

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

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Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

Elephants

TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on its own behalf and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) (Trade in elephant specimens), "the Conference of the Parties directs the Standing Committee to undertake a regular review of actions taken by consumer States to improve legislation and enforcement measures and to report the results at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties".
3. Since CoP12, the Secretariat has undertaken work on this subject, particularly in accordance with Decision 12.39, namely:
  - a) *Contingent on the availability of funding, the Secretariat shall assess whether countries with currently active internal ivory markets (i.e. Cameroon, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Japan, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda and the United States of America) have established the comprehensive internal legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures specified in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) regarding compliance with control of internal trade.*
  - b) *Where such assessments demonstrate that a Party does not have adequate measures, the Secretariat shall seek from that Party an action plan that is an outline of its programme to adopt measures to enable it to adequately regulate trade in ivory. The purpose of such a plan is to establish and commit to a timeframe for developing, approving, enacting and implementing such measures. The Secretariat shall provide technical assistance in the development of such plans.*

Work by the Secretariat and the Standing Committee

4. At its 50th meeting (Geneva, March 2004), the Standing Committee considered the work conducted by the Secretariat to assess control of internal trade in ivory. It noted the report of the Secretariat provided in document SC50 Doc. 21.1 (Rev. 1) and directed the Secretariat to:
  - a) *continue to implement Decision 12.39 and pay particular attention to the Parties identified in paragraphs 7, 13 and 15 of document SC50 Doc. 21.1 (Rev. 1);*
  - b) *if external funding can be secured, hold a dialogue meeting with African elephant range States prior to CoP13 to develop a detailed work plan, using the Annex to document SC50 Doc. 21.1 (Rev. 1) as a basis, that covers both Appendix-I and -II elephant populations and includes actions by all African range States;*

- c) report at CoP13 on the implementation of Decision 12.39 and the results of the dialogue meeting; and*
- d) prepare a revised decision for consideration at CoP13 based on a holistic approach that covers all Appendix-I and -II elephant populations and their range States.*

5. The Standing Committee also urged all range States to implement Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) and to work cooperatively to end the illegal trade in ivory.
6. Following the meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat wrote to Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti and Nigeria asking them to submit action plans as required in Decision 12.39. At the time of writing (April 2004), responses were awaited.
7. The Secretariat will report at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in relation to progress on this issue and on the outcome of any dialogue meeting.