



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2014/015

Geneva, 26 March 2014

CONCERNING:

### Diplomatic immunity

1. The CITES Secretariat has received information suggesting that diplomats are increasingly involved in moving CITES specimens across international borders without the appropriate permits or certificates.
2. This issue was discussed by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (CoP9, Fort Lauderdale, 1994), where the Secretariat pointed out that the Convention provides no exemption from its provisions for persons with diplomatic immunity. CITES documents are therefore required for any international movement of specimens of species listed in its appendices. [See document Doc. 9.22 (Rev.) from CoP9.]
3. Following discussion of this subject, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision, the text of which remains in effect and now appears in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Compliance and enforcement*. In the section *Regarding compliance, control and cooperation*, paragraph f), the Conference of the Parties:

*RECOMMENDS that: ...*

*Parties remind their diplomatic missions, their delegates on mission in foreign countries and their troops serving under the flag of the United Nations that they are not exempted from the provisions of the Convention.*

4. In light of information suggesting that there are continued abuses of diplomatic privilege, the Secretariat invites all Management Authorities to bring the above recommendation of the Conference of the Parties to the attention of the appropriate authorities.