

other than the end-point medicine) is exported from either country; and (4) the degree to which the medicinal trade involves other wild species, and/or non-wild sources of the compound (e.g., from cultivated Pacific yew or other species, or from laboratory synthesis).

17. *Goldenseal (Hydrastis canadensis)*

WWF has recommended that the United States propose this species for inclusion in Appendix II. This is a herbaceous species of the eastern deciduous forest of the United States and Canada (southern Ontario). Before European settlement and exploitation of this species, it was thought to be abundant only in the central part of its range (Indiana to West Virginia and Kentucky), and it is now considered uncommon to critically imperilled in at least 16 of the 28 States where it is found.

Goldenseal is a well-known medicinal in the herbal products industry, with a wholesale price in 1995 of over \$50 but less than \$100 per pound dry weight, mostly for rhizomes or roots (with 200–300 roots per pound). It has been estimated that 150,000 pounds of goldenseal root are collected annually from the wild. The species is cultivated to a limited but unknown extent. Both the internal trade and export are believed to be escalating, with the international trade (primarily to Europe) being considered well below a quarter of the market.

The Service is interested in information especially regarding: (1) The biological status and life history of this species; (2) the extent to which it is cultivated (i.e., artificially propagated without use of seeds or other parts from the wild); and (3) the extent to which it is collected for trade, and in particular, the extent to which it is exported and the forms in which it is exported.

18. *Aloe Vera (Aloe vera var. vera)*—*Wild Population*

At its meeting in June 1995, the CITES Plants Committee recognized that this taxon may be endangered rather than extinct within its native range, which is increasingly considered to be on the Arabian Peninsula (or possibly the adjacent horn of Africa). At COP9, the wild population was delisted along with the artificially propagated population. All other aloes are listed in Appendix II or Appendix I, but the cultivated specimens of *Aloe vera* var. *vera* (and products derived from them) are very common in international trade.

A succulent specialist has recommended that the United States submit a proposal to return this wild population to Appendix II. The United States is considering this subject, in

coordination with the North Africa representative to the Plants Committee (as agreed upon at the June 1995 meeting of the Plants Committee). Because the focus would be on protecting the plants of this taxon in its isolated native range, such a listing would not interfere with the unregulated trade in the very common artificially propagated specimens. Comments are requested on the status of this taxon in the wild.

19. *Tweedy's Bitterroot (Lewisia tweedyi or Cistanthe tweedyi)*

The recommendation to remove this species from Appendix II was initiated by the CITES Plants Committee, as part of the ongoing process of reviewing listed taxa at 10-year intervals. This herbaceous mountain species is native in the State of Washington and nearby in the Province of British Columbia (Canada). Because it was found to be sufficiently secure within its range, this species was removed from consideration for the U.S. Endangered Species Act in a 1985 Federal Register notice on many taxa (50 FR 39526). Moreover, this species is believed to be sufficiently easy to propagate and available in cultivation to supply rock-garden enthusiasts.

Since the biological status of the species is considered less vulnerable than when it was listed in 1983, and since there have been no applications to export it from the wild in the last decade (and almost none to export it from cultivation as artificially propagated specimens), removal of the species from Appendix II seems appropriate. Information is sought on the status of the species in the wild, and the likelihood and extent of international trade in wild specimens of this species.

Future Actions

The Service will consider all available information, including that presented at the public meeting (see DATES above) or received in writing during the comment period, in deciding which proposals warrant consideration by the Parties. The proposals decided upon will be submitted to the CITES Secretariat by January 10, 1997, for consideration at the June 1997 meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Harare, Zimbabwe. In February 1997, the Service will publish a Federal Register notice announcing the proposals submitted to the Secretariat. Persons having current biological or trade information about the species being considered are invited to contact the Service's Office of Scientific Authority (see ADDRESSES above).

The primary authors of this notice are Dr. Marshall A. Howe, Zoologist, and Dr. Bruce MacBryde, Botanist, Office of Scientific Authority, under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Lists of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 23

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Treaties.

Dated: August 22, 1996.

J.L. Gerst,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 96–21976 Filed 8–27–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; Tenth Regular Meeting; Provisional Agenda; Proposed Resolutions and Agenda Items Being Considered; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States, as a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), may submit proposed resolutions and/or agenda items for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. The United States may also propose amendments to the CITES Appendices for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The tenth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP10) will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 9–20, 1997.

With this notice the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service): (1) Publishes the provisional agenda for COP10; (2) lists potential proposed resolutions and/or agenda items that the United States is considering submitting for discussion at COP10; (3) invites comments and information from the public on these potential proposals; (4) announces a public meeting to discuss species proposals and proposed resolutions and agenda items that it is considering submitting for discussion at COP10; and (5) provides information on how non-governmental organizations based in the United States can attend COP10 as observers. A separate, concurrent Federal Register notice invites comments and information from the public on possible candidate species for U.S. proposals to amend the CITES Appendices at COP10.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on at October 3, 1996 at 2:00 PM. The Service will consider information and comments from the public concerning

items of concern to COP10 received by October 11, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in room 200 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service building at 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Directions to the building can be obtained by contacting the Office of Management Authority. Comments pertaining to the provisional agenda or proposed resolutions or agenda items should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, Room 430, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203. Any comments pertaining to species amendments should be sent to the Service's Office of Scientific Authority, Room 750, at the same address. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at either the Office of Management Authority or the Office of Scientific Authority.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Susan Lieberman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, telephone (703) 358-2095, fax (703) 358-2280; E-mail "Susan_Lieberman@mail.fws.gov".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, TIAS 8249, hereinafter referred to as CITES, is an international treaty to regulate international trade in certain animal and plant species that are threatened with extinction or could become threatened with extinction if their trade is not regulated, and species that must be subject to regulation in order that trade in other currently or potentially threatened species may be brought under effective control.

These species are listed in Appendices to CITES, copies of which are available from the Office of Management Authority or the Office of Scientific Authority at the addresses above. Currently, 132 countries, including the United States, are CITES Parties. The CITES treaty calls for biennial meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP). Those meetings review the treaty's implementation, make provisions enabling the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland to carry out its functions, consider amendments to the list of species in Appendices I and II, consider reports presented by the Secretariat, and make recommendations for the improved effectiveness of CITES. Any country that is a Party to CITES may propose amendments to Appendices I and II, resolutions, and agenda items for consideration by the

other Parties. Only party countries may submit proposals and resolutions for consideration by the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Accredited non-governmental organizations may participate in the meeting, including speaking during sessions, but may not vote.

This is the second in a series of Federal Register notices which, together with announced public meetings, provide an opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the United States' negotiating positions for the tenth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP10). The first Federal Register notice was published on March 1, 1996 (61 FR 8019), and requested information from the public on potential species amendments, resolutions, and agenda items for the United States to consider submitting for discussion at COP10. The Service's regulations governing this public process are found in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations §§ 23.31-23.39.

