



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2013/062

Geneva, 20 December 2013

CONCERNING:

Tortoises and freshwater turtles (*Testudines* spp.)

1. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 16.109-16.124 on *Tortoises and freshwater turtles (*Testudines* spp.)*.
2. The purpose of the present Notification is to remind Parties to submit annually the data mentioned in Decisions 16.113-16.115 (see the Annex) in conjunction with their annual report submission.
3. Parties are further invited to submit the reports requested in Decision 16.118, paragraph d), and Decision 16.121, paragraph b), to the Secretariat by **31 March 2014**, to enable the Secretariat to prepare its recommendations in time for consideration at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, 7-11 July 2014).

**RELEVANT PARTS OF DECISIONS 16.113-16.123 ON
TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES (TESTUDINES SPP.)**

Directed to Parties

16.113 The Parties, particularly those of the Asian region, should collect data on seizures of CITES-listed live tortoises and freshwater turtles, and report these data annually to the Secretariat, along with the disposition of the specimens. The Parties should provide the data in conjunction with their annual report submission. These data should be reported for confiscations through the end of 2019.

The Parties should report, if possible, on the following parameters: species, numbers of specimens, destination (for exports) or source/re-exporting country (for imports), and disposition of the animals as per Resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices*.

16.114 Parties are encouraged to collect and report data voluntarily, in the same manner as indicated in Decision 16.113, on confiscations of international shipments of non-CITES freshwater turtle species, so that such data may shed light on illegal trade methods and provide useful information to Enforcement and Management Authorities.

16.115 Parties are encouraged to collect and report voluntarily comparable data on confiscations of specimens of CITES and non-CITES species of tortoises and freshwater turtles traded domestically. Parties are encouraged to provide the data annually in response to the invitation by the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.116 The Secretariat shall invite Parties to provide the information specified in Decisions 16.114 and 16.115, consider the information submitted under Decision 16.113, and report on its evaluation of the data received to the Standing Committee for its next regular meeting, and make recommendations for the implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.117 The Standing Committee shall consider the reports submitted by the Secretariat and its recommendations, and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to Parties

16.118 Considering the large-scale illegal and undocumented trade in parts and derivatives from CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles, the Parties should:

- a) take note of this problem and take steps to address it within their national systems to ensure that CITES permits are properly issued and the Convention is fully implemented and enforced;
- b) examine their enforcement efforts regarding the trade in these parts and derivatives, and take adequate steps to deter and detect illegal and undocumented trade;
- c) conduct education and outreach efforts directed towards turtle farms, buyers and sellers of turtle shell, bones, cartilage (calipee), and other parts, medicinal product manufacturers, shippers, brokers, and other key stakeholders to better ensure that turtle parts and derivatives are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES requirements; and
- d) report their progress in these areas, via the Secretariat, at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.119 The Secretariat shall:

- a) forward the reports provided pursuant to Decision 16.118 to the Standing Committee, making any recommendations it deems appropriate; ...

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.120 The Standing Committee shall consider at its 65th or 66th meeting all the information and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 16.119 and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to the Parties

16.121 Parties, particularly those in the Asia region, are encouraged to:

- a) increase enforcement activities to deter, detect and address illegal and undocumented trade in CITES-listed live tortoises and freshwater turtles, and their parts and derivatives, inter alia by providing relevant training to national enforcement authorities, strengthening the enforcement and implementation of the Convention for these species, disseminating identification materials and increasing awareness amongst the judiciary; and
- b) provide relevant information on their progress in these areas to the Secretariat for reporting at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.122 The Secretariat shall:

...

- c) report on progress on Decision 16.121, paragraph b) ..., including its recommendations, at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.123 The Standing Committee shall consider at its 65th and 66th meetings all information submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 16.122 and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.