

ANNUAL REPORT 1977

on the work of the Secretariat

1. Introduction

Under the provisions of Article XII, paragraph 2, g) of the Convention, the Secretariat shall prepare annual reports to the Parties on its work. Through its Notification to the Parties No. 41 on 30 July 1976, the Secretariat communicated a first report covering the period between 1 July 1975, (date of entry into force of the Convention), and 30 June 1976. This report had been completed and up-dated for presentation at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Berne (2-6 November 1976) (See Proceedings Doc. 1.8 pages 180 to 184).

During its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a recommendation requesting "that the calendar year of January 1 to December 31 be adopted as the annual year for report purposes for the Convention".

Consequently, the present report concerns the period of 1 January to 31 December 1977. In order that continuity be assured in the Secretariat's reports, however, it also covers the short time between the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and 31 December 1976.

The Secretariat's activities are governed by the provisions of the Convention and in particular by Article XII. They may, however, extend beyond, since the Secretariat should "perform any other function as may be entrusted to it by the Parties". However, a limit is fixed on action possibilities of the Secretariat by the means at its disposal. At 1 January 1977, the Secretariat comprised only an Executive Secretary and a secretary. It was assisted by a third person, a young Argentinian biologist, who dealt with all material in Spanish.

This unfavorable situation was pointed out by the Parties at their first meeting, and resulted in the adoption of a resolution urging the Executive Director of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), who under the Convention shall provide the Secretariat, to procure further aid. Since this resolution was not followed through with concrete effect, it was taken up again in October 1977 at the special working session.

At 31 December 1977, the situation had not much evolved, at least not from the practical point of view. The Secretariat staff was increased by one as from 1 December, but as it was the person already mentioned

above, the total working capacity remained approximately the same. The only other development in the matter was the decision to recruit a Secretary-General early in 1978.

This situation is also the main reason for the delays encountered in the drafting and submission of this report, for which the Secretariat presents the Parties its apologies to.

2. First meeting of the Conference of the Parties

To a very large extent, the work of the Secretariat was determined by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties which was held in Berne from 2 to 6 November 1976.

Immediately after the end of the meeting, the Secretariat compiled the complete list of adopted amendments to Appendices I and II, which was communicated to the Parties, signatory States and States having participated at the meeting, soon after mid-November. In December, Appendices I, II and III revised according to the adopted amendments were ready and sent to the same addressees. In accordance with the wish expressed by the Conference of the Parties, Appendices I and II were presented together and not as two separate documents. These appendices which entered into force on 4 February 1977, were put on the computer.

Also in December, the text of all resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties was communicated to all the Parties, as well as to the signatory States and to those having participated at the meeting. A text recapitulating these resolutions, but presenting them in a better format, was submitted for comments and approval to all the heads of delegations at the first meeting.

Finally, and as direct consequence of a resolution of the Conference of the Parties, all States not Party to the Convention, signatory or not, received a notification urging them to ratify the Convention as soon as possible or to accede to it. The same States also received later a copy of the Proceedings of the first meeting.

The preparation of the Proceedings of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties was a long and difficult task because of their volume (more than 550 pages), the necessity to issue them in the three working languages of the Secretariat, and to assure consistency between the English, French and Spanish versions. The three versions were completed by mid-March, but reproduction and binding took a long time. Unfortunately, the mailing of the Proceedings to all States and Management Authorities was thus delayed until 20 September.

3. Special working session

The Conference of the Parties decided, at its first meeting, to organize a special working session to consider some particular aspects of the implementation of the Convention. This session had to take place within six months to one year after the first meeting. A Steering Committee was

elected to coordinate with the Secretariat the organization of the special working session. For the Secretariat, the preparatory work for the special working session started, in fact, with the preparation of the Steering Committee meeting which was held in Morges at IUCN and Secretariat Headquarters, on 21 and 22 February 1977. At that time, it was decided that the special working session was to be held in Geneva, at the World Health Organization Headquarters, from 17 to 28 October 1977, i.e. within the time limit fixed by the Conference of the Parties.