Provisional Agenda for COP10

The CITES Secretariat recently provided the Service with an initial provisional agenda for COP10, which will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 9-20, 1997. Zimbabwe was selected as the host of COP10 at COP9, which was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in November 1994. The CITES Parties must submit any proposed additional agenda items to the Secretariat before September 30, 1996. The Secretariat will submit the provisional Rules of Procedure for COP10 to the CITES Standing Committee for approval at its next meeting in Rome, Italy, December 2-6, 1996. After the Standing Committee meeting, the Secretariat will provide the Parties with the rules of procedure, a revised provisional agenda, and a provisional working program. Listed below is the initial provisional agenda for COP10. A brief discussion follows for those agenda items that may not be self-evident to the public. Additional information on agenda items or explanations are available from the Office of Management Authority.

I. Opening ceremony by the Authorities of Zimbabwe

II. Welcoming addresses

III. Rules of Procedure

(a) Voting before credentials have been accepted.

(b) Adoption of the Rules of Procedure.

IV. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the meeting and of Chair of Committees I and II and of the Budget Committee

V. Adoption of the Agenda and Working Programmes

VI. Establishment of the Credentials Committee

VII. Report of the Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee is made up of Party government representatives, and examines the credentials of each delegate from their respective Foreign Ministry, in order to determine eligibility to vote.

VIII. Admission of Observers

National non-governmental organizations can be admitted as observers if they are approved by their national government (Parties only). International non-governmental organizations are approved by the CITES Secretariat. Criteria for admission of observers are spelled out in Article XI, paragraph 7 of the Convention (see "Observers", below). Approved observers are admitted as observers unless one-third of the Parties present object.

IX. Matters Related to the Standing Committee

1. Report of the Chair.
2. Regional representation on the Standing Committee.

Currently, Mexico is the regional representative on the Standing Committee for North America. In CITES, North America includes the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Each CITES geographic region meets during the COP to select which country will be its regional representative. Based on a decision at COP9, regions with large numbers of countries have more than one representative on the Standing Committee. The CITES regions are: North America; South and Central America and the Caribbean (2 representatives); Europe (2 representatives); Asia (2 representatives); Africa (3 representatives); and Oceania. The Standing Committee also includes representatives of the previous host country (currently the United States), the next host country (currently Zimbabwe), and the Depositary Government (Switzerland).

3. Election of new regional and alternate regional members.

X. Report of the Secretariat

XI. Financing and Budgeting of the Secretariat and of Meetings of the Conference of the Parties

1. Financial report for 1994, 1995, and 1996.

2. Anticipated expenditures for 1997.
3. Budget for 1998–2000 and Medium-term Plan for 1998–2002.
4. External funding.

The Secretariat submits its financial report and budget to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the COP's approval. The COP may choose to modify the budget. The Secretariat's budget is from a Trust Fund made up of voluntary contributions from governments, who contribute based on a U.N. scale. External funding is for projects that are approved by the Standing Committee, and is paid for through funds from governments and non-governmental organizations; that funding is outside of the core Trust Fund budget of the Secretariat.

XII. Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Animals Committee

- (a) Report of the Chairman.
- (b) Election of new regional and alternate regional members.

The Chairman (currently Mr. Robert Jenkins of Australia) will report on the activities of the Animals Committee since COP9. The first meeting of the Animals Committee after COP9 was held in Antigua, Guatemala in September, 1995; the second and final meeting before COP10 will be held in Pruhonice, Czech Republic September 23–27, 1996. Copies of the agenda of both Animals Committee meetings, and of the minutes of the 1995 meeting, are available from either the Office of Management Authority or the Office of Scientific Authority. Each of the CITES regions has either one or two representatives on the Animals Committee, depending on the number of countries in the region. Based on Resolution Conf. 6.1 (Annex 2), members of the Animals Committee are individuals chosen by the party countries within each CITES region. Currently, Dr. Charles Dauphine of Canada is the North American regional representative on the Animals Committee.

2. Plants Committee

- (a) Report of the Chairman.
- (b) Election of new regional and alternate regional members.

The Chairman (currently Dr. James Armstrong of Australia) will report on the activities of the Plants Committee since COP9. The first meeting of the Plants Committee after COP9 was held in Tenerife, Spain in June 1995; the second and final meeting before COP10 will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica in November, 1996. Copies of the agenda of both Plants Committee meetings are available from the Office of Scientific

Authority. Each of the CITES regions has either one or two representatives on the Plants Committee, depending on the number of countries in the region. Based on Resolution Conf. 6.1 (Annex 3), members of the Plants Committee are individuals chosen by the party countries within each CITES region. Currently, Dr. Bruce MacBryde of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Scientific Authority is the North American regional representative on the Plants Committee.

3. Identification Manual Committee

4. Nomenclature Committee

- (a) Report of the Chairman.
- (b) Recommendations of the Committee.

The Nomenclature Committee is charged with reviewing nomenclature and taxonomic issues pertaining to species that are listed in the CITES Appendices. It is also responsible for preparation and adoption of checklists for the various taxa included in the CITES Appendices. The Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee is currently Dr. Steven Edwards, an employee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN, also called World Conservation Union). The Nomenclature Committee does not have regional representatives, and meets on an ad hoc basis.

XIII. Evolution of the Convention

Both of these items refer to efforts that have been undertaken by the CITES Party governments to improve the effectiveness of the implementation and administration of the Convention.

1. How to improve the effectiveness of the Convention

Based on a decision of the Parties at COP9 in 1994, a study on ways to improve the effectiveness of the Convention has been undertaken. That study is being managed and coordinated by the Standing Committee, which has the responsibility to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the provisions and implementation of the Convention, and to report its findings to the next meeting of the COP. An international contractor in the United Kingdom, Environmental Resources Management, has been engaged for this study by the CITES Standing Committee, and produced a questionnaire for governments to respond to. Public input from written comments received by the Service was considered in formulating the United States response to this questionnaire. This study was discussed in detail in a notice published in the Federal Register on June 14, 1996 (61 FR 30255). It is expected that the contractor will submit

its report to the Standing Committee prior to the December 2–6 meeting of the committee; the report and any follow-up recommendations will be discussed by the Standing Committee at that time, which will determine what recommendations to make to the COP. The United States looks forward to meaningful discussion in the report and at the COP that will lead to improvements in the implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

2. Relationship between CITES and UNEP

A Working Group was established by the Standing Committee at its meeting in March, 1996, in response to several concerns that were raised at that meeting regarding the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP provides for the administration of the CITES Secretariat, as spelled out in Article XII of the Convention; that administrative role includes the CITES Trust Fund, the CITES budget, and personnel selection issues. The first meeting of the Working Group was held in Bern, Switzerland on June 27–28, 1996, at the invitation of the Swiss CITES Management Authority. The countries that are members of the Working Group were selected by the Standing Committee. Countries attending the meeting were: Argentina (Chair); Japan; Senegal (substituting as an alternate for Namibia, whose representative was unable to attend); Switzerland; and the United States. The Working Group agreed to discuss financial and personnel issues, based on the Terms of Reference of the Working Group, which were decided upon by the Standing Committee; the Terms of Reference are available from the Office of Management Authority. Financial issues discussed included: evaluation of the 13 per cent overhead charged by UNEP, externally funded projects, management of the Trust Fund, and issues pertaining to the budget of the Secretariat. Personnel issues discussed included UNEP selection procedures, recent personnel actions pertaining to the posts of Deputy Secretary General and Enforcement Officer, and related issues. There was also discussion of the 1992 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CITES Parties and UNEP. It was agreed that while the 1992 MOU is still quite valid, the Working Group would recommend to the Standing Committee that the MOU be amended/expanded upon, with a new MOU, which should clearly spell out the various functions and services provided by UNEP. The Working Group agreed to submit its report to the Standing Committee by the middle of October. The report will be available

from the Office of Management Authority after that time. The United States is exceedingly interested in ensuring that the administration of the Secretariat is efficient and well managed. The United States supports the work of the Working Group and looks forward to developing a new MOU that will clearly articulate the various roles and responsibilities of UNEP in its administration of CITES.

