

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

**Recommendations of the 3rd international workshop & Conference
for Wildlife Detector Dogs**

The attached information document is provided at the request of Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States*.

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Information document
submitted to CITES CoP 15 by Spain, on behalf of the EU and its Member States
(related to document 25)

**Recommendations of the 3rd international workshop & Conference
for Wildlife Detector Dogs**

17-20 June 2008, Treviso (Italy)

In recognition of the need for enhanced enforcement methods in wildlife trade to safeguard global biological diversity, experts on programmes in training and using detector dogs, representatives of Customs and environmental police inspectors from different countries met from 17-20 June 2008 in Treviso, Italy at the 3rd international workshop & Conference for Wildlife Detector Dogs. It resulted in the following recommendations for the increased use of wildlife detector dogs

NOTING the importance of the global markets for wildlife and the different sets of measures and procedures for controlling trade and enforcing the related national and international regulations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that, owing to such high levels of trade in wildlife, it is the responsibility of all the Parties to the CITES to ensure that trade is legal and that measures are adopted and implemented to reduce illegal trade, including enhanced enforcement methods such as the use of wildlife detector dogs, which is a cost-effective and efficient method;

RECOGNIZING that illegal trade in specimens of species included in the Appendices of CITES causes serious damage to wildlife resources, reduces the effectiveness of wildlife management programmes, undermines legal trade and threatens sustainable development, particularly in the developing economies of many producing countries;

ACKNOWLEDGING that regulation of international trade requires international co-operation, to fulfil the objectives of CITES and related wildlife regulations, and that this can only be achieved through the sharing of resources, information and intelligence in order to strengthen enforcement amongst states;

AWARE of the importance of involving relevant governmental, inter-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in these efforts;

CONSIDERING the results of the first and second workshop Wildlife detector dogs; and

AWARE of the fact that the use of wildlife detector dogs amongst CITES Parties will also assist enforcement at a global level and will support efforts already being made by CITES Parties to improve enforcement worldwide through enhanced co-operation and co-ordination;

The participants of the workshop

Conclude that

- Illegal trafficking of protected fauna and flora is of growing concern and increasingly involves organized criminal networks using sophisticated techniques and that increased attention must be given by CITES Parties to illicit trade;
- Illegal trade in wildlife may be related to the increase of diseases transmitted between plants, wildlife, livestock and humans, increasing the disease factor and the economic hardships of developed and developing countries;
- Using dogs in combination with other tools will increase the chance of success and seizures;
- Detector dogs are flexible tools, make it possible to detect items that can not be detected by other tools and one dog-handler team is highly effective in searching more people and more cargo and/or luggage in a shorter time;
- Formal and informal channels of communication between authorities at national and international levels are required to co-ordinate the efforts of enforcement bodies of CITES Parties, emphasising the usefulness of wildlife detector dogs, to ensure efficient actions, to avoid duplication of effort, and to alert relevant agencies operating in other countries;
- Many authorities of CITES Parties are not suitably resourced or experienced to address illegal wildlife trafficking and this challenge can be addressed through enhanced enforcement methods, including the use of wildlife detector dog programmes;
- Propose as guide line for training programmes of detector dogs an enclosed document;

RECOMMEND that:

- Ministers, directors general of Customs, commissioners of police and other relevant policy- and decision-makers be encouraged to make the enforcement CITES, related wildlife trade regulations and relevant national legislation a higher priority;
- CITES Parties explore innovative means of increasing capacity and improving enforcement, for example through enhanced enforcement methods, including the use of wildlife detector dogs;
- Co-operation and co-ordination between existing detector dog programmes of CITES Parties and those States which are interested in developing and implementing such programmes, to foster efficiency in detecting illegal wildlife in trade;

- Experience of detector dog programmes be exchanged with relevant organizations, such as the WCO, Interpol, Europol, the CITES Secretariat, inter-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure effective implementation and enforcement;
- Detector dog programmes in CITES Parties improve their knowledge of wildlife trade legislation, species identification, risk analysis and investigation of criminal actions and that, where possible, such workshops be convened in Customs and police facilities;
- Detector dog programmes in CITES Parties, whenever appropriate and possible, liaise closely with CITES Management Authorities and other law enforcement agencies in consumer, source and transit countries, to help detect, deter and prevent illicit trade in wildlife through the exchange of intelligence, technical advice and support;
- Relevant authorities and institutions, when considering the establishment of detector dog programmes, take account of their potential for attracting sponsorship to help reduce costs;
- Relevant authorities and institutions, when considering the establishment of detector dog programmes, take account of the very positive public awareness benefits offered by such programmes and also their potential to help reduce the smuggling of species carrying diseases hazardous to wildlife, livestock and humans.