



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2010/015

Geneva, 17 June 2010

CONCERNING:

MADAGASCAR

Recommendation to suspend trade

1. At the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC58, Geneva, July 2009), participants expressed serious concerns that provisions of the Convention were not being effectively implemented by Madagascar in relation to its trade in Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) specimens and that the species was being adversely affected by trade. The Standing Committee created a working group (comprising France, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, the United States of America, the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group and the Secretariat) to review these concerns and to make recommendations.
2. Based on the working group's report and related discussions, the Committee agreed on a list of priority actions to be undertaken by Madagascar by 31 December 2009 in order to avoid a Standing Committee recommendation to suspend international trade in specimens of Nile crocodiles originating from Madagascar. The Committee further agreed that the Secretary-General should send a letter to high-level officials in Madagascar to convey to them the list of priority actions and express the Committee's serious concerns that the provisions of the Convention were not being effectively implemented by Madagascar in relation to its trade in this species.
3. At its 59th meeting (SC59, Doha, March 2010), the Standing Committee learned that audits of five ranching operations and a training workshop (funded by France) had taken place in Madagascar during February 2010, after the relevant SC59 discussion document had been prepared by the Secretariat. The Committee therefore asked the SC58 working group to discuss the results of those and other activities that had been undertaken to implement the SC59 priority actions and to report to the Committee at its 60th meeting (SC60, Doha, March 2010).
4. At SC60, the SC58 working group reported that the audits and workshop had confirmed that there were reasons for serious concerns about the Nile crocodile trade in Madagascar. It also reported that, apart from the audits and workshop, there had been poor implementation of the priority actions agreed at SC58.
5. Based on the working group's report and related discussions, the Standing Committee recommended a suspension of trade with Madagascar in Nile crocodile specimens until 30 September 2010. The Committee also agreed on a set of actions that Madagascar should implement before the Standing Committee could consider withdrawing its recommendation.
6. The Standing Committee agreed to review the situation via postal procedure after 30 September 2010 if the Secretariat considered that Madagascar had implemented the actions agreed at SC60, and to then determine whether its recommendation should be withdrawn.
7. In accordance with the decisions adopted by the Standing Committee at SC60, it is recommended that Parties not accept imports of Nile crocodile specimens coming from Madagascar until further notice.