

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

p.o.412.30.

Notification
to the Members and Signatory States of the
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED
SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA
concluded at Washington on 3 March 1973

I

RATIFICATION BY THE PHILIPPINES AND COLOMBIA

Based on Article XX of the Convention, the States named hereafter have deposited with the Swiss Government their instruments of ratification to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora :

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| Republic of the Philippines | on 18 August 1981 |
| Republic of Colombia | on 31 August 1981 |

In conformity with its Article XXII, Paragraph 2, the Convention will come into force for the Philippines on 16 November 1981 and for Colombia on 29 November 1981.

II

WITHDRAWAL OF A RESERVATION BY AUSTRALIA

By note of 25 August 1981, registered on 27 August 1981, the Embassy of Australia at Berne informed the Federal Department

of foreign affairs about the decision of the Australian Government to withdraw the reservation entered on 2 June 1977, in conformity with Article XV, Paragraph 3, and concerning the species of BALAENOPTERA PHYSALUS and BALAENOPTERA BOREALIS listed in Appendix I of the Convention.

III

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By note of 28 August 1981, registered on 31 August 1981, the Embassy of the United States of America at Berne informed the Federal Department of foreign affairs about the following statement of the American Government :

"At the recently concluded third meeting of the Conference of the parties in New Delhi, India, Appendix II of CITES was amended by adding to it all but three species of the order Psittaciformes not otherwise listed. This amendment was made largely on the basis of Article II, paragraph 2 (B), often known as the "look-alike" provision. At the meeting, we indicated that we too were concerned about the traffic in Psittacines and had made proposals for listing a number of species. We also indicated, however, that we were greatly concerned with the administrative capability of all parties to issue meaningful permits for the export of these birds, and to enforce the Convention properly in their regard, that we did not believe that the "look-alike" listing was fully justified in many cases, and that we were prepared to provide evidence that only 13 species of these birds presented serious enough identification problems to merit listing. When a vote was taken on the amendment, we voted in opposition to the broad listing.

The United States seriously considered entering a reservation on this listing to demonstrate concern over its appropriateness. We decided not to enter a reservation for a number of reasons, but instead to make known our concern through this communication.

The United States, which hosted the 1973 negotiating conference at which CITES was signed, was the first country to ratify CITES and continues to be a strong supporter of the treaty and its goals. We firmly believe that faith in

the integrity of the appendices, both within the United States and in all other countries, is essential to assure the success of CITES. This integrity is maintained through the development of principles and procedures for listing and through adherence to those principles and procedures by all the parties.

At New Delhi we joined with Canada in proposing criteria for the addition and deletion of "look-alike" species. This was in keeping with our concern that massive listings of animals and plants either for monitoring purposes (not a proper basis for listing) or for "look-alike" purposes where they are not justified would only weaken the integrity of the appendices and could serve as grounds for an initiative to adopt the so-called reverse listing concept. We strongly support the development and use of identification manuals to reduce problems in controlling trade in "look-alikes". We seriously question the legality, administrative feasibility, or desirability of reverse listing and believe that, at a minimum, it requires a great deal of further study.

We believe that attention must be devoted to enhanced cooperation of authorities in importing countries regarding the interception of shipments of all wildlife species traded in violation of the conservation laws of exporting countries. While the United States has legislation providing authority for the interception of such shipments, most other countries do not. Listing large groups of species in Appendix II helps address this problem, but at the cost of reducing the integrity of the appendices. We suggest greater use of Appendix III to control illegal trade in species that do not fully meet criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

We chose not to enter a reservation on the amendment to the listing of Psittacines because we believe better ways are available to resolve our different points of view. We also believe that the entering of reservations complicates the administration of the Convention for management authorities and enforcement officers and complicates compliance with CITES by persons involved in legitimate trade. However, we urge you to consider our concerns in the context of both the 10-year review of the appendices called for at the New Delhi meeting and the preparations for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the parties.

We look forward to further discussions of these and other points over the next several years as we work with you to make CITES a meaningful and effective tool for the conservation of wild animals and plants."

IV

AMENDMENT OF 22 JUNE 1979 TO THE CONVENTION

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs informs the Signatory or Contracting States of the Convention that the following States, by depositing an instrument with the Swiss Government, have accepted the Amendment to Article XI, Paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (a), adopted at Bonn on 22 June 1979 :

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| Pakistan | on 2 July 1981 |
| Zimbabwe | on 14 July 1981 |
| Suriname | on 17 August 1981 |

The Amendment shall enter into force for the Parties which shall have accepted it 60 days after two-thirds of the Parties have deposited an instrument of acceptance of the Amendment with the Depositary Government.

The present notification is addressed to the Governments of Signatory or Contracting States in conformity with Article XXV, Paragraph 2, of the Convention.

Berne, 8 September 1981