

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

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THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
New Delhi (India), 25 February to 8 March 1981

General Matters of Principle Relating to the Appendices

REVERSE LISTING CONCEPT FOR APPENDICES

This document was prepared by the Commonwealth of Australia.

At the XVII World Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation, 13-18 June 1978, the following resolution was adopted:

Recognising that any exploitation of wild birds should be based on sound biological and ecological principles;

Being aware that data for evaluating the exploitation of birds on this basis are frequently lacking; and

Recalling that at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), held in Berne in November 1976, a resolution was passed urging exporting countries gradually to restrict the collection of wild animals for that purpose with the object of eventually limiting the keeping of pets to those species which can be bred in captivity; and

Recognising the increasing practical problems involved in identifying the numerous species listed for varying degrees of control in the appendices to CITES:

RECOMMENDS that governments of any countries which permit trade in birds should allow trade only in listed species which are not threatened by trade and that this principle be adopted by CITES to replace the present appendices to the Convention.

This resolution identifies the problems arising from continuing additions to appendices and recommends that the principle of "reverse or clean" listing be adopted by CITES to replace the present appendices. Such lists would comprise only those species which have been proposed for commercial trade by a Party and for which there is agreement that a sufficient level of knowledge, management and control exists to ensure that the proposed trade will not threaten the species survival. The onus would be on the proponent to provide these data to the Conference of the Parties and a proposal would be dealt with in a manner similar to that presently adopted for appendix listings.

It is envisaged that there would be two or more listings to enable categorisation according to levels of restrictions on trade. Commercial trade would only be permitted in species on these lists.

Australia commends to the Conference of the Parties the principle of "reverse or clean" listing, and proposes that its adoption to replace the present appendices be examined by an expert committee which would report to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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Reverse Listing Concept for Appendices

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES\*

NOTING the increasing practical problems involved in identifying the numerous species listed for varying degrees of control on the appendices of the Convention;

HEARING at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties the discussions indicating difficulties in identifying particular subspecies that require management and limitations in trade;

NOTING that listing species to be controlled by name has made problems with taxonomic synonyms, taxa validity, etc., and has created enforcement difficulties;

AWARE that other means of presenting the appendices might solve these problems;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOMMENDS that a sub-committee of experts be appointed to examine whether other methods of classification may offer better administrative procedures and more effective management of endangered species and subspecies;

RECOMMENDS further that such a committee examine the implications of the general concept of listing on schedules species in which commercial trade is permitted (as compared to the current system, in which trade in listed species is restricted), and examine all ramifications (including legal problems, if any) in implementing any changes they might wish to put before a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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