

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

GREAT APES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 13.4 (*Conservation of and trade in great apes*) the Conference of the Parties

URGES the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee to work closely with GRASP, and to explore and implement other measures through which the Convention can contribute to the conservation of great apes and to the promotion of public awareness of the threat posed to great ape populations by illegal trade

3. The Standing Committee is also directed to:

review the implementation of this Resolution at each of its regular meetings on the basis of the Secretariat's reports

CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force

4. At its meeting in 2006, Task Force members requested the Secretariat to arrange for the production of awareness-raising posters, which could be distributed in great ape range States to help bring attention to illicit trade in specimens of these species.
5. Such posters were printed and distributed in late 2007. The Secretariat is very grateful to the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, and to the other NGOs that supported it, for coordinating the production of these posters. It also wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the photojournalist Karl Amman, who donated images of great apes. The posters include images of all four great ape species juveniles, since this is the age at which they are most commonly smuggled. The posters have text in English/French and English/Indonesian, depending on whether they will be used in Africa or Asia. The posters bear the logos of CITES, GRASP, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, ICPO-Interpol and the World Customs Organization, each of which helped in distribution.
6. The Secretariat intends to issue an Alert on illicit trade in great apes, incorporating information collated through the Task Force initiative and hopes to do so before July 2007.

Convention on Migratory Species and GRASP

7. A legally-binding, regional Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats, negotiated under Article IV of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), was concluded at a meeting in Paris, France from 22 to 24 October 2007 (full text available at:

www.cms.int/bodies/meeting/regional/gorillas/pdf_docs/Gorilla_Agmt_Fin_E.pdf). The Agreement's geographical scope includes Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda. It was signed by the Central African Republic and Republic of Congo on 26 October 2007 and will enter into force after signature or adherence by a third range State.

8. An Agreement Secretariat and Technical Committee shall be established and an Action Plan adopted at the first Meeting of the Parties, which is expected to be held during the Conference of the Parties to CMS in November 2008. Pursuant to Article IX, the Agreement Secretariat shall consult on a regular basis with the CITES Secretariat and other international bodies dealing with gorillas and their habitats. The Secretariat looks forward to working with the Agreement Secretariat and CMS Secretariat on relevant issues related to gorillas.

Egypt

9. Illicit trade in great apes involving Egypt has been referred to by the Secretariat in several of its previous documents to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties (CoP14) noted that Egypt had issued an invitation for the Secretariat to conduct a mission to examine implementation of the Convention and enforcement-related matters.
10. Such a mission was conducted in November 2007 and a report of the findings is submitted for consideration by the Committee at its present meeting under the agenda item *Enforcement Matters* (document SC57 Doc. 20 Annex refers).

Indonesia

11. At its 54th meeting (Geneva, October 2006), the Standing Committee requested Indonesia to submit a report describing its enforcement work in relation to orang-utans. Following this decision, Indonesia submitted a report at CoP14, but this focused on strategic matters, rather than on operational enforcement work or achievements. Consequently the Conference of the Parties asked Indonesia to submit a further report for consideration by the Standing Committee at the present meeting. At the time of writing (March 2008), the Secretariat had not received this new report.

Technical missions

12. At its 53rd meeting (Geneva, June-July 2005), the Standing Committee agreed that the CITES Secretariat should undertake, in conjunction with the GRASP Secretariat, technical missions to Asia to examine the illicit trade in orang-utans. By the time of CoP14, missions had been undertaken to Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand. The reports of the missions can be accessed (in English only) on the CITES website under [Programmes/Species programmes/Great apes](#). A mission to Malaysia remained to be conducted at the time of CoP14.
13. The mission to Malaysia was conducted from 5 to 8 November 2007. Unfortunately, the GRASP Secretariat was unable to participate on this occasion. The report of the mission (in English only) is annexed to this document.
14. In summary, the mission focused on the work being done in Sabah and Sarawak to conserve orang-utans and the mission findings were very positive. The CITES Secretariat believes that Sabah and Sarawak both offer excellent examples in relation to eco-tourism and rehabilitation of animals that could be of benefit in relation to many species and not just orang-utans.

Final remarks

15. The missions to Egypt and Malaysia completed the specific activities that had been allocated to the Secretariat by the Standing Committee or Conference of the Parties in relation to great apes. It suggests that the Standing Committee consider whether the Resolution should not be amended at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to delete the requirement for a regular review. Instead, the Committee could rely upon the Secretariat to bring to its attention matters of note, as it does in relation to other species-specific issues.