

Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP18)*

Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2, concerning 'pre-Convention specimens'

RECALLING that Article VII, paragraph 2, of the Convention provides an exemption from the provisions of Articles III, IV and V where a Management Authority of the State of export or re-export is satisfied that a specimen was acquired before the provisions of the Convention applied to that specimen and issues a certificate to that effect;

NOTING that the implementation of this provision has given rise to a series of difficulties, both of a technical and of a more fundamental nature;

NOTING further that Resolution Conf. 5.11, on *Definition of the term 'pre-Convention specimen'* adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985), has been found to solve only partly the problems related to the implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2; and

RECOGNIZING the crucial role of importing Parties in implementing Article VII, paragraph 2, and the right of Parties, under Article XIV, paragraph 1, of the Convention to apply stricter domestic measures to the import of specimens covered by pre-Convention certificates;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. RECOMMENDS that, for the purposes of Article VII, paragraph 2:
 - a) the date from which the provisions of the Convention apply to a specimen be the date on which the species concerned was first included in the Appendices;
 - b) the date on which a specimen is acquired be considered as the date on which the animal or plant or, in the case of parts or derivatives, the animal or plant from which they were taken, was known to be:
 - i) removed from the wild; or
 - ii) born in captivity or artificially propagated in a controlled environment; orif such date is unknown or cannot be proved, the date on which the specimen was acquired shall be the earliest provable date on which it was first possessed by any person; and
 - c) only specimens acquired before the date on which the species concerned was first included in the Appendices qualify for this exemption;
2. RECOMMENDS further that:
 - a) Parties include on all pre-Convention certificates issued either the precise date of acquisition of the specimens concerned or a certification that the specimens were acquired before a specific date, in accordance with paragraph b) above, and advise the holder of such a certificate to check with potential importers or with the Management Authority of the intended country of destination whether the latter will accept the certificate for import; and
 - b) Parties accept pre-Convention certificates only if they have been issued in compliance with this Resolution;
3. CALLS on Parties to take any necessary measures in order to prevent excessive acquisition of specimens of a species between the date on which the Conference of the Parties approves the inclusion of that species in Appendix I and the date on which the inclusion takes effect; and

* Amended at the 16th and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties

4. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 5.11 (Buenos Aires, 1985) – *Definition of the term 'pre-Convention specimen'*.