Although members of the Steering Committee had undertaken the preparation of some working documents for the special working session, the Secretariat's workload was considerable. It was facilitated fortunately, with regard to the organization itself, by the administrative services of IUCN and WHO. The Secretariat was entrusted with preparing a document on the transport of live specimens and it had to deal with the final preparation of all session documents and their production in the three working languages. All the documents were ready for the opening of the meeting. According to comments received from the participants as well as from the Secretariat point of view, the special working session was well organized and successful, thanks especially to the participation of a great part of the IUCN Secretariat. During the session, Parties adopted some recommendations, the implementation of which contributed and will continue to contribute to the orientation of the Secretariat's activities.

By 1 November 1977, the recommendation concerning the review of Appendices I and II was communicated to all the Parties, to allow them to undertake the required review as soon as possible. Later on, all the recommendations were sent to the Parties and signatory States, accompanied by a document interpreting the recommendations from the Secretariat point of view and formulating some suggestions for the implementation of these recommendations.

The preparation of the Proceedings of the special working session started before the end of the year, but will take some time until completion.

4. Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Although the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties will only take place in early 1979, the Secretariat had to consider it in 1977 already, because of the difficulties to find a host country.

Since the Ghanaian Government was not in a position to approve the proposal to organize the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Accra, made by its Representative at the first meeting, the Steering Committee, during its February 1977 meeting, asked Ecuador, member of the Committee, whether it could host this second meeting. After the Ecuadorian Government had accepted this request, it had to go back on its decision. The Secretariat, after consultation with the Steering Committee, addressed the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica, whose activity towards the conservation of nature is well known. The Representative of Costa Rica informed the special working session of the agreement of his Government, which was officially confirmed on 17 November 1977.

These problems gave rise to important correspondence for the Secretariat which sent, in particular, two Notifications to the contracting or signatory States and to the States having participated at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

At the special working session, the Steering Committee took the decision to hold a meeting together with the Secretariat, to prepare the second meeting of the Parties, in San José in early 1978.

5. Amendments to Appendices I and II

Point 2 above summarizes Secretariat work resulting from the adoption of numerous amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

No amendment to Appendix I or II was officially proposed during 1977. On the other hand, some have been proposed for an advisory consideration by the special working session. These proposals for amendment were only published in the documents of the special session.

6. Appendix III

In 1977, Appendix III of the Convention underwent important changes as stated in the Report on the Implementation of the Convention. The task of the Secretariat was to revise this appendix according to the amendments to Appendices I and II adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, also, owing to the withdrawal of some species made in application of resolutions adopted at the same time.

Thus, in 1977, Appendix III was subject to two revisions, which gave rise to two new editions communicated to contracting or signatory States, as well as to States having participated at the first meeting of the Parties and not only to Parties, in order to comply with a wish expressed at the first meeting.

7. Guidelines for the preparation and shipment of live specimens

The Secretariat, as already mentioned under point 2 above, prepared a working document on transport of live animals for the special working session. This document will serve, at least partly, as a basis for the preparation of guidelines which will be submitted to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

On 19 and 20 April 1977, the Secretariat participated in the work of the Government I.A.T.A. Liaison Group (I.A.T.A. = International Air Transport Association). Furthermore, the Secretariat maintained direct contacts with I.A.T.A., which allowed the insertion of some changes in the sixth edition of the I.A.T.A. live animals regulations, which entered into force on 1 November 1977. These regulations now directly refer to the Convention and they include most of the species listed in the Convention.

8. Reports from the Parties

Through its Notification to the Parties No. 62 dated 28 March 1977, the Secretariat reminded the Parties that, under the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 7, they had to prepare an annual report and, for those who had been Parties for more than one year, a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the Convention.

The Secretariat received annual reports for 1976 from the following Parties : Australia, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Peru, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, i.e. a total of 10 reports, while the number of States Party to the Convention was 33 at 31 December 1976. Some reports were handed to the Secretariat at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, but they concerned only a few Parties and obviously did not relate to the whole of 1976.

