

19.49 International Trade in Wild Birds

RECALLING Recommendation 18.39 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly on the Taking of Wild Birds for the Pet Trade and noting the report issued by the Director General (Addendum 2 to General Assembly Paper GA/19/94/3) discussing progress made and remaining problem areas;

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGED that the CITES Secretariat, the CITES Animals Committee and some countries have taken steps to improve the management of the trade;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that some countries heavily involved in international bird trade do not have functioning, independent Scientific Authorities and are not fully implementing CITES Article IV;

FURTHER CONCERNED that international trade continues in some bird species at levels which may be detrimental to the survival of those species throughout their respective ranges;

AWARE that the International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines on the shipment of live birds frequently remain unenforced and concerned that most countries have not adopted these guidelines as law;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CONGRATULATES those exporting and importing countries involved in the international trade in wild birds that have taken steps to improve the management of the trade;
2. STRONGLY URGES all countries allowing commercial exports that have not already done so to prepare and adopt clear policy frameworks on the bird trade, and to implement management programmes to ensure that all trade of wild-caught birds is conducted on a sustainable basis, for example, by establishing incentives for conservation of species and their habitats, establishing quotas, monitoring wild populations and adapting management actions as appropriate;
3. STRONGLY URGES all governments allowing commercial imports of bird species listed on CITES Appendix II to permit such imports only when they meet the following criteria:
 - (a) the country of origin of the specimen is implementing CITES, particularly with respect to the establishment of a Scientific Authority, the requirements of Article IV of the Convention, and any remedial measures recommended under the authority of the Conference of Parties with respect to that species;
 - (b) the methods of capture, transport and maintenance of the species minimize the risk of injury or damage to health;
4. FURTHER URGES that where exporting and importing countries have evidence that current levels of trade would threaten species (other than those already listed on Appendix II of CITES), they should consider appropriate controls and should submit proposals to the next Conference of the Parties to CITES for appropriate listing;
5. SUPPORTS the continuation and expansion of the CITES significant trade review process and urges all countries to implement resultant CITES recommendations promptly;
6. REQUESTS the donor community, and in particular importing countries, non-governmental organizations and entities which are deriving commercial benefit from the wild bird trade, to provide financial and technical assistance to exporting countries to assist them in developing management programmes to meet the requirements of CITES Article IV;
7. URGES all countries, with effect from 1 January 1994:
 - (a) to cease the import of CITES-listed birds from any country until that country has met the criteria in Paragraphs 2 and 3; and
 - (b) to cease the export of CITES-listed birds until the criteria in Paragraphs 2 and 3 have been met;
8. URGES all governments involved in the international trade in wild birds to review their current laws and develop new laws as required to regulate the holding and international transport of birds, using the IATA guidelines as minimum standards;
9. FURTHER URGES all governments to ensure that captive-bred CITES Appendix I birds be identified by appropriate techniques prior to permitting import or export;
10. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources and in consultation with the CITES Secretariat, to monitor compliance with the specific

recommendations of Paragraphs 2, 3 and 6 of this Recommendation and to report to the next Session of the General Assembly.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. An amendment to delete Operative Paragraph 7 was defeated by a show of hands. On behalf of the State member delegations present from the European Union, the State member delegation for Greece stated that the European Union strongly supports the Recommendation except Operative Paragraph 7, which, it feels, introduces unnecessary rigidity, especially for developing countries. Under these circumstances, it declares that its consent to the Recommendation including Paragraph 7 does not mean that the European Union will feel obliged to implement the conditions mentioned in that paragraph.