

## CITES CONFERENCE - JAPAN

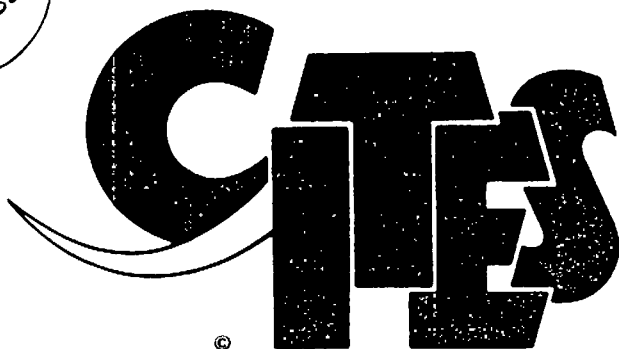
Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr M. Watanabe, addressed the delegations, observers and journalists. Particular reference was made to the role of CITES in promoting sustainable development in the developing world and the necessity of CITES being pushed into the mainstream of government.

On behalf of the Africa region, Malawi proposed that, because of the large number of Parties represented in the Africa region, consideration be given to increase that region's representation on the Standing Committee. After some discussion, it was agreed that a document addressing the membership of the Committee be prepared for consideration at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The following nominations for representative and alternate members of the Standing Committee were adopted by the Conference of the Parties: Senegal and Namibia (Africa region); Thailand and India (Asia region); Trinidad and Tobago, and Panama (Central and South America and Caribbean region); Sweden and Denmark (European region); Canada and Mexico (North American region); and New Zealand and Papua New Guinea (Oceania region). The Standing Committee elected the following officers: New Zealand (Chairman); Trinidad and Tobago (Vice-Chairman); and Sweden (alternate Vice-Chairman).

Recent staff changes at the CITES Secretariat had prompted the need to develop clear guidelines for the supervision and recruitment of executive staff. The document Terms of reference for the administration of the Secretariat by UNEP, authored by the Standing Committee, laid down certain provisions to be observed by the Executive Director of UNEP, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General of CITES with regard to personnel and financial matters. In future, the roles of UNEP and the Standing Committee will be guided by an Agreement reached by the two entities and adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

A summary of the work of the Animals Committee was presented to the Conference. During the four meetings since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals Committee had managed to address all issues assigned to its attention. The report drew particular attention to: concerns about the status and role of scientific authorities; review of the Berne Criteria; implementation of field studies; continuation of the CITES Significant Trade Review; assessment of marking techniques; and the results of the Ten Year Review project. The Parties were asked to endorse resolutions proposed by the Committee relating to the Ten Year Review, marking, and Significant Trade, and to support the continuation of the Significant Trade Project. Members elected to the Animals Committee were: Robert Jenkins, Chairman, Oceania; Nobuo Ishi, Asia; Jonathan Hutton, Africa; Rainer Blanke, Europe; and Sixta Inchaustegui Miranda, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Tragically, the person designated by Mexico to represent the North American region was in a helicopter that crashed and, although the helicopter has not been found, is believed to be dead.



### Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

*The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES was held in Kyoto, Japan, from 2 to 13 March 1992. Altogether, there were some 1590 participants including delegations from 103 Party States and observers from six non-Party States, 140 non-governmental organizations and 586 members of the press.*

*The following report of the meeting is a summary containing what the authors judge to be the most significant points. Some details of Resolutions and other matters have therefore been omitted. Official proceedings of the meeting will be published by the CITES Secretariat.*

The meeting was opened by Mr K. Kakizawa, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. He emphasized the economic and aesthetic value of wildlife to humans, recalled the efforts made in Japan for wildlife conservation and stressed the importance of this year, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations meeting which gave birth to CITES, and the year when the Earth Summit would take place. Further introductory speeches were made by Mr S. Nakamura, Minister of State, Director General of Japan's Environment Agency, and Mr N. Hatakeyama, Vice-Minister for International Affairs of Japan, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, who drew attention to the measures taken by Japan to improve its implementation of CITES and emphasized the need for co-operation between exporting and importing countries. Mr M. W. Matemba, Chairman of the Standing Committee of CITES, welcomed the new Parties and the new Secretary General, Ambassador I. Topkov and thanked the Secretariat for their work and dedication. The Secretary General in turn expressed thanks to the Japanese Government, the CITES Management Authority of Japan and the people of Kyoto for their hospitality and for providing the facilities for the meeting.

