



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2013/051

Geneva, 15 November 2013

CONCERNING:

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Verification of export permits for African grey parrots

1. In Decision 14.85 on the grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), the Conference of the Parties states that:

The Secretariat should identify cases where there has been a history of exports in excess of quotas and, as long as necessary, verify export permits issued to ensure that quotas are not exceeded.

2. In 2006, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on the *Review of Significant Trade in Appendix-II Species*, the Animals Committee initiated a review of the trade in *Psittacus erithacus*. It made recommendations to a number of countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, regarding the regulation of the trade. At its 57th meeting (Geneva, July 2008), the Standing Committee was informed that it had been determined by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee that most of these recommendations had not been implemented. The Standing Committee decided that, until the recommendations of the Animals Committee were complied with, the Secretariat should indicate in its list of annual export quotas that the export quota for wild live specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo was 5,000. This quota remains in effect.
3. The trade statistics from the annual reports of the Parties indicate that this quota was exceeded in 2009 and 2010. Data from countries of destination for 2011 and 2012 are not yet complete, but preliminary indications from some countries suggest that there is cause for concern about the volume of trade. The Secretariat notes that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not yet submitted its annual reports for 2010, 2011 or 2012.
4. In Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16), section VIII, paragraph c), the Conference of the Parties recommends that:

Parties send to the Secretariat copies of permits, electronic and paper, issued for species subject to quotas if so requested by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee or the Secretariat.
5. In the context of this recommendation, the Secretariat has requested the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide copies of the permits that it has issued for export of specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* in 2011, 2012 and 2013, and to continue to provide copies of permits issued for this species until the end of 2014.
6. In order to implement Decision 14.85 effectively, the CITES Secretariat invites all Parties, before accepting any export permit issued by – or apparently issued by – the Democratic Republic of the Congo for specimens of *Psittacus erithacus*, to ask the Secretariat to verify the permit in accordance with the Decision. This invitation shall remain in effect until further notice.