The analysis of annual reports from the Parties should constitute an important part of the Secretariat work. The fact that only one third of these reports were sent to the Secretariat considerably limits the effects of any analysis and does not allow a serious trade monitoring. However, it is also necessary to underline that the Secretariat with its current staff does not have the material possibility either to ensure such monitoring, or to properly analyse the reports from the Parties. The TRAFFIC Group of the IUCN Survival Service Commission, therefore, was entrusted with this task (TRAFFIC = Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna In Commerce).

Concerning biennial reports, the situation is no better, since only three reports, from Madagascar, South Africa and Sweden, were received by the Secretariat which should have received 19 if all Parties concerned had complied with the provisions of the Convention.

The Secretariat hopes that it will receive many of the outstanding annual reports for 1976 and the biennial reports for 1975-1976 which have not yet been sent. It would also appreciate receiving reports for the coming years on a more regular basis.

9. Relations with the Parties and other relations

In 1977, the Secretariat sent 16 Notifications to the Parties. Furthermore, it sent 9 notifications to contracting or signatory States to the Convention and to States having participated at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A note, sent through the diplomatic channel, was addressed to all the States at the time of the dispatch of the Proceedings of the first meeting, together with another note inviting them to participate at the special working session.

The Secretariat has also maintained an important exchange of correspondence with the Management Authorities of certain Parties, and with numerous governments, official services, national and international organizations, bodies and individuals. This correspondence concerned various questions

relating to the Convention and its application, and especially to several cases of violation Convention's dispositions, which prompted the Secretariat to approach the Parties concerned.

10. Comparative examination of the texts of the Convention

Some errors in the text of the Convention had been pointed out by the Secretariat in 1975 and were subject to correction through a procedure applied by the Depositary Government (see Proceedings of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Doc. 1.14, pages 213 to 224). After the first meeting, since the holding of an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to amend the text of the Convention may be anticipated, the Secretariat carried out a new examination of the English, French and Spanish versions of the Convention.

The comparative examination of the texts brought to light numerous errors, particularly in the French and Spanish versions, as well as discrepancies between the texts, which sometimes have a major effect with regard to the interpretation of some of its provisions. As a rule, however, these errors or discrepancies are of no great consequence, and do not justify the convening of an extraordinary meeting. The serious cases may be solved, at least provisionally, by means of resolutions which might be adopted at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Subsequently, the need for an extraordinary meeting appeared less urgent, priority having to be given to the implementation of the Convention. The results of the Secretariat examination of the texts will, however, be available for future reference when required.

11. Common names and distribution of the species

As Appendices I and II underwent numerous amendments after the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and were changed in their presentation, the Secretariat carried out the revision of the lists of common names in English, French and Spanish and completed them. Unfortunately, due to lack of resources it was not in a position to publish the new lists, but hopes to be so in the near future.

The country-by-country distribution list of species also is under continuous review, but for the same reasons could not be issued.

12. Funding of the Secretariat

The work of the Secretariat during 1977 was financed from the limited funds allocated to IUCN by UNEP pursuant to Project No. FP/1103-75-04 (693).

The special working session held in October 1977 emphasized the need to expand the role of the Secretariat in order to meet the objectives defined by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting in Berne in 1976. Following further consultations in November 1977, IUCN sub-

mitted to the Fund of UNEP a revised project document relating to the Secretariat of the Convention for the 1978-79 biennium, based on the document attached to the resolutions of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. As of 31 December 1977, no decision had been taken on this revised proposal and continuation of limited UNEP support was envisaged on an interim basis.

ANNUAL REPORT 1977
on the implementation of the Convention

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During its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a recommendation "that the calendar year of January 1 to December 31 be adopted as the annual year for report purposes for the Convention". Consequently, the present report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 1977. However, in order to ensure continuity in the Secretariat's reports, it also covers the period between the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and 31 December 1976.