XIV. Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

It is expected that draft resolutions will be submitted by one or more Parties dealing with many of these agenda items. Resolutions can only be submitted by Parties (or the Secretariat) and must be submitted to the Secretariat by January 10, 1997. With this notice, the United States continues the process begun in the Service's notice of March 1, 1996, of receiving input from the public on possible draft resolutions the United States may submit.

1. Review of the Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties

(a) Deletion of resolutions that are out of date.

(b) Consolidation of valid resolutions.

This is the continuation of a very useful process that was begun at COP9, at the request of the Standing Committee. At COP9, the process was begun to delete resolutions that are out of date, and to consolidate resolutions that deal with the same topic. This agenda item will complete the COP9 consolidation process. This does not involve actual revisions of resolutions, but rather a consolidation to reduce the number and complexity of resolutions. The Service expects to receive copies of draft of those consolidations prepared by the Secretariat just prior to the December meeting of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat has also produced a compendium of all extant resolutions from COP1-8. That compendium, the resolutions from COP9, and information on how to retrieve them electronically, are available from the Office of Management Authority.

2. Report on National Reports Under Article VIII, Paragraph 7, of the Convention

Each Party is required by the Convention to submit an annual report containing a summary of the permits it has granted, and the types and numbers of specimens of species in the CITES Appendices that it has imported, exported, and re-exported. This agenda item will include a summary from the Secretariat of those countries that have submitted their annual reports in a timely fashion, as well as those that

have not, or have not submitted them at all.

3. Review of Alleged Infractions and Other Problems of Implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat prepares an Infractions Report for each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which details instances where (1) species listed in the Appendices have been adversely affected by trade, (2) the Convention is not being effectively implemented, or (3) actions by Party countries undermine the effectiveness of the Convention. The Infractions Report also includes summaries of major enforcement cases. The COP9 Infractions Report highlighted those cases of the most serious infractions, in order to focus the attention of the Parties; the COP10 Infractions Report is expected to do the same.

4. National Laws for Implementation of the Convention

(a) Analysis of the national legislation of Parties.

(b) Measures taken by Parties to improve their legislation.

(c) Measures to be taken with regard to Parties without proper legislation.

(d) Technical assistance provided to Parties.

This is a continuation of an important project begun by the Parties at COP8, reported on at COP9 by the Secretariat, and discussed in detail at COP9. Resolution Conf. 8.4 (National Laws for Implementation of the Convention) relates to analysis of national legislation of the Parties for the implementation of the Convention, as required by Article VIII of the treaty. A decision of COP9 directed the Secretariat to engage in a number of activities regarding national legislation and implementation of this resolution, and to report to COP10 on measures taken by Parties whose national legislation is determined to not meet the basic requirements of the Convention. Discussions under this agenda item will include measures taken by the Parties, status of national legislation and improvements since COP9, technical assistance provided and future needs, and measures regarding Parties that have not taken the required actions. During the comment period one organization recommended that the Service urge the Parties and Standing Committee to direct the Secretariat to implement these decisions. The Service believes that this will take place and that a detailed report will be presented to the COP by the Secretariat, but will certainly discuss the issue at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

5. Exports of Leopard Hunting Trophies and Skins

This refers to the exportation of leopard skins, including hunting trophies, under a quota system approved by the Conference of the Parties. The relevant resolutions from prior meetings of the COP are available on request from the Management Authority. The Secretariat will provide a report on the implementation of this quota system, including a country-by-country assessment. Any country wishing a new or revised quota from the COP will submit supporting documentation. Even if there is a hunting trophy quota for a given country, the importing country is still required under Article III of the Convention to make the required findings, including the finding that the import will be for purposes not detrimental to the survival of the species.

6. Trade in Specimens of Species Transferred to Appendix II Subject to Annual Export Quotas

This refers to species listed in Appendix I, which have populations that have been transferred to Appendix II pursuant to annual export quotas, which are voted upon by the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat will provide a report on the implementation and compliance with these quotas, including country-by-country reports.

7. Trade in Live Rhinoceros From South Africa

At COP9, the Parties adopted a proposal to transfer the population of white rhinoceros in South Africa from Appendix I to II, with an annotation that only trade in live animals and sport-hunted trophies would be allowed. This agenda item will allow South Africa to report on its implementation of this annotated listing. The United States expects that trade in sport-hunted trophies of white rhinoceros from South Africa will also be discussed under this agenda item, and the Service intends to communicate that understanding to the Secretariat. For further information on proposals for COP10 concerning live rhinoceros, see this subject heading in the concurrent Federal Register notice on proposals to amend Appendix I or II.

8. Trade in Tiger Specimens

This refers to the conservation of tigers (*Panthera tigris*) and illegal trade in their parts and products, principally for the medicinal market, and will also include a discussion of efforts that have been taken by the Parties to control poaching of tigers, and to more effectively enforce the Convention's prohibitions on trade in tiger parts and

products. The problem was discussed at COP9, and a resolution (Conf. 9.13) was adopted at COP9, which presented several recommendations to tiger range and consumer States, and directed the Standing Committee to continue its efforts on this critical issue. The tiger issue has been discussed at the last several Standing Committee meetings, will be discussed at the December 2-6, 1996 Standing Committee meeting (SC31), and is expected to be an issue of particular concern to the Parties and a subject of discussion at COP10. One organization commented recommending that the United States ensure that the Standing Committee and COP fully review this issue; the Service believes that this will take place. Range and consumer countries have been asked to submit papers to the next meeting of the Standing Committee as well. Since COP9, the Service has been actively involved in an educational outreach program with consumer communities in the United States, and submitted a paper on these efforts to the March 1996 meeting of the Standing Committee. In addition, through appropriations under the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, the Service is considering support for several projects that will benefit the conservation of tigers in the wild. The Service is also working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in providing input into its grant making efforts through its Save the Tiger Fund.

9. Biological and Trade Status of Sharks

At COP9, Resolution Conf. 9.17, concerning the conservation of sharks, was adopted based on an agenda item submitted by the United States. The resolution calls for the CITES Animals Committee to review all information concerning the biological status of sharks and the effects of international trade on them in order to submit a report to the Parties at COP10. It also requests that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations submit information on these topics to the COP11. The United States, particularly the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is working with other CITES Parties, intergovernmental fishery management organizations and non-governmental organizations to assist in implementation of the resolution. Draft discussion papers on this topic will be discussed at the 13th Meeting of the Animals Committee in Pruhonice, Czech Republic, in September 1996. It is likely that a draft resolution concerning follow-up of Conf. 9.17 will be considered at that meeting.

