

18.39 Taking of Wild Birds for the Pet Trade

RECOGNIZING that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an appropriate mechanism for regulating international trade in wild animals and plants;

EMPHASIZING that CITES Article IV provides a mechanism for ensuring that international trade in wild animal and plant species is not detrimental to their survival;

NOTING that both the CITES Parties in 1976 (Res. Conf. 1.6) and the IUCN General Assembly in 1978 (Resolution 14.25) have called for appropriate restrictions on the trade in live animals caught in the wild for use as pets, with the objective of eventually limiting such trade to those species which can be bred in captivity;

CONCERNED that, despite such resolutions and the requirements of CITES Article IV, trade in some species continues at levels not justified by scientific findings of non-detriment, as evidenced, for example, in the OTES/IUCN report *Significant Trade in Wildlife*;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the live animal trade, in particular that in wild birds, remains largely unregulated and has been shown to be causing the decline of many species;

RECOGNIZING that some countries have not yet adopted legislation implementing CITES, and in particular, have not adopted enforcement programmes adequate to protect wild birds and to distinguish systematically between legal and illegal trade;

CONCERNED that many wild birds suffer injuries or die as a result of capture and transport methods that are inhumane or otherwise do not take into consideration the physiological needs or behavioural traits of the species involved;

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGED that CITES has established a committee to develop guidelines for live animal transport;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

1. ASKS the Parties to CITES to request their Secretariat to review the implementation of CITES Article IV, particularly as it pertains to the live bird trade;
2. ASKS the Parties to CITES to request their Secretariat to submit a report to the next meeting of the Parties in 1992 on the results of that review, with recommendations for resolving the problems;
3. STRONGLY URGES all CITES Parties, IUCN members, and countries involved in the wild bird trade to review the adequacy of their domestic legislation and, where necessary, to adopt new legislation for the purposes of:
 - a. fully implementing Article IV of CITES;
 - b. monitoring and regulating the bird trade at both national and international levels and its impact on wild populations;
 - c. regulating the holding and transport of live animals, with the guidelines of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to be adopted as minimum requirements;
4. ENCOURAGES the continuation and expansion of research on the status of wild bird populations, particularly for species popular in trade, on the effect of trade on such populations, and on techniques for captive breeding, reintroduction and recovery of declining species;
5. URGES the governments of all CITES Parties and IUCN members to implement CITES Conference

Resolution 1.6 and encourage the commercial captive breeding of birds, through cooperative programmes, as an alternative to the taking of birds from the wild;

6. FURTHER URGES all countries to prohibit the import and export of captive-bred birds unless marked by seamless leg bands or other techniques in order to ensure their proper identification and to minimize illegal trade in wild birds;
FURTHER URGES that mechanisms be developed through CITES or other international agreements to ensure that developing countries receive financial assistance in implementing Article IV of CITES and this recommendation;
8. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to report to the next Session of the General Assembly on the progress made in implementing this recommendation;
9. REQUESTS the Director General, unless he has previously determined that substantial progress has been made in implementing CITES Article IV and this recommendation:
 - a. after appropriate consultations, to prepare a recommendation for introduction at the 19th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN, urging the Conference of the Parties of CITES and all countries to prohibit international trade in species of wild birds used in the pet trade by 1 January 1990, except for approved purposes of zoological exhibition, *bona fide* scientific research and cooperative captive breeding programmes;
 - b. to recommend additional restrictions on the trade in wild birds for the purpose of improving implementation of CITES Article IV and this recommendation.