2. States Party to the Convention

From the entry into force of the Convention (90 days after Uruguay deposited the tenth instrument of ratification or accession with the Government of the Swiss Confederation - Depositary Government - i.e. on 1 July, 1975) to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, thirty-two States became Party to the Convention. From that date to 31 December 1977, eight more States joined, bringing the total number of States Party at the end of December 1977 to forty. These forty Parties were as follows:

	<u>Date of entry into force of the Convention</u>
1. United States of America	1.7.1975
2. Nigeria	1.7.1975
3. Switzerland	1.7.1975
4. Tunisia	1.7.1975

	<u>Date of entry into force of the Convention</u>
5. Sweden	1.7.1975
6. Cyprus	1.7.1975
7. United Arab Emirates	1.7.1975
8. Ecuador	1.7.1975
9. Chile	1.7.1975
10. Uruguay	1.7.1975
11. Canada	9.7.1975
12. Mauritius	27.7.1975
13. Nepal	16.9.1975
14. Peru	25.9.1975
15. Costa Rica	28.9.1975
16. South Africa	13.10.1975
17. Brazil	4.11.1975
18. Madagascar	18.11.1975
19. Niger	7.12.1975
20. German Democratic Republic	7.1.1976
21. Morocco	14.1.1976
22. Ghana	12.2.1976
23. Papua New Guinea	11.3.1976
24. Federal Republic of Germany	20.6.1976
25. Pakistan	19.7.1976
26. Finland	8.8.1976
27. India	18.10.1976
28. Zaire	18.10.1976
29. Norway	25.10.1976
30. Australia	27.10.1976
31. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	31.10.1976
32. Iran	1.11.1976
33. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	8.12.1976
34. Paraguay	13.2.1977
35. Seychelles	9.5.1977
36. Guyana	25.8.1977
37. Denmark	24.10.1977
38. Senegal	3.11.1977
39. Nicaragua	4.11.1977
40. Gambia	24.11.1977

In addition, three States, Malaysia, Venezuela and Botswana, deposited instruments of notification or accession with the Swiss Government on 20th October, 24th October and 14th November 1977 respectively. For these States, the Convention will enter into force on 18th January, 22nd January and 12th February 1978.

3. Management Authorities

The provisions of Article IX of the Convention state that Parties shall designate one or more Management Authorities and that they shall inform the Depository Government of the name and address of the Management Authority authorised to communicate with other Parties and with the Secretariat.

From information received by the Secretariat, it appears that most of the States which had deposited an instrument of ratification or accession before 31 December 1977 have communicated the name and address of their Management Authority. When this report was drafted, the only exceptions were Malaysia and Nicaragua.

The name and address of the Management Authorities are regularly communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat. In 1977 they were the subject of Notifications to the Parties Nos. 59, 64, 66, 71 and 74. In addition, at its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties recommended that direct links should be established between the Management Authorities. Accordingly in Notification to the Parties No. 70 the Secretariat asked the Management Authorities for their telephone numbers and (if they have them) their telex numbers and telegraphic addresses. Numerous Parties have not yet answered this request but such information as has already been received has been communicated in Notifications to the Parties No. 68 and 72 of 1977. The Secretariat would still like to receive this information from those Management Authorities which have not yet replied.

4. Specific reservations

Article XXIII of the Convention enables States to enter specific reservations with regard to species included in Appendices I, II and III. Up to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, only Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of Hong Kong) had entered such reservations.

During their first meeting, the Parties adopted a resolution which stated "that if a State enters a specific reservation with regard to any species listed in Appendix I or II, that State cannot propose that this species be listed in Appendix III. No species, this term being subject to the definition given by Article I of the Convention, can be included in more than one appendix".

Canada was directly concerned by this resolution since it had recommended the inclusion in Appendix III of most of the species for which it had entered a specific reservation. Further to that resolution, and in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article XXIII, Canada withdrew most of the specific reservations it had entered.

