



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release: March 10, 1992

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**BUSH ADMINISTRATION INVITES CITES TO HOLD
NEXT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON ENDANGERED SPECIES IN U.S.**

President Bush has invited the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to hold its Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Parties in the United States in the fall of 1994.

The invitation was presented on behalf of the President and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan by John Turner, head of the U.S. delegation and Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at the CITES convention currently underway in Kyoto, Japan.

"This invitation not only underscores the Bush Administration's strong, continuing commitment to international wildlife conservation programs," Lujan said, "it also affords CITES the opportunity to mark its 20th anniversary in the country where it first met."

As examples of the Administration's commitment to conservation of global flora and fauna, Lujan cited President Bush's leadership in restricting trade in sea turtles, the worldwide ban on driftnet use to protect dolphins on the high seas, efforts to secure restricted trade in wild birds, and its widely praised initiatives to conserve wetlands and tropical forests in developing countries.

The international treaty that became CITES was drawn up in Washington in 1973 to protect wildlife against exploitation and to prevent international trade from threatening species with extinction. The convention went into effect in 1975. More than 112 nations are now party to the convention.

"CITES' accomplishments to date have been invaluable," Turner said. "There are literally hundreds of species of plants and animals alive and flourishing today that otherwise might have been severely harmed by unrestrained trade."

A specific location and meeting dates for the Ninth Conference of the Parties to CITES will be announced later.