In addition to the official opening of the meeting, a special session of the Plenary was convened on the third day, during which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Dr M. Tolba, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, and the Minister of

of 27 taxa were subject to proposals included in the 14 Ten Year Review proposals. Two of these were withdrawn at an early stage and 21 of them were adopted unanimously by Committee I and adopted without amendment in Plenary. Three plant proposals were adopted which had been amended so that they were transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II rather than deletions from the Appendices. Only one proposal was the subject of discussion: the transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II of an orchid, *Didicteia cunninghamii*. There has been no recorded trade in the species but the delegation from the only range state, wished to retain the species in Appendix I under the terms of Resolution Conf. 2.19 because of its extreme rarity. The proposal was withdrawn and India agreed to carry out a study on the species and report the results before the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### Proposals:

##### *Acinonyx jubatus*

Botswana and Zimbabwe proposed that the Cheetah populations of Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe be transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II. They argued that in southern Africa, only an estimated 24% of the population occurs in protected areas, and that the species generally do not do well in protected areas due to interspecific competition with other large carnivores. On private land, Cheetah is viewed by farmers as a major threat to livestock and large numbers are killed annually in pest control. The proponents argued that the only solution to the problem of securing the conservation of viable free-roaming Cheetah populations on private land is to give the landowner the opportunity of obtaining direct financial gain and compensation for the loss incurred, thus encouraging him to tolerate or even welcome the presence of Cheetah on his land. In this respect, trophy hunting is a viable option which is proving successful in Namibia. The proponent countries amended their proposal so that rather than transferring any populations to Appendix II, an Appendix-I export quota system be established, with the following quotas adopted by the countries: Botswana 5; Namibia 150; and Zimbabwe 50. The Cheetah quota system deviates from that in place for other species in that it not only allows the export of skins or whole skins, but also allows the export of live animals under the established quota.

##### Black and White Rhinos *Diceros bicornis* and *Ceratotherium simum*

Black and Southern White Rhinos have been listed in Appendix I since 1977; all other rhinos since 1975. It is acknowledged that international trade in rhino parts continues despite the Appendix-I listing and that in particular the Black Rhino has undergone a population decline. South Africa requested that their population of Black Rhino be transferred to Appendix II, and Zimbabwe requested that their populations of Black and White

Rhinos be subject to a similar transfer, as the listing of these populations in Appendix I was prohibiting more innovative management approaches to their conservation. In particular it was argued that the majority of rhinos were now found in southern Africa, as they have disappeared from many other areas due to poaching for their horn, and that horn from dehorning operations could be sold legally without harming the animals so as to generate much needed money for the protection of the remaining populations. While it was generally acknowledged that years of Appendix-I listing had not provided the desired conservation success, the Parties nevertheless rejected the proposals despite protests from the proponent countries whose rhino populations remain at stake.

##### African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

There were basically two proposals to transfer populations of the African Elephant from Appendix I to Appendix II. The first, amalgamated from five similar proposals, was originally submitted by Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe but, at the outset of the meeting, Zambia withdrew as a proponent. The delegation of Botswana, on introducing the proposal on behalf of the four proponents, emphasized that at issue was not ivory trade but the need to manage African Elephant populations. The delegation of Zimbabwe stressed the importance of sustainable use of wildlife for the benefit of rural communities as an alternative to subsistence agriculture and as a means of ensuring the continued conservation of the elephants. The Panel of Experts report, prepared pursuant to Resolution Conf. 7.9, had concluded that Botswana and Zimbabwe met the criteria for a transfer of their elephant populations to Appendix II.

The proponents stated that they were seeking a resumption of trade in non-ivory products within CITES and, in the spirit of compromise, had amended the original proposal which would subject a transfer of the African Elephant to Appendix II to the following conditions: 1. a moratorium on commercial exports of raw and worked ivory as detailed in Doc. 8.58; and 2. a temporary inclusion in Appendix II, until the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, of the elephant populations of Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe, subject to the following conditions: i. exclusion of trade in raw ivory, other than legitimate hunting trophies; ii. exclusion of all other trade in ivory, except personal effects and tourist souvenir specimens acquired in the proponent countries, and held in those Party States on 14 March 1992; and iii. automatic inclusion of these populations in Appendix I at the date of the next scheduled meeting of the Conference of the Parties, provided that the Conference of the Parties does not adopt a proposal that is acceptable to the proponent countries to re-open trade in ivory.

A large number of delegations, many African, opposed the proposal and only the delegation of Switzerland offered its support. Many delegations recognized the efforts made towards elephant conservation in the proponent states, and few questioned the evidence that the populations were locally large and well-managed. Whilst