The Conference of the Parties adopted many amendments at its first meeting in November 1976. Some of these amendments were subject to specific reservations from some Parties. Furthermore, some of the States which had ratified the Convention or acceded to it in 1977 also entered specific reservations. Thus by 31 December 1977 Canada, the United Kingdom (on behalf of Hong Kong), Australia, South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Denmark had entered specific reservations - as also had Botswana, which will become a Party only in February 1978. The following species are affected by these specific reservations:

Appendix I

Parties Concerned

<u>Balaenoptera borealis</u>	Australia, Canada, South Africa, USSR
<u>Balaenoptera physalus</u>	Australia, Canada, South Africa, U.S.S.R.
<u>Lutra lutra</u>	U.S.S.R.
<u>Elephas maximus</u>	Hong Kong (United Kingdom)
<u>Branta canadensis leucopareia</u>	Canada
All the reptiles	Hong Kong (United Kingdom)
<u>Crocodylus niloticus</u>	Botswana
<u>Acipenser oxyrhynchus</u>	Canada
<u>Coregonus alpenae</u>	Canada
<u>Stizostedion vitreum glaucum</u>	Canada

Appendix II

<u>Balaenoptera borealis</u>	Canada, South Africa
<u>Balaenoptera physalus</u>	Canada, South Africa
<u>Canis lupus</u>	U.S.S.R.
<u>Ursus arctos</u> (North-American subspecies)	Canada
<u>Felis lynx</u> (Felidae spp.)	U.S.S.R.
<u>Loxodonta africana</u>	Hong Kong (United Kingdom)
<u>Ovis canadensis</u>	Canada
<u>Anser albifrons gambelli</u>	Canada
All the reptiles	Hong Kong (United Kingdom)
<u>Acipenser fulvescens</u>	Canada

Appendix III (as at 1 July 1977)

All species, and all the parts and derivative thereof	Denmark
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5. Amendments to Appendices I and II

At its first meeting in Berne in November 1976 the Conference of the Parties adopted numerous amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention. The Secretariat notified the contracting and signatory States (and other States which had participated in the first meeting) of these amendments.

The amendments adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties came into force ninety days after the meeting, i.e. on 4th February 1977, for all the Parties except those which had entered a reservation in accordance with the provisions of the Convention (see item 4 above). Before that date the Secretariat had issued a new edition of Appendices I and II which took into account the adopted amendments.

In 1977, no amendment was proposed for consideration by means of the postal procedure provided by the Convention.

6. Amendments to Appendix III

At the time of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, seven Parties had requested the inclusion of species and other taxa in Appendix III. These Parties were Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, Mauritius, Nepal, Tunisia and Uruguay. At that time, Appendix III included 148 species or other taxa.

As mentioned in item 4 of this report, the Conference of the Parties adopted a resolution which concerns on one side the specific reservation and on the other side the links between the Appendices I and II and the Appendix III. Another resolution adopted at the same time authorised the Secretariat, after reference to the interested Party, to delete a species from Appendix II when it has been added to Appendix I or II.

Implementing the first of these resolutions, Canada withdrew from Appendix III all the species listed in Appendix I or II which it had entered specific reservations. Ten species or other taxa were withdrawn. With regard to the other resolution, it caused the deletion of 29 species or other taxa.

In a recommendation also adopted at its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties required "that when domestic legislation is adequate to protect a species, it is not added to Appendix III". Putting this recommendation into practice in March 1977, Canada withdrew from Appendix III a species that it had included; and in May of the same year Tunisia did the same for 33 species or other taxa.

7. Authenticating of permits and certificates

In November 1975 Article IX (paragraph 4) of the Convention authorised the Secretariat to ask Parties for detailed information and samples of all authenticating permits and certificates which they granted. The purpose of this was to limit (or eliminate) the chances of fraud or forgery of documents by notifying all Parties (through the Secretariat) of such information.

The Conference of the Parties recognised the merits of this request and recommended at its first meeting that the Secretariat provide Parties continuously with (1) updated lists of Management Authorities and (2) their authenticating seals.

Since then No. (1) has been consistently applied; No. (2) has not because the Secretariat has had very limited information to distribute. Consequently in March 1977 the Secretariat began a new approach by sending Parties Notification No. 61. The present report is, therefore, an opportunity to remind the Parties and their Management Authorities that it is very desirable that they should communicate to the Secretariat their authenticating means for permits and certificates.

8. Implementation of the Convention in States Party to the Convention

Theoretically the Secretariat should be able to judge the implementation of the Convention in Party States by reading and analysing the annual and biennial reports that, under the terms of Article VIII, paragraph 7, of the Convention, States should prepare and communicate to the Secretariat.