10. Trade in Plant Specimens

This agenda item provides consideration for particular subjects in the regulation of trade in plant specimens that emerge as needing particular attention by the Parties.

(a) Implementation of the Convention for timber species.

This will include a discussion of the reports of the Timber Species Working Group. COP9 called upon the Standing Committee to establish a Timber Species Working Group to evaluate in detail issues pertaining to the implementation of CITES for listed species of trees that are subject to the international timber trade. The United States is a member of the Working Group, and was represented at the first meeting by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The report of the first meeting of the Working Group is available from the Management Authority. The last meeting before COP10 will be held in Panama City, Panama October 7-11, 1996.

(b) Other Issues.

The Plants Committee will meet in Costa Rica from November 11-15, 1996, and other issues that need particular attention may arise from that meeting, which could be submitted for COP10 either by Parties or in certain cases by the Secretariat on behalf of the Committee. The Service would welcome comments regarding particular regulatory problems or conservation concerns to bring to that November meeting.

11. Significant Trade in Appendix II Species

This refers to the trade in those Appendix II species identified as subject to significant levels of trade, for which insufficient biological information may exist to warrant trade at current levels.

(a) Animals.

The Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 8.9 at COP8 in Kyoto, Japan in 1992, which represented a landmark decision to take positive measures to encourage the implementation of Article IV of the Convention. That Article refers to the required findings that exports are not detrimental to the survival of a species, and other scientific findings, for Appendix II species. Implementation of this resolution has been successful for a large number of countries and species, although much more work needs to be done in terms of field assessments and development of management plans for heavily traded species. The Animals and Standing Committees have been very active in implementation of this

resolution. The Secretariat has worked closely with many countries under the umbrella of this resolution; the United States has implemented several decisions of the Standing Committee regarding these issues as well.

(b) Plants.

The Plants Committee is making some progress in reviewing trade in some trading categories or scientific categories of species within the higher tax on listings of plants included in Appendix II. Summaries are given in the reports of the recent meetings of the Committee. An informal working group of the Committee was charged with preparing a draft resolution for plants by adapting Resolution Conf. 8.9; this draft should be available for discussion at the Committee's November 1996 meeting.

12. Non-Commercial Samples of Skins

At previous meetings of the COP, some countries have raised concerns that when a business person wishes to take samples of skins or products from one country to another, but does not intend to sell the samples themselves, the process for obtaining a series of CITES permits for the same samples is complex and burdensome. The United States believes that this agenda item will include discussion of ways to facilitate such movement of samples, without creating loopholes for illegal trade. The United States supports the discussion of measures that, while consistent with the terms of CITES, would ease documentary requirements for exports and re-exports when no sale will take place in any of the importing countries.

13. Universal Tagging System for the Identification of Crocodilian Skins

This refers to work by the Animals Committee to institute a system of universal marking for all crocodilian skins in trade, as a response to serious problems of illegal trade in crocodilian skins, parts, and products. The Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 9.22 at COP9, which clarified the requirements that all crocodilian skins in trade must be tagged. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee, is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this resolution and will be submitting a report to the Parties for their consideration at COP10. We also expect discussion of some possible technical revisions to the resolution, including a description of the parts tag.

14. Transport of Live Specimens

Issues pertaining to the transport of live specimens, particularly live animals, have been discussed at every COP. Resolution Conf. 9.23 recommends that all live animals be shipped in

accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations, for air transport, or the CITES Guidelines for other transport. It is also recommended that all permits for live animals be conditioned upon compliance with these requirements. At COP9, these issues were transferred to the Animals Committee. Currently, the Chair of the Animals Committee Working Group on this issue is Dr. Susan Lieberman of the Service's Office of Management Authority. This discussion will include a report on implementation of relevant resolutions pertaining to transport of live animals, particularly Conf. 9.23, as well as a report on discussions and recommendations of the Animals Committee.

15. Captive Breeding

At COP9, the Parties directed the Secretariat, working with the Animals Committee, to prepare a new resolution consolidating the various extant resolutions dealing with determination whether a specimen is bred-in-captivity, and dealing with captive breeding for commercial purposes of Appendix I animals. The Animals Committee, at its upcoming September meeting in the Czech Republic, will discuss these issues. The Secretariat is expected to prepare a draft resolution on these topics. The Service is actively involved in these discussions.

(a) Implementation of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5.

This issue will include discussion of when it is appropriate to utilize the exemptions in either of these two paragraphs, for individual animals of Appendix I species that are bred in captivity. The key issues are how to determine whether specimens qualify as bred-in-captivity, and how to facilitate their trade when appropriate, while at the same time not increasing opportunities for illegal trade or the fraudulent representation of wild-caught specimens as captive-bred.

(b) Proposals to register the first commercial captive-breeding operation for an Appendix I animal species.

Under Conf. 8.15, Parties must submit proposals for inclusion of operations breeding Appendix I species in captivity for commercial purposes. The Secretariat maintains a register of those facilities. Proposals are submitted to the Secretariat, which circulates them to the Parties. When a Party objects to inclusion of a facility in the Secretariat's register, and the objection cannot be resolved by the interested Parties, the proposal is discussed and voted upon by the COP (if the proponent country so wishes). This agenda item will include discussion of those proposals.

16. Standard Nomenclature

This agenda item includes a discussion of nomenclature issues related to listed taxa, and possible adoption of checklists that allow for uniformity among the Parties.

17. Conservation of Edible-Nest Swiftlets of the Genus *Collocalia*

At COP9, in response to a proposal that was submitted by the government of Italy for inclusion of the genus *Collocalia* in Appendix II, Resolution Conf. 9.15 was adopted. The resolution called for a workshop to evaluate the conservation status of these species, and trade in their nests. The Secretariat notified the Parties in Notification Number 927 (dated July 30, 1996) that this workshop will take place November 4-7, 1996, in Indonesia.

18. Trade in African Elephant Ivory

(a) Revision of resolution Conf. 9.16.

(b) Revision of resolution Conf. 7.9.

(c) Stockpiles of ivory.

This agenda item will be greatly influenced by any proposals to transfer populations of African elephants submitted by the deadline of January 10, 1997. The Service also notes that there will be a meeting of African elephant range states in Dakar, Senegal in November, 1996, organized by IUCN at the request of the African representatives on the Standing Committee, at which time the range states will discuss all of these issues. The Service has agreed to provide partial funding for that meeting. The Service is hopeful that consensus can be reached on a number of these issues by the range states themselves.

Resolution Conf. 7.9 was adopted by COP7 after the transfer of all African elephant populations to Appendix I. Conf. 7.9 establishes a Panel of Experts to evaluate any proposals to transfer a population back to Appendix II, and includes a number of criteria for the Panel to evaluate. Based on discussions at COP9 and at subsequent meetings of the Standing Committee, there will be discussion at COP10 to amend Conf. 7.9 to expand the Terms of Reference of the Panel of Experts to allow for discussion of trade in non-ivory products, trade with specific identified importing countries, and other issues. The Service believes that much of Conf. 7.9 has been made redundant or unnecessary by the adoption of new listing criteria (Conf. 9.24) at COP9, although the Service recognizes that the enforcement control issues in Conf. 7.9 remain highly relevant.

