

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

PROGRESS REPORT ON CITES ENFORCEMENT IN NIGERIA

The attached document* has been submitted by the Government of Nigeria.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

PROGRESS REPORT ON CITES ENFORCEMENT IN NIGERIA

The National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) is an Agency of the Federal Ministry of Environment, established by an Act of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in July 2007. The Agency which replaces the defunct Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA), has the mandate to enforce all environmental laws, standards, regulations and guidelines in the country and to also enforce the provisions of all international environmental conventions, protocols and treaties to which Nigeria is a signatory. By this Act, NESREA is charged with enforcement of the provisions of CITES as well as the National CITES legislation, the Endangered Species Act. NESREA has been designated as the National CITES Enforcement Authority.

NESREA is a member of the Seaport Environmental Security Networks Advisory Committee, and is also actively involved in the activities and programmes of the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), particularly in the areas of Environmental Pollution and Wildlife Crimes. NESREA is collaborating with the Nigeria Customs Service and the Nigerian Police in her enforcement activities. The Agency has already been re-admitted into the Nation's sea and airports as well as land borders.

Following the discussions that the CITES Secretary General and Chief, Enforcement Assistance held with the Honourable Minister of Environment and other Nigerian Stakeholders-notably the Customs, the Police and the Presidency, during their recent visit to Nigeria, a line-up of activities was agreed towards more effective enforcement of CITES in Nigeria. A number of these activities have either been implemented or on-going as follows:

i. An Inter-Agency Committee on CITES Enforcement

A broad based committee on CITES enforcement was inaugurated by Hon. Minister Mr. John Odey on the 9th of February, 2010. The membership of the Committee includes:

| | |
|---|----------|
| • NESREA | Chairman |
| • Department of Forestry (Management Authority) | member |
| • Nigeria Police Force | “ |
| • Nigeria Custom Service | “ |
| • National Central Bureau (INTERPOL) | “ |
| • Directorate of State Security Service | “ |
| • The Presidency | “ |
| • Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism | “ |
| • Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (Scientific Authority) | “ |
| • National Parks Service (Scientific Authority) | “ |
| • Nigerian Conservation Foundation (Front-line NGO) | “ |

ii. National Regulations

The Agency, based on templates furnished by the CITES Secretariat, is drafting new regulations with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Committee to take into consideration the observed deficiencies in the existing national CITES legislation.

iii. Enforcement Activities Against Illegal Domestic Trade in Wildlife Product

With the collaboration of the members of the Inter-agency Committee, NESREA is planning some coordinated inspections to Markets and shops soon, targeting CITES listed specimen.

iv. Public Awareness

The Agency is mass producing awareness materials to enhance public enlightenment on CITES and Wildlife Crime