

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

TRADE IN FALCONS FOR FALCONRY

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 51st meeting (Bangkok, October 2004), the Standing Committee noted a report from the Secretariat (document SC51 Doc. 13) on the trade in falcons for falconry. The document included a suggestion that a CITES Enforcement Task Force be established to examine illicit trade in falcons. The Standing Committee expressed general support for the suggestion but deferred any decision until the Conference of the Parties had had an opportunity to discuss the general concept of establishing *ad hoc* task forces.
3. At its 13th meeting (CoP13 Bangkok, October 2004) the Conference of the Parties endorsed a recommendation from the CITES Enforcement Expert Group and the Secretariat (described in greater detail in document CoP13 Doc. 23) that *ad hoc* task forces be established to focus on enforcement-related issues as and when they were required. This concept is now included in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP13) (Compliance and enforcement).
4. The Secretariat is tasked with coordinating the work of such task forces and is directed to work with the Standing Committee to determine the subjects to be examined and the terms of reference for task forces.

Recent activities

5. In response to reports of continuing significant illicit trade in falcons and expressions of concern by Parties, the Secretariat wrote to members of the Standing Committee in December 2004 and sought their approval to proceed to convene a CITES Falcon Enforcement Task Force. No objections to this proposal were received.
6. The Secretariat subsequently wrote to one Party that it believed might be willing to act as the host country for a task force meeting but it has yet to receive a response. Until a host country can be identified, the Secretariat is unable to create a budget for such a meeting or seek funding. It is expected that many of the Parties that should be represented in the Task Force will require financial support to participate.
7. The Secretariat will also take account of the work being done by the Animals Committee in relation to the review of trade in specimens of *Falco cherrug* under the Review of Significant Trade.

Recommendation

8. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee invite Parties to volunteer to host the task force meeting and that it encourage donors to contribute to this initiative. The Secretariat has prepared a project proposal in relation to this work and can make it available to interested Parties. It emphasizes, however, that it is extremely difficult to estimate costs for such a meeting until the host country is identified.