



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2011/009

Geneva, 19 January 2011

CONCERNING:

PARAGUAY

Partial lifting of voluntary moratorium on trade in CITES species

1. In Notification to the Parties No. 2009/036 of 10 August 2009, the CITES Secretariat recommended to Paraguay to lift its voluntary moratorium in three phases:

Phase 1: Lifting of the moratorium for trade in specimens of Appendix-III species and all transactions for non-commercial purposes with immediate effect;

Phase 2: With regard to exports of existing stocks of legally acquired reptile specimens (skins collected during 2001, 2002 and 2003), trade in these specimens will be authorized after the Secretariat, in cooperation with the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, confirms the legal origin of the skins and verifies that the conditions agreed at the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC50, Geneva, March 2004) have been fully met, i.e. the implementation of management plans and the establishment of a solid legislative basis for ensuring the control of trade;

Phase 3: With regard to all other commercial trade, the voluntary moratorium shall be reconsidered by Paraguay's Scientific Authority with the assistance of the national and international independent experts. They will assist the Management Authority with the establishment of programmes and cautious export quotas starting in 2010.

2. Paraguay complied with the recommendation contained in Phase 1 as soon as Notification to the Parties No. 2009/036 was issued.

3. With regard to Phase 2 and Phase 3, the CITES Secretariat facilitated a visit by experts from the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group between 26 and 28 August 2010, and by the Fundación Biodiversidad – Argentina between 1 and 4 November 2010 to:

a) verify the status of stocks of skins of *Caiman yacare*, *Eunectes notaeus* and *Tupinambis* spp. acquired legally in 2001, 2002 and 2003;

b) assess the progress made by Paraguay in developing programmes to manage these taxa; and

c) assist the authorities in regulating trade in essential oil and timber of *Bulnesia sarmientoi*.

4. The results of these two missions were discussed with the Paraguayan Authorities during the CITES regional workshop for Central and South America organized in Bogota, Colombia, from 7 to 9 December 2010 with funds from the European Union. A small working group comprising the Management and Scientific Authorities of Paraguay, the international experts and the Secretariat analysed the recommendations and identified the actions to be taken in order to allow the export of reptile skins acquired legally between 2001 and 2003, and to resume the currently suspended exports of essential oil and timber of *Bulnesia sarmientoi*.

5. In line with these recommendations, Paraguay communicated to the CITES Secretariat on 22 December 2010 its decision to:
 - a) lift its voluntary suspension to allow trade in the stocks of legally acquired reptile skins mentioned above; and
 - b) authorize trade in essential oil and timber of *Bulnesia sarmientoi* since the species, following its inclusion in CITES Appendix II at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doha, 2010), had become covered by the voluntary moratorium that Paraguay had imposed in 2003.
6. With regard to any other CITES trade in Appendix-II species, which are covered by Phase 3 of Notification to the Parties No. 2009/036, Paraguay has informed the Secretariat that it was maintaining its voluntary moratorium. Paraguay will assess whether it is opportune to lift this measure, and, if so, gradually, as it implements the management plans recommended at SC50.
7. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2009/036 of 10 August 2009.