

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release August 8, 1977

Levitt 202/343-5634

## PUBLIC MEETING ON ENDANGERED SPECIES TREATY TO BE HELD; PROCEDURE FOR LISTING SPECIES CLARIFIED

The United States will participate this fall in a special working session of the endangered species convention in Geneva, Switzerland, where technical experts will develop a number of recommendations regarding implementation of the treaty. An informal public meeting will be held August 12 in Washington to discuss the United States' position on the topics to be considered, and interested individuals and organizations are invited to participate.

The topics to be discussed in Geneva include: guidelines for shipments of live specimens, identification of specimens, exchange of museum specimens, placing of confiscated animals and plants, and analysis of the species on Appendices I and II. Recommendations developed at the session will be presented for consideration at the next conference of the parties to the convention which is scheduled to be held in the fall of 1978 in Quito, Ecuador. A more detailed discussion of the topics to be discussed and background material can be found in the August 10, Federal Register.

The informal meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on August 12, 1977, in the Matomic Building Auditorium, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Service is seeking information on each of the topics of the work session. Practical suggestions concerning the procedural issues and data on the biological and commercial status of species listed in the appendices are especially welcome. They should be submitted in writing to the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240, by August 31 or presented at the August 12 meeting.

The Geneva session is intended to be a meeting of experts in the fields of law enforcement, customs control, zoology, botany, and veterinary sciences. It is open to countries that are not parties to the convention (35 currently have implemented it) and to observers from non-governmental organizations. Organizations wishing to send observers should send requests to the Secretariat, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, IUCN, 1110 Morges, Switzerland. A copy of each such request should be sent to the Federal Wildlife Permit Office (see address above).

X X X