

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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REGULATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE ISSUED

Regulations to implement the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora were published by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the February 22, 1977, Federal Register. The Convention seeks to eliminate commercial trade as a cause of the decline in any species.

These regulations, which become effective May 23, 1977, are designed to aid law enforcement and allow increased monitoring of commerce in wild animals and plants.

The regulations require import and export permits for international shipment of animals and plants listed in the appendices to the Convention. Further, to stop the "laundering" of wildlife and plant products through third countries, shipments must be accompanied by certificates or statements of origin from responsible wildlife officials in the specimen's native country. Convention permits and other documents will be available immediately for the convenience of the public and to meet the requirements of other nations.

Application procedures for animal and plant shipments and the criteria under which permits will be issued and denied are spelled out in the regulations.

The regulations follow a 37-nation meeting in November aimed at speeding implementation of the international treaty on endangered species.

The conference was the first since 80 nations negotiated the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in 1973.