If the reports of the Parties were the only element by which to judge the implementation of the Convention, we could have serious doubts on its efficacy in more than two-thirds of the States Party to the Convention even before the end of 1976. In effect, the Secretariat received only ten 1976 annual reports out of thirty-three Parties; and three 1975/76 biennial reports out of nineteen Parties (see report on the work of the Secretariat.)

Fortunately the Secretariat also possesses other sources of information, the main ones being the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Berne, November 1976); and the special working session (Geneva, October 1977) - though participation in the second one was appreciably lower than the first. The absence of a Party at these meetings does not, however, necessarily imply lack of interest or implementation of the Convention; it may be caused by particular circumstances, e.g. the possible lack of financial means to attend.

In addition, the exchange of correspondence between the Secretariat and many Parties is an important source of information and shows the interest taken in the Convention and its implementation. Last, the press, the individual reports and those emanating from organisations, also contribute to the Secretariat's information.

The conclusion that the Secretariat can draw from these various sources of information is that the Convention is an instrument used by the Party States to regularise and control the trade in threatened species; it is not just a document to which no more attention is paid after its ratification. The implementation of the Convention is effective - or at least most of the Parties try to make it so.

Obviously this does not mean that there is full implementation everywhere (the absence of many reports is an easily demonstrated proof); or that the Convention is not subject to violations, voluntary or otherwise. The Secretariat is aware of several violations which have been circulated to interested Parties, either to give or obtain information. Such exchanges of information, either from Party to Party or through the Secretariat, are very useful and have already brought about efficient intervention against infringers.

Nevertheless the Secretariat would very much like to see an increase in these exchanges; and that it should receive more information from Parties with whom, up to now, exchanges of information have been unilateral. The Secretariat all too often sends documents to Parties and requests information to which only a small number of Management Authorities reply. The Secretariat is aware of the difficulties which may exist but it would be useful to have additional information on them.

The implementation of the Convention is obviously not easy. Adequate infrastructure and means are essential. But if it is to be effective, it must be as universal as possible. The Secretariat is, therefore, taking this opportunity to remind all Parties that it will do all in its power to help them in their task and is at their disposal regarding any questions relating to the implementation of the aims and provisions of the Convention.

9. Implementation of the Convention at the Secretariat Level

The Conference of the Parties recognised at its first meeting "that the Secretariat does not have adequate resources to deal with its increasing workload and to meet its full responsibilities under the Convention". As mentioned in the 1977 Annual Report on the work of the Secretariat, its resources did not increase very much up to the end of 1977, whereas its workload increased further due to the adoption of the recommendations made by the special working session.

However, the Secretariat did its very best to ensure that the provisions of the Convention were implemented; and success was achieved in many cases. The greatest gaps are in the fields of scientific and technical studies; and in the study of Parties' reports. These are essential items and the Secretariat hopes that a satisfactory solution will be found quickly.

As far as the work of the Secretariat is concerned, this has been covered in the companion report "ANNUAL REPORT 1977 on the work of the Secretariat".

10. Conclusion

On 31 December 1977, two and a half years after the entry into force of the Convention, 43 States had ratified the Convention or acceded to it. This result is encouraging but large loopholes still exist, both on the part of countries which are essentially exporters of wild animals and plants; and on the part of importing countries. Among the first group should be mentioned in particular some East and Central African States, China and most of the South-East Asian States, as well as some Latin-American ones such as Mexico, Colombia or Bolivia. The most important importing States still not Party to the Convention were Japan and some European States such as France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria. There are very hopeful signs that several of these States will ratify the Convention or accede to it in the near future; for some others the procedure will certainly take much more time.

However, the accession to the Convention or its ratification is tantamount only to a statement of intent which (important though it may be) has no real value unless it is followed by an effective and efficient implementation of the provisions of the treaty. The Secretariat knows that the Convention is carefully implemented in most of the Party States. For others, information is missing and the Secretariat is most anxious to receive it. This report is an opportunity to remind States of this requirement.