19. Proposals Concerning Export Quotas for Specimens of Appendix I Species

Under provisions of resolution Conf. 8.10 (Rev.) export quotas were established for leopards (*Panthera pardus*) and any changes to these quotas are to be approved by the Parties. Such changes may be submitted for consideration at COP10. In addition, proposals to establish quotas on other species may be submitted for consideration by the Parties under provisions of Conf. 9.21. Furthermore, the Animals Committee may submit a document or draft resolution to discuss the management responsibilities of a Party permitting the sport hunting of Appendix I species. During the comment period one organization recommended that the Service seek a formal review of implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.21. Pending the outcome of discussions at the Animals Committee meeting, the Service will consider this recommendation.

20. Implementation of the Convention in Small Island Developing States

This issue pertains to a decision at COP9 directing the Standing Committee to reach out to small island developing countries, particularly in Oceania, to facilitate their accession to CITES, including missions to those countries. There was discussion at COP9 of efforts to facilitate regional Management and Scientific Authorities. A report was presented by the Secretariat at the March 1996 meeting of the Standing Committee.

21. Criteria for Granting Export Permits in Accordance with Article V, Paragraph 2

Article V, paragraph 2 contains the provisions for issuance of export permits for species in Appendix III. Export permits are required only from those countries that have included the species in Appendix III; all other exports require the issuance of Certificates of Origin. Resolution Conf. 9.25 addressed issues pertaining to inclusion of species in Appendix III.

22. Problem of Hybrids

The Animals Committee discussed at its September 1995 meeting issues pertaining to implementation of the Convention for hybrids; these issues have been discussed at previous meetings of the COP for plants. The Animals Committee will discuss these issues further at its September 1996 meeting. Resolution Conf. 2.13 makes clear recommendations to the Parties pertaining to how hybrids are to be treated under the Convention. Some countries have concerns pertaining to

hybrids between Appendix I species and unlisted species. The discussion at COP10 will be guided by recommendations arising out of the upcoming Animals Committee meeting. There are several significant enforcement concerns regarding trade in live animals that are claimed to be hybrids.

23. Marking of CITES Specimens

The Animals Committee will discuss issues pertaining to marking of CITES specimens, which later will be discussed at COP10, including: marking of products from registered facilities that breed Appendix I animals for commercial purposes; marking of products from ranching operations; and marking of live animals in trade, including the use of transponders.

24. Exports of Vicuña Cloth

At COP9, certain populations of the vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) in Chile and Peru were transferred from Appendix I to II, with an annotation allowing export only of cloth products, wool sheared from live animals, and the Peruvian stockpile of 3249 kg extant in November, 1994. Although the Service has received and is now reviewing a petition to reclassify the species to threatened status under the Endangered Species Act, the vicuña is currently listed as endangered, which means its products cannot be imported into the United States. This agenda item will probably discuss the trade in the Peruvian stockpile, as well as other issues pertaining to implementation of the COP9 downlisting of these vicuña populations.

25. Frequent Cross-Border Movements of Privately Owned Animals

This issue pertains to non-commercial imports/exports of live animals that comprise travelling exhibitions or personal pets. The United States is aware that the governments of Switzerland, Germany, and Australia are engaged in dialogue on this issue, in order to develop a practical solution to some implementation problems that have arisen. The discussion will be limited to cases where live animals are exported (or re-exported) temporarily, for non-commercial purposes, by their owner, with the intent of returning to the country from which they were exported (or re-exported).

XV. Consideration of Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II

Proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II can only be submitted by Parties, and must be submitted to the Secretariat by January 10, 1997. A separate, concurrent Federal

Register notice invites comments and information from the public on possible candidate species for U.S. proposals to amend CITES Appendices I and II at COP10.

1. Proposals Submitted Pursuant to Resolution on Ranching

The Parties will consider proposals to transfer species from Appendix I to Appendix II under the provisions of Conf. 3.15, 5.16, 6.22 and Conf. 8.22. Any such proposals should have been submitted to the Secretariat 330 days prior to the meeting of the COP.

2. Proposals Resulting from Reviews by the Animals and Plants Committees

Resolution Conf. 3.20 established a process (known as the 10-year review) for the periodic review of species included in Appendices I and II. Conf. 6.1 reassigned this responsibility for the periodic review of species included in the appendices to the Animals Committee. Proposals for the transfer of species between, or removal from, the appendices may be considered under this agenda item.

3. Proposals Concerning Export Quotas for Specimens of Appendix I Species

Resolution Conf. 9.24, the new listing criteria resolution, contains provisions for transferring species from Appendix I to II with export quotas approved by the Parties. Proposals, if submitted under the provisions of these resolutions, will be considered at COP10.

4. Other Proposals

Any Party may submit proposals for the addition or deletion of species to/from an appendix or transfer between appendices. These proposals will be considered by the Parties at COP10. The United States has identified those proposals on species that it is considering submitting for consideration of the Parties in a separate Federal Register notice. These proposals must be submitted to the CITES Secretariat 150 days prior to the meeting of the COP, and any proposals submitted by other countries will be identified in a Federal Register notice after the submission date. All such proposals will be considered at the COP unless withdrawn by the submitting Party or Parties.

XVI. Conclusion of the meeting

1. Determination of the Time and Venue of the Next Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

If more than one country offers to host the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11), to take place

probably in late 1999 or early 2000, a vote will be taken. If a vote is necessary, the country that receives the most votes (through a secret ballot) will be the host of COP11.

2. Closing Remarks

Proposed Resolutions and/or Agenda Items that the Service Might Submit for Consideration at COP10

In its Federal Register notice published on March 1, 1996 (61 FR 8019), the Service requested suggestions from the public on resolutions and/or agenda items for the United States to consider submitting for discussion at COP10. Suggested resolutions and/or agenda items were received from the following organizations or individuals: Animal Welfare Institute, Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Humane Society of the United States, International Wildlife Coalition, New York Turtle and Tortoise Society, World Wildlife Fund, and Delia and Mark Owens.

The Service considered all of those suggestions in compiling the following list of possible resolutions and/or agenda items that the Service might submit for consideration of the Parties at COP10 (comments referred to below were in response to this March 1, 1996 Federal Register notice). The Service welcomes comments and information regarding these resolutions that it may submit, as well as on those resolutions it is not currently planning to submit.

1. Trade in Appendix I Specimens

On April 24, 1996, the CITES Secretariat raised concerns (Notification 913) regarding the inconsistent treatment of Appendix I specimens. Article III of the treaty contains the provisions for issuance of export and import permits for Appendix I specimens, while Article VII (paragraphs 4 and 5) provides exceptions for specimens bred-in-captivity for commercial and non-commercial purposes, respectively. The CITES Secretariat is drafting a comprehensive resolution which will address both the issues raised in paragraphs 12 and 13 of this notice (general bred-in-captivity determinations and breeding of Appendix-I species in captivity for commercial purposes) and implementation of Article III for captive-born specimens that do not qualify as captive-bred under Conf. 2.12 (Rev.). The Service has provided a draft resolution to the Secretariat, which clarifies this issue, but will defer a

decision on whether to propose a separate resolution based on continuing dialogue with the Secretariat and other Parties and comments received from the public.

