

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

Forty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 8-12 February 1999

Implementation of the Convention in individual countries

ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

1. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.8, the CITES Secretariat, through its Enforcement Assistance Unit (EAU), continues to maintain a close liaison with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and ICPO-Interpol. EAU staff attend all meetings of the WCO/CITES Working Group and the Interpol Wildlife Crime Sub Group. Both Groups demonstrate a commendable commitment to enforcement of the Convention and are engaged in a variety of projects to assist law enforcement agencies in their work in combating wildlife crime and illicit trade.
2. Pursuant to Decision 10.1, regarding resumption of trade in ivory, EAU staff have continued to assist in the development of systems for monitoring illegal trade and illegal killing of elephants. Reporting forms have been distributed to assist in this process (Notifications Nos. 1998/10 and 1998/40). The EAU is responsible for verification of reports relating to the illegal killing of elephants (Notification to the Parