



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2006/020

Geneva, 23 March 2006

CONCERNING:

Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation

1. In 2002, the Secretariat advised the Parties of the introduction of certificates of commendation that would be issued, at the Secretary-General's discretion, to recognize exemplary enforcement actions.
2. The fourth such certificate was awarded by the Secretary-General on 23 March 2006 to the Royal Chitwan National Park Authority and the Royal Nepalese Army.
3. The certificate was awarded in recognition of their combined efforts to combat the poaching of and illegal trade in endangered species, especially leopard, rhinoceros and tiger. During 2004 and 2005, officers of the Authority and Army arrested over 30 persons engaged in illegal activities, many of whom were subsequently sentenced to periods of imprisonment. Their enforcement activities also led to the seizure of rhinoceros horns, tiger skins, and tiger and leopard bones, and to the confiscation of money obtained through illegal activities, as well as vehicles, weapons and ammunition.
4. The certificate was presented during a ceremony at the offices of the CITES Secretariat and was accepted on behalf of the Authority and Army by His Excellency The Royal Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Nepal to the United Nations and other international organizations at Geneva.