

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

Transport of live animals

ACTIVITIES OF THE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP AND
INFORMATION ON CASES OF HIGH MORTALITY OF SPECIMENS

Note: This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Transport Working Group (Mr Andreas Kaufmann, Austria)*.

Information on cases of high mortality of specimens:

1. No cases of high mortality shipments have been reported to the TWG chair by any Party.

Progress report on activities of the TWG

2. The TWG chair participated in the AATA's International Conference 2008 in Dresden on behalf of Austria and will pursue to work in close association and attend future meetings of AATA.
3. OIE transport guidelines have been reviewed but show no relevance for wildlife at the current stage as they deal with livestock only. OIE is considering undertaking work on wildlife and will be pleased to receive proposals of expertise from the TWG chair and add his name to the OIE expertise database for future meetings on this topic.
4. TWG members including the TWG chair on behalf of Austria, attended the IATA LAPB meeting in Montreal in October 2008.
5. TWG also held an informal meeting at IATA Montreal premises during the LAPB meeting.

Findings

6. Only very few Parties actually purchase the IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR).
7. Ship/sea transport of CITES-listed species appears to be rarely used and prior cases and methods, where available, should be consulted prior to transport by ship.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

8. Humane transport is one of the key requirements for trade of CITES-listed species. Air transport techniques are provided by IATA in the Live Animals Regulations (LAR). In almost all cases of air transport, land transport constitutes a portion of the entire transport scenario since the animal must be transported to and from the airport.
9. The container requirements in the IATA LAR can, in most cases, be used for land transport as well. While some taxa may require particular modifications of the container and/or transport procedure for road transport the TWG determined that it would be inefficient to write new guidelines for land transport for every CITES-listed species.

TWG recommend

10. The Secretariat to send out a notification to encourage purchase of LAR by parties.
11. To survey the frequency of the use of sea transports of CITES-listed species by Parties and methods of transportation.
12. The development of a checklist of essential elements that need to be addressed prior to land transport of any taxa and in general, good practices to follow for all types of transport.
13. The development of an information document on strategies, philosophy and general good practices for land transport which would serve as a prompt to the shipper and include references to additional and necessary transport fundamentals for certain species based on past recorded incidents, case studies and history.
14. The development of a Powerpoint CD, demonstrating the general principles of transport as well as certain specific universal aspects of animal transportation that address non-air transport in order to improve safety in all transport methods for distribution to Parties.
15. The compilation of transport references and a list of specialists to contact for transport advice for each Party to serve as a point of contact and facilitate understanding of individual Party legislation regarding transport.
16. To set up a list serve or forum on the CITES web site (with input from and links to websites of various other groups, e.g. AZA, EAZA, WAZA, OIE) to allow transporters to seek and exchange information on transport procedures in an effort to increase transport success.
17. To develop a program in which airline personnel could be trained on a regular basis by local zoo personnel with assistance from the CD described above. The program could be coordinated with relevant zoo authorities within each region.
18. Ongoing review of guidelines on the transport of live animals to facilitate an addendum to IATA LAR for transport by land and sea.