

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS (DECISION 15.59)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties to CITES considered document CoP15 Doc. 33 on *Transport of live specimens*. That document had been prepared by the Chair of the Animals Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat, and contained *inter alia* a progress report on the implementation of relevant Decisions adopted at CoP14 (The Hague, 2007).
3. On the basis of information and recommendations contained in document CoP15 Doc. 33, the Conference of the Parties replaced Decisions 14.58 and 14.59 with Decisions 15.59 and 15.60 on *Transport of live specimens*. These two Decisions address new guidelines for non-air-transport and cooperation with transport-related organizations, respectively.

New guidelines for non-air transport of live animals and plants

4. Decision 15.59 states that:

The Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat, should:

- a) *proceed with replacing the CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of wild animals and plants (1981) with new guidelines for non-air transport of live animals and plants for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16);*
 - b) *consult and liaise with relevant transport experts and other stakeholders, inter alia, to gather information related to non-air transport;*
 - c) *review and propose revisions to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) for consideration at CoP16; and*
 - d) *report on the implementation of this decision at CoP16.*
5. Individuals with expertise or interest in the transport of live specimens met informally in the margins of CoP15 to exchange information on available legislation, guidelines, codes of conduct and other information on relevant transport standards. They also identified additional sources of information for such standards and outlined some steps that might be taken to prepare new guidelines for non-air transport of live specimens.
 6. Following consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2011/023 (7 March 2011) aimed at gathering additional information from CITES Parties on their knowledge of existing standards for the non-air transport of live specimens.

7. In Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) on *Transport of live specimens*, the Animals and Plants Committees are directed “to deal with matters related to the transport of live specimens”. During discussions at CoP15 on this subject, the Chair of the Animals Committee “pointed out that there was no permanent working group on the transport of live animals and plants, and that this would need to be reestablished” [see summary record CoP15 Com. II Rec. 5 (Rev. 1)].

Cooperation between CITES and various organizations that deal with transport

8. Decision 15.60 states that:

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *explore ways to establish enhanced cooperation between CITES and various organizations that deal with transport (OIE/World Animal Health Organization, International Maritime Organization, etc.) through, inter alia, a Memorandum of Understanding, or the creation of a liaison group; and*
 - b) *incorporate the transport-related guidance found in paragraphs 77-89 of document AC24 Doc. 15.2 into the CITES National Legislation Project.*
9. The CITES Secretariat is a member of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species established under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Membership in this Liaison Group has afforded the Secretariat an opportunity to enhance its bilateral and multilateral cooperation with various organizations that deal with transport such as OIE, IPPC, IMO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization.
10. The first meeting of the Liaison Group was held at OIE’s headquarters in Paris in April 2010 and a second meeting of the Liaison Group was held at the WTO headquarters in Geneva from 14 to 15 February 2011. That meeting was followed by a meeting of the CBD *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food. Reports of these meetings should be available in the near future. Additional information about the work of the Liaison Group and the AHTEG can be found on the CBD website (www.cbd.int) under the section on CBD COP10 held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010 (see document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/21, section IV, and Decision X/38) and the section on *Invasive Alien Species*. The CITES Secretariat attended the first meeting of the Liaison Group and also attended the second meeting of the Group as well as the AHTEG meeting mentioned above.
11. In view of the Secretariat’s participation in the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species described in paragraphs 9 and 10 above, there does not seem to be an opportunity or a need at this time to explore the development of a Memorandum of Understanding or the creation of an additional liaison group with OIE, IMO and other organizations that deal with transport. The Secretariat will nevertheless keep this matter under review.
12. With regard to paragraph b) of Decision 15.60, the Secretariat has already incorporated transport-related guidance into the CITES National Legislation Project and begun sharing such guidance with Parties which are currently developing or revising legislation.
13. In Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14), the Conference recommends, *inter alia*, that
- a) *suitable measures be taken by the Parties to promote the full and effective use by Management Authorities of the Live Animals Regulations (for animals) and the Perishable Cargo Regulations (for plants) for the preparation and transport of live specimens ...; ...*
 - c) *the regular communication of the CITES Secretariat and the Standing Committee with IATA’s Live Animals and Perishables Board and with the board of directors of the Animals Transportation Association (AATA) be continued and that a relationship with the International Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the International Plants Protection Convention (IPPC) be developed;*
 - d) *for as long as the CITES Secretariat and the Standing Committee agree, the Live Animals Regulations (for animals) and the Perishable Cargo Regulations (for plants) be deemed to meet CITES air transport requirements;*

e) *where appropriate, the Live Animals Regulations (for animals) and the Perishable Cargo Regulations (for plants) be used as a reference to indicate suitable conditions for carriage by means other than air.*

14. The 25th meeting of IATA's Live Animals and Perishables Board (LAPB25) took place in Kuala Lumpur in October 2010. The CITES Secretariat was unable to attend the meeting, but the LAPB Secretary informed participants that CITES had started working on developing new CITES guidelines for non-air transport.
15. The LAPB has an Advisory Panel consisting of representatives from OIE, AATA, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC). As the Panel can include an additional member, it was suggested at LAPB25 that the fifth member have experience in wildlife. The 26th meeting of IATA's Live Animals and Perishables Board (LAPB26) took place in Istanbul in March 2011. The CITES Secretariat was, unfortunately, not able to attend the Istanbul meeting, but it was able to provide input through the LAPB Secretary. In particular, the LAPB Secretary drew the LAPB's attention to document PC19 Doc. 15 on the Transport of live specimens, noting that reference was made in the document to the LAPB. The LAPB Secretary also provided LAPB members with the Secretariat's response to a query about Appendix I hunting trophies that had arisen in LAPB25. Finally, the LAPB Secretary informed LAPB members that the CITES Secretariat was exploring the possibility and the cost implications of filling the vacancy on the LAPB Advisory Panel. A representative of Austria, who often attends meetings of the Animals Committee, participated in LAPB26. A representative of the United States, who often attends meeting of the Animals Committee, provided comments to LAPB26 by email. The LAPB Secretary is now based in Geneva, which should make it easier for the CITES Secretariat and the IATA/LAPB to maintain regular communication.
16. At its 19th meeting (Geneva, April 2011), the Plants Committee agreed to the establishment of a joint Transport Working Group, which would work intersessionally until the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Thailand, 2013) to assist both the Plants and Animals Committees with the implementation of Decision 15.59. The Plants Committee nominated Austria to serve as co-chair of the proposed intersessional Transport Working Group and Chile to be a member of the Group. The Plants Committee noted the Secretariat's report on the implementation of Decisions 15.59 and 15.60.

Recommendations

17. It is recommended that a joint Transport Working Group be established by the Animals Committee and that it work intersessionally until the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Thailand, 2013) to assist both the Animals and Plants Committees with the implementation of Decision 15.59.
18. It is further recommended that the Animals Committee designate at least one representative for the joint Transport Working Group and that the Group be co-chaired by representatives designated by the Plants and Animals Committees.
19. The Animals Committee may wish to take note of the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Decisions 15.59 and 15.60.