



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2011/029

Geneva, 23 August 2011

CONCERNING:

Disposal of confiscated live tortoise and turtle specimens

1. At its 25th meeting (Geneva, July 2011), the Animals Committee noted that seizures of shipments of live tortoise and turtle specimens, being traded in violation of the Convention, could often involve large numbers of specimens. The Committee also noted the seizures of specimens of some species that are critically endangered.
2. It was further noted that many CITES Management and Enforcement Authorities face considerable difficulties in the disposal of such specimens to suitable rescue centres or other long-term care. Return of such specimens to the wild is often impractical or very difficult to organize. Consequently, euthanasia can sometimes seem the only option.
3. The Animals Committee encourages Parties to follow the guidance contained in Resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) (*Disposal of confiscated specimens of species included in the Appendices*), particularly in relation to consulting widely to identify, and obtain assistance in accessing, facilities that may provide immediate or long-term housing and care, including facilities engaged in species-specific captive-breeding for conservation and research, especially for critically endangered tortoises and turtles.
4. The Secretariat's attention has been drawn to the following websites, which Parties may find to be of help:
 - a) for assistance with identification, conservation status, and other technical or biological information: <http://www.iucn-tftsg.org/contact/>; and
 - b) for assistance with the handling and placement of confiscated live specimens: <http://www.turtlesurvival.org/contact>.
5. The Secretariat is aware that the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (www.waza.org), together with similar regional and national zoological associations and institutions, are useful sources of support.
6. Lastly, the Secretariat reminds Parties of the relevant information contained in [Notification No. 2009/009](#), of 6 March 2009, regarding *Confiscation of live animals: List of sources of assistance provided by the Species Survival Network*.