2. Personal Effects

Resolutions Conf. 4.12 (Rev.) (Control of Tourist Souvenir Specimens) and Conf. 6.8 (Implementation of the Convention with Regard to Personal and Household Effects) make recommendations to the Parties on how to implement the exemption in Article VII of the treaty for certain personal effects. Travellers experience some problems because the United States recognizes the personal effects exemption under Article VII, paragraph 3 of the treaty, while other countries either do not recognize it or implement it differently. This also causes problems for implementation of CITES at ports of entry. The personal effects exemption only applies if the country of export does not require a permit, and port inspectors of importing countries do not have a quick way of determining which countries require permits for personal items. The Service is considering submitting a draft resolution, and is considering practical, yet enforceable, provisions to be included in such a resolution. The government of Australia has been working on such a document and the United States may co-sponsor it, thus precluding the need to submit a separate resolution.

3. Circuses

Resolution Conf. 8.16 (Travelling Live-Animal Exhibitions) makes recommendations to the Parties on the implementation of Article VII, paragraph 7, of the treaty. There are a few technical issues in that resolution, such as the requirement of a separate certificate for each specimen, that the Service would like to review. The Service also recognizes that circuses would like to include captive-born, late maturing species (e.g., Asian elephants) that do not yet qualify as captive-bred under Conf. 2.12 (Rev.) under these provisions. The Service is considering drafting a discussion paper or resolution for consideration at COP10 on these issues, depending on the outcome of discussions with other countries and comments received.

4. Standardization of Permits

Resolution Conf. 9.3 recommends that all Parties use standard formatting and information when issuing CITES documents. The Service has found that some CITES Parties are interpreting some sections of the resolution differently which creates problems in implementing the Convention. The

Service proposes to reorganize the document and clarify specific provisions, such as redefining the source code "F". Clarification is also needed on the standard information required to be on a Certificate of Origin for Appendix III specimens. The Service is discussing these recommendations with the Secretariat, and it is possible that the Secretariat will include them in their recommendations to the Parties, thus possibly precluding the need for a separate U.S. draft resolution. In addition, during the comment period one organization recommended that the Service clarify the relationship of CITES' permitting provisions with those of other conventions relating to marine species, as regards paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article XIV. The Service submitted a document and draft resolution on this issue to COP9 (Doc.9.40), but many Parties did not see the necessity for a separate resolution on the issue. The Service is not considering a separate draft resolution at this time, but may incorporate a discussion of general certificate requirements into this potential revision of Conf. 9.3.

5. Trade in Live Animals and Plants That Have a High Probability of Becoming Naturalized/Feral Pests

The intentional or accidental introduction of non-indigenous species into terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments may pose significant threats to native species and their ecosystems. They may out-compete indigenous species or may introduce and transmit parasites and disease. Many species that are included in CITES Appendices II and III are either pests in their country of origin, or have a high potential of becoming naturalized pests in countries of import. The Convention on Biological Diversity has begun to examine the introduction of exotic species, particularly in the marine environment. A scientific conference on this topic was just held in Norway, attended by representatives of the Service and other agencies. The Service recognizes that there are many cases where commercial export of live specimens may not be detrimental to the populations of the species in its country of origin, but if introduced unintentionally into the wild in the country of import serious ecological harm could ensue. The Service recognizes that the consideration of ecological impacts in importing countries is not a CITES requirement in the strict sense. However, some of the IUCN Specialist Groups have recently focussed on this critical conservation issue, and during the comment period five organizations recommended that

the Service submit a draft resolution to COP10 on this issue. The Service is considering submitting a discussion paper on this subject at COP10.

6. Pre-Convention

Article VII, paragraph 2 of the Convention provides an exemption from Articles III, IV and V for specimens that were acquired before the provisions of the Convention applied. The Service has become aware, through discussions with many countries and with the Secretariat, that confusion exists as to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 5.11 (Definition of the Term "Pre-Convention Specimen"). Currently, in order to determine the date of reference for a pre-Convention specimen, a Party must factor in the date it acceded to the Convention. The result is that the same specimen will be considered pre-Convention by one country, but subject to the provisions of the Convention under Articles III, IV, or V by another. This confusion and potential inconsistencies create opportunities for the laundering of specimens. This has led to further confusion as the number of Parties has increased, and the number of possible accession dates has proliferated. The Service is considering submitting a draft resolution whereby the pre-Convention date would be the date the species was first included in the CITES Appendices, regardless of the date of accession of the Party concerned.

7. Significant Mortality/Transport of Live Animals

This issue was also discussed under Agenda item 14, above. Dr. Susan Lieberman of the Service's Office of Management Authority is currently Chair of the Animals Committee Working Group on the Transport of Live Animals. At its upcoming meeting, the Animals Committee will be discussing the implementation of the treaty's requirements for humane transport of live animals, along with Resolution Conf. 9.23 (Transport of Live Specimens). Based on decisions of the Working Group and recommendations to the Animals Committee at the last meeting of the Committee, the Chair of the Animals Committee requested the submission of a resolution dealing with these issues. That draft resolution will be discussed at the September meeting of the Animals Committee; it deals with means to assist the Parties in implementing the treaty's requirements for the transport of live animals, by working towards a reduction in mortality and morbidity during transport and preparation for shipment. The draft resolution deals with a process whereby the Animals

Committee, in cooperation with the Parties, the Secretariat, and experts, would review trade and transport in species that are traded in large volumes as live animals, and make recommendations to the Parties for remedial measures, when necessary. This would be similar to the process implemented through Resolution Conf. 8.9. The Service's submission for COP10 on this issue is pending further discussions by the Animals Committee. During the comment period five organizations recommended that the Service submit a draft resolution to COP10 on this issue, and submitted draft text as well.

8. Trade With Parties That Have Not Identified a Scientific Authority

Articles III and IV of the CITES treaty require specific advice to be issued by the Scientific Authority before certain permits can be issued by the Management Authority. Properly made findings are essential to ensuring that the trade in specimens of listed species are not detrimental to the survival of the species. In order for other Parties to have assurance that these findings are being made and to consult with Parties on specific findings, it is essential that the Scientific Authorities have been designated and are known to all Parties. If this treaty obligation is not fulfilled by a Party, there is no way to assure other Parties that CITES permits issued by that Party are valid. Therefore, the United States is considering submitting a resolution that would recommend against allowing any wildlife trade with any Party that has not notified the Secretariat of the name and address of its Scientific Authority(s).

