

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

Forty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Lisbon (Portugal), 28 September-1 October 1999

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

1. This document presents the main actions taken by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 10.112 regarding small island developing States (SIDS).

"The Secretariat shall:

- a) *continue its efforts to strengthen its presence in the Caribbean and Oceania and provide assistance to SIDS;*
- b) *prepare and send a package of general information on CITES to non-party SIDS, providing information on obligations and responsibilities of Parties and non-Parties and advantages and benefits of acceding to CITES. The package should include the text of the Convention, Appendices I, II and III, a report on assistance provided to Parties during the last biennium, the Guidelines for Legislation to Implement CITES and any other material that may be relevant for non-Parties considering accession to CITES;*
- c) *relay the outcome of the discussion at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties regarding SIDS to non-party States in the Caribbean and Oceania, and inform them of proposed follow-up;*
- d) *extend the planned assessment of training needs of Parties to non-party SIDS in the Caribbean and Oceania;*
- e) *organize a training seminar on CITES for all SIDS in the Caribbean and Oceania during the biennium 1998-1999 if external funding is available;*
- f) *continue providing strong support to SIDS during the next triennium;*
- g) *seek external funding to assist SIDS in the Caribbean and Oceania in their undertaking of the process of accession to CITES, according to the results of assessments of in-country needs;*
- h) *provide technical assistance to SIDS Parties to the Convention to strengthen their capabilities to fully implement the Convention, within available resources;*
- i) *designate a SIDS co-ordinator within the Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the Decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its 10th meeting;*
- j) *convey the following recommendations to SIDS that are not party to CITES:*
 - i) *to provide the Secretariat with the name and contact address of the authority competent to grant documents comparable to CITES permits and certificates, as well as original signatures of personnel authorized to sign them (in compliance with the requirements of Resolution Conf. 9.5);*

- ii) *to notify the Secretariat as soon as any changes occur regarding the designated competent authority or the authorized signatures;*
- iii) *to carry out an in-country assessment of strategic needs to clearly define the assistance required to enable compliance with CITES requirements for non-Parties, or obligations of Parties should they wish to accede to the Convention. The assessment should examine issues such as which CITES-listed species are currently in trade, what are the levels of trade and what are the existing legislative and administrative arrangements. Assistance for this assessment could be requested from the CITES Secretariat, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank, SPREP, TRAFFIC, Parties to the Convention and other international organizations and donors; and*
- iv) *to explore measures such as education and public awareness, to assess, control and minimize any negative impact of growing international trade in tourist souvenirs and marine aquarium species; and*
- k) *inform the Parties to the Convention, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank, SPREP, TRAFFIC and other international organizations and donors that the Conference of the Parties encourages them to provide technical and financial assistance to SIDS in the Caribbean and Oceania, taking into account the results of the in-country needs assessment, to allow them to strengthen their national capabilities to comply with their obligations, as well as to allow non-Parties to take the necessary legal and administrative measures to accede to CITES."*

2. The Secretariat has initiated a number of new activities aimed at providing a stronger CITES presence in the Caribbean and Oceania in accordance with Decision 10.112, paragraphs a) and f). The Secretariat has:

- Initiated, for SIDS in Oceania, a joint project with TRAFFIC Oceania to provide in-country assessments of the levels of CITES trade, information about the CITES-listed species currently in trade, and an assessment of the current status of the legislations of the non-Parties in the region related to wildlife trade.
- Developed, for SIDS in the Caribbean, a collaboration with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme office located in Jamaica (Caribbean Environment Programme Regional Co-ordinating Unit). This initiative aims to strengthen CITES implementation in the Caribbean.

The Secretariat participated in the Fourth Meeting on the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISATC) to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas in Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW) in Havana, Cuba, in August 1999. At that meeting, attended by delegates from 17 countries from the Wider Caribbean Sub-region, the CITES Secretariat advanced the following initiatives:

- i) *to explore, within the sub-region, closer collaboration with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and with the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP);*
- ii) *to identify the capacity-building needs of SIDS in the Caribbean; and*
- iii) *to encourage the two non-party States in the Caribbean (viz. Haiti and Grenada) to accede to the Convention.*

The Secretariat confirmed at the meeting its commitment to working co-operatively with the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol and proposed three initiatives towards this end:

- i) *to conclude a memorandum of co-operation between the two Secretariats;*

- ii) to move towards harmonizing the obligations of the Contracting Parties for the two conventions; and
 - iii) to contribute to the establishment of an effective conservation network for the Wider Caribbean Region, both nationally and regionally.
3. Regarding paragraphs b), c), g) and j) of Decision 10.112, the Secretariat has contacted the non-party SIDS and conveyed to them the 'general information documents' on CITES together with information on the obligations and responsibilities of Parties and non-Parties and the advantages and benefits of acceding to CITES. The Secretariat continues to liaise with the non-party SIDS to keep updated the names and contact addresses of their designated competent authorities. The Secretariat is awaiting the results of its project with TRAFFIC Oceania to complete its in-country assessment of strategic needs.

For SIDS in the Caribbean, a number of Parties have offered to assist the Secretariat in its work with the non-party States in the sub-region. Cuba has a bilateral environment agreement with Haiti and is willing to work with Haiti on this important issue.

Complex legal issues hamper the extension of the United Kingdom's ratification of the Convention to all of its overseas territories. In the Caribbean region, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat are United Kingdom overseas territories to which the Convention applies. Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos Islands, though United Kingdom overseas territories, are not included and are therefore treated as 'non-Parties' despite their falling administratively under the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the United Kingdom. The Secretariat is working with the United Kingdom Government and the territories involved to resolve this issue.

4. Regarding paragraphs d), e), h) and k) of Decision 10.112, the Secretariat conducted a CITES workshop in Oceania in 1997 and a training seminar in the Cayman Islands in 1998, conducted jointly with the United Kingdom Management Authority. External funds are being sought to support training seminars in Oceania and the Caribbean, planned for later in 1999. The Secretariat will continue seeking funds in order to provide adequate support to SIDS.
5. A SIDS co-ordinator has been designated inside the Secretariat as required by Decision 10.112, paragraph i).
6. There are currently only three SIDS in Oceania that are members of CITES: Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji. There are eleven non-Party SIDS: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Westerns Somoa. A further six territories located in the Oceania region are covered by the accession of other Parties including France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the United States of America.
7. Decision 10.112 focuses on the SIDS in Oceania and the Caribbean. However, whenever an opportunity exists, in close co-ordination with UNEP, the Secretariat will communicate current CITES activities to other SIDS Parties: Cape Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Cyprus and Malta.
8. At the 41st meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat requested funds from the Trust Fund to support a regional meeting for SIDS in Oceania and one for SIDS in the Caribbean. Discussions regarding this request, however, were postponed. The Secretariat renews its request for such funding at this meeting so that training sessions can take place later in 1999.