibrium with all that surrounds him. The goods and services, both direct and indirect offered by these natural resources should be used to maintain a desirable quality of life for all.

Through the republican process, Costa Rican Governments have publicised and supported measures designed to ensure the rational use of natural resources. The Law on Forests, No. 4465, issued on 25 November 1969, inter alia defines Forest Policy and Administration, creates the Forest Heritage of the State

and authorized the establishment of protection zones, biological reserves, national parks and forest reserves, through Executive Decrees - to cite provisions relevant to this legislation. This law consolidates the reserves set up under earlier laws and allows the establishment of new reserves. Without counting areas which are currently under study, 640,000 hectares are covered by this law: of these, 470,000 hectares are forest reserves and protected zones and 170,000 hectares are national parks and equivalent reserves. This means that this law sets aside more than 12% of the territory of Costa Rica as a pledge towards the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural renewable resources.

The President of the Republic, Lic. Rodrigo Carazo Odio has expressed the view both orally and in writing that his Government will support all private and public measures designed to ensure that the specified areas and those which are soon to be established help Costa Ricans to live a healthy life. He has also said that his Government will give priority to programmes designed to improve these areas. In this way, the present Government fulfils its programme which is in keeping with the Social Christian doctrine; it promotes the continuous and perpetual use of natural resources for the benefit of all the people of Costa Rica.

Costa Rica's complex of fauna and flora, the soil which sustains them and the water which enables them to live, constitute our most important source of wealth, since we depend on these for the production of food, important raw materials and other goods which if exploited rationally and scientifically can be obtained indefinitely. If encouraged and well managed, agriculture, forestry, cattle raising, fishing and the protection of scenic beauty bring general prosperity and well-being to our people. This is the goal of our Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock and is the reason why it gives us particular pleasure that this meeting is being held in our country. The scientific exchange will undoubtedly give rise to large quantities of information which can be used to improve the mechanisms of international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. As we all share the same attitude, we will be able to adopt sound and successful measures which will contribute towards a rational use of the multi-faceted complex of Renewable Natural Resources and thus allow us to pass on to our children in the very near future, a Costa Rica which is conscious of the intrinsic value of its riches.