9. Coral Reporting and Identification

CITES Notification to the Parties No.788 dated March 10, 1994 lays out the guidelines for reporting of information in the annual report. The Service is considering submitting a resolution to expand the required description and quantity for coral to include live coral reported in units or pieces. In addition, the Service is experiencing difficulties in identification to species of readily recognizable coral gravel and live rock. Both commodities are protected by CITES, but identification to species is almost impossible, even by trained scientists. The Service is considering recommending that coral gravel and live rock be allowed to be classified at the Order level for permit issuance due to identification and enforcement problems.

10. Regulation of CITES Shipments Traveling on a Customs Carnet

CITES shipments for exhibition or show that are not intended for permanent destination into a country often travel on a customs carnet to alleviate customs duties. Customs laws treat import and subsequent re-export of these types of shipments differently from other CITES shipments. Shipments often enter a country on a customs carnet without the knowledge of the Management Authority, and are subsequently re-exported without the required CITES documentation. These shipments encounter problems when they are re-exported back to their originating country without any CITES re-export documents. The Service would like to propose a resolution that encourages Management Authorities to work more closely with CITES enforcement officers and customs officers to ensure that shipments traveling on a customs carnet meet all the applicable CITES requirements.

11. Crocodile Tagging

Resolution Conf. 9.22 established a universal system for the identification of crocodilian skins. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee, is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this resolution. The United States, after consultation with the Animals Committee and the Secretariat, is considering submitting a resolution to clarify some points in the resolution, including a description of the parts tag. One organization (a State Natural Resources Department) recommended a similar tagging system for snake skins. The Service is not considering proposing such a resolution at this time, but welcomes comments as to the feasibility of and necessity for such a requirement.

12. Bred in Captivity

CITES Resolution Conf. 2.12 (Rev.) provides criteria for certifying specimens as bred in captivity for the exemptions provided for in Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5. Whereas the CITES Secretariat has been directed to develop a new resolution that would replace Conf. 2.12 (Rev.) by consolidating it with Conf. 8.15 and Conf. 8.22 (also dealing with animals bred in captivity), the Service is considering submission of a revised resolution that would retain the basic elements of Conf. 2.12 (Rev.) but add clarifying definitions and examples. However, the Service will defer a decision on whether to propose such a resolution until further discussion of this topic by the Animals Committee at its September meeting.

13. Breeding Appendix-I Species in Captivity for Commercial Purposes

Operations breeding Appendix-I species in captivity for commercial purposes must be registered with the CITES Secretariat according to the procedures established in Resolution Conf. 8.15. Once an operation is registered for a given Appendix-I species, specimens of that species produced at that operation (including parts and derivatives thereof) may be deemed to be specimens of an Appendix-II species and are subject to the permitting requirements of Article IV. While the CITES Secretariat has been directed to prepare a new resolution consolidating extant resolutions dealing with animal specimens bred in captivity, including Appendix-I species bred for commercial purposes, the Service is considering proposing a revised version of Conf. 8.15 in which inconsistencies in the present resolution would be corrected and a few information requirements deleted. Before proceeding with such a proposed resolution, the Service will wait until after discussion of this topic by the Animals Committee at its September meeting to determine if such a resolution may be needed.

14. Illegal Trade in Whale Meat

In support of the prohibition by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) of commercial whaling for various whale species, all species of the great whales are listed in Appendix I of CITES. Since 1980, a number of illegal shipments of whale meat have been stopped or seized by several government authorities. A resolution was adopted by the Parties at COP9, which calls for further cooperation between CITES and the IWC in order to stop illegal international trade in whale products. Analogous resolutions were adopted by the IWC in 1995 and 1996. The United States may submit a resolution at COP10 urging continued cooperation between CITES and the IWC with regard to halting the illegal trade in whale products. During the comment period one organization recommended that the Service raise this issue at both the next meeting of the Standing Committee and the COP. It is on the agenda of both the COP and the Standing Committee, was the focus of a recent Notification to the Parties, and certainly will receive significant attention.

Resolutions That the Service May Not Submit for Consideration at COP10

There were a number of recommendations submitted to the Service as suggested resolutions or agenda items for consideration at COP10

that the Service is either not considering submitting at this time, or the Service will address in ways other than through a draft resolution. Some of these are excellent suggestions, which are precluded by higher priorities. The Service notes that the agenda for COP10 is already extremely full, and that many issues will be addressed in either the Animals or Plants Committees, or may be addressed in other ways at COP10. The Service welcomes information on these issues, including an assessment of whether they should be given a higher priority by the Service than other issues. There are some issues that the Service may consider submitting documents on, depending on the outcome of discussions in the Animals, Plants, and Standing Committees.

1. Appendix I tourist items at airports: The Service received comments from six organizations recommending a resolution dealing with the sale of Appendix I products in airports and duty-free zones. The suggested resolution would deal with this important enforcement problem, whereby many international airports continue to sell tourist souvenirs of Appendix I specimens, in spite of the fact that they cannot be legally exported or imported by the traveller. The Service agrees that Parties should be more vigilant, and such sales are a conservation concern. However, the Service believes at this time this issue can be addressed directly by the Secretariat through its ongoing educational efforts.

2. Bear parts trade: The Service received comments from six organizations recommending submission of a draft resolution regarding illegal trade in parts and products of Appendix I bear species. The Service agrees that this is a very high priority issue. At the request of the United States, this issue is on the agenda of both the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee. The Service may submit a discussion paper to the Animals Committee, and based on the outcome of discussions in both Committees will assess whether or not a discussion paper should be submitted to COP10. More appropriately, the Secretariat may be asked by either Committee to prepare a discussion paper for COP10.

3. Enforcement: Five organizations submitted comments recommending that the United States submit a resolution on enforcement. The Service agrees with all of the recommendations to the Parties suggested by these organizations, but believes that they are adequately covered by other resolutions, including Resolution Conf. 9.8, as well

as by efforts of the Secretariat. One organization raised valid concerns about the unfortunate delay in selection of the Secretariat Enforcement Officer. The Service has expressed these concerns through the Standing Committee, as well as in other fora. One organization submitted a draft resolution recommending coordination between Customs and other enforcement agencies, development of national legislation, training, and other measures designed to enforce the Convention. The Service agrees that enforcement by Parties and international cooperation in enforcement are the highest priorities necessary to increase the effectiveness of the Convention, but does not believe that a new resolution is necessary at this time. The Service welcomes comments and information on this issue, and may develop such a resolution for submission to COP10.

4. Criteria for Sustainability: Two organizations recommended that the United States develop criteria for assessing the sustainability of international commercial trade in wild fauna and flora. The Service considers this to be an excellent idea, but current time availability and personnel and other resources available to the Service preclude the implementation of such a project. The Service does note that it recently published a final rule which established criteria for evaluation of sustainable use management plans for wild birds subject to international trade, which has direct bearing on this issue. The Service agrees that such practical criteria could assist Parties in making their required non-detriment findings under Article IV, and would be very useful for the Parties, and welcomes any comments or suggestions on this concept.

5. Relationship between CITES, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the World Trade Organization (WTO): One organization submitted comments recommending that the United States submit a resolution establishing the primacy of CITES over the GATT and WTO rules. The Service believes that this is already the case, and therefore a draft resolution is unnecessary. The Service welcomes comments on this issue however.

