

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-25 May 2005

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN GREAT APES

Working Group participants: Regional Representative for Africa (KE), Chair; Republic of Korea; Democratic Republic of Congo; CITES Secretariat (Senior Enforcement Officer); Born Free USA; David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation; Humane Society of the United States; IUCN; World Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

The Working Group on Conservation of and Trade in Great Apes provides the 21st meeting of the CITES Animals Committee with the following recommendations for adoption:

The Animals Committee:

1. Recommends the Secretariat engage in joint CITES-GRASP technical missions to Southeast Asia and Central Africa to explore the challenges of great ape conservation in these regions, enforcement of national laws and CITES regulations governing trade in great apes, border security and the capacity of enforcement agencies to prevent illegal taking and intercept illegal shipments of great apes, and matters surrounding repatriation or rehoming of confiscated live animals.
2. Suggests the Standing Committee explore the establishment of a Great Ape Enforcement Task Force pursuant to Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. COP 13) with a view to enhancing cooperation to prevent illegal trade in great apes.
3. Asks the Secretariat to issue a notification calling on donor countries to match the contributions toward GRASP's work already provided by the Government of the United Kingdom, or in some other way contribute significantly to the general operations of GRASP, or provide specific funding to undertake the technical missions referred to in paragraph 1.
4. Specifically suggests that the CITES Secretariat apply for a grant from the Government of the United States under the Great Ape Conservation Act to undertake the work in paragraphs 1 and 2.
5. Urges CITES and GRASP Secretariats to undertake the technical missions as soon as practicable and provide a timetable for action to the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and GRASP in September 2005.
6. Suggests CITES Secretariat explore possibilities for working with IATA and individual airlines to prevent illegal shipments of great apes by air.
7. Should make contact with the Interim Scientific Committee of GRASP to establish the current availability of DNA information related to great apes; and, if such information is found to be insufficient, cooperate with GRASP to gather the information necessary to create such a DNA database.
8. Further urges all Parties to notify the CITES Secretariat of any sanctuary facilities within their countries suitably equipped to house and care for great apes confiscated from trade, to be included in the list of facilities originally circulated by the CITES Secretariat in Notification 2002/074 ("Confiscation of Live Animals").
9. Requests that a Representative of GRASP be invited to report to the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee on progress made and the outcome of the work mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.
10. Encourages CITES Standing Committee to endorse these recommendations when it considers the Conservation of and Trade in Great Apes at its 53rd meeting In Geneva from 27 June – July 1.