Announcement of Public Meeting

In order to discuss with the public species proposals and proposed resolutions and/or agenda items that it is considering submitting for discussion at COP10, the Service announces that it will hold a public meeting on October 3, 1996, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. in room 200 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service building in Arlington, Virginia,

at 4401 N. Fairfax Drive. Persons wishing directions to the public meeting or additional information should contact the Office of Management Authority in writing (see ADDRESSES, above) or at (703) 358-2095.

Request for Information and Comments

The Service invites comments and information from the public on the COP10 possible agenda items discussed above, and COP10 potential proposed resolutions and/or agenda items discussed above. Information and comments should be submitted to the Service no later than October 11, 1996 to be ensured of consideration.

Observers

Article XI, paragraph 7 of the Convention states:

Any body or agency technically qualified in protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and flora, in the following categories, which has informed the Secretariat of its desire to be represented at meetings of the Conference by observers, shall be admitted unless at least one-third of the Parties present object:

(a) International agencies or bodies, either governmental or non-governmental, and national governmental agencies and bodies; and

(b) National non-governmental agencies or bodies which have been approved for these purposes by the State in which they are located.

Once admitted, these observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote.

Persons wishing to be observers representing U.S. national non-governmental organizations must receive prior approval of the Service. International organizations (which must have offices in more than one country) may request approval directly from the Secretariat. After granting of that approval, a national non-governmental organization is eligible to register with the CITES Secretariat and must register with the Secretariat prior to the COP in order to participate in the COP as an observer. Individuals that are not affiliated with an organization may not register as observers. Requests for such approval should include evidence of technical qualification in protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and/or flora, on the part of both the organization and the individual representative(s). Organizations previously approved by the Service must submit a request but do not need to provide as detailed information concerning their qualifications as those seeking approval for the first time. Organizations seeking approval for the first time should detail their experience

in the protection, conservation, or management of wild fauna and/or flora, as well as their purposes for wishing to participate in the COP as an observer. Such requests should be sent to the Office of Management Authority (OMA; see ADDRESSES, above) or submitted to OMA electronically via E-mail to: Mark_Albert@mail.fws.gov. Upon approval by OMA, an organization will receive instructions for registration with the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland, including relevant travel and hotel information. Any organization requesting approval for observer status at COP10 will be added to the Service's CITES Mailing List if it is not already included, and will receive copies of all future Federal Register notices and other information pertaining to COP10. A list of organizations approved for observer status at COP10 will be available from OMA just prior to the start of COP10.

Future Actions

COP10 is scheduled for June 9–20, 1997, in Harare, Zimbabwe. Any proposals to amend Appendix I or II at COP10 and any proposed resolutions for discussion at COP10 must be submitted by the United States to the CITES Secretariat at least 150 days prior to the meeting (January 10, 1997). Therefore, as part of the consultation process with countries within which the proposed species occur, the Service plans to send any such proposals for species not endemic to the United States to those countries for comment by mid-October 1996 and to the Secretariat by January 10, 1997.

The Service plans to publish a Federal Register notice in February 1997 to announce the Service's decisions on species proposals and proposed resolutions that are submitted by the United States to the CITES Secretariat. Through a series of additional notices in advance of COP10, the Service will inform the public about preliminary and final negotiating positions on resolutions and amendments to the Appendices proposed by other Parties for consideration at COP10. The Service will also publish an announcement of a public meeting to be held in April 1997 to receive public input on its proposed negotiating positions for COP10.

Author: This notice was prepared by Dr. Susan Lieberman, Office of Management Authority, under the authority of the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 23

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Treaties.

Dated: August 22, 1996.

Jay L. Gerst,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 96–21975 Filed 8–27–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

Bureau of Land Management

[WY–920–06–1330–01; WYW139796, WYW139797, WYW139798, WYW139799, WYW139800, WYW139801, WYW139802, WYW128038]

Cheyenne, Wyoming; Notice of Sodium Lease Offerings by Sealed Bid

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain sodium resources in the lands hereinafter described, located in Sweetwater County, Wyoming, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*) as amended.

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 26, 1996. Sealed bids must be submitted before 1:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the first floor conference room (Room 107) of the Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, Wyoming State Office, at the address given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mavis Love, Land Law Examiner, at 307–775–6258.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These offerings are being made as a result of expressions of interest filed in the Wyoming State Office. The tracts will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets the fair market value determinations of the tracts. The minimum bid is \$200.00 per acre. No bid less than \$200.00 per acre will be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the Authorized Officer after the sale.

The resource to be offered consists of all the sodium in the following described lands located in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. Minalable reserves are defined as beds that are maximum of 2000 feet deep, are a minimum of 8 feet thick, and have a minimum quality greater than 85 percent trona and less than 2 percent halite.

Tract A (WYW139796)

T. 17 N., R. 109 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 20: All;

Sec. 28: All.

Containing 1,280 acres.

Tract A contains an estimated 37.1 million tons in Bed 14, 25.3 million tons in Bed 12, 8.4 million tons in Bed 2, and 1.6 million tons in Bed 1 for a rounded total of 72.5 million tons of minable trona in the tract.

Tract B (WYW139797)

T. 17 N., R. 109 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 22: All;

Sec. 26: All.

Containing 1,280 acres.

Tract B contains as estimated 25.4 million tons in Bed 17, 12.9 million tons in Bed 14, .6 million tons in Bed 12, 6.2 million tons in Bed 9, and 12.9 million tons in Bed 2 for a rounded total of 67.0 million tons of minable trona in the tract.

Tract C (WYW139798)

T. 17 N., R. 109 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 14: All;

Sec. 24: Lots 1 thru 16.

Containing 1,193.60 acres.

Tract C contains as estimated 35.8 million tons in Bed 17, 4.3 million tons in Bed 14, 3.4 million tons in Bed 12, 7.0 million tons in Bed 9, and 5.4 million tons in Bed 2 for a rounded total of 55.9 million tons of minable trona in the tract.

Tract D (WYW139799)

T. 17 N., R. 108 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 6: Lots 8 thru 14, S2NE, SENW, E2SW, SE;

Sec. 8: All;

Sec. 18: Lots 5 thru 8, E2W2, E2;

T. 17 N., R. 109 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
Sec. 12: Lots 1, 4 thru 6, 8 thru 10, SW, SWSE.

Containing 2,312.01 acres.

Tract D contains as estimated 50.0 million tons in Bed 17, 17.1 million tons in Bed 14, and 11.5 million tons in Bed 5 for a rounded total of 78.6 million tons of minable trona in the tract.

Tract E (WYW139800)

T. 17 N., R. 108 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 30: Lots 5 thru 8, E2W2, E2.

Containing 638.80 acres.

Tract E contains an estimated 20.8 million tons in Bed 17, .9 million tons in Bed 9, 16.4 million tons in Bed 5, and 13.8 million tons in Bed 3 for a rounded total of 51.9 million tons of minable trona in the tract.

Tract F (WYW139801)

T. 17 N., R. 108 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 20: All;

Sec. 28: All;

Sec. 34: All.

Containing 1,920 acres.

Tract F contains an estimated 45.8 million tons in Bed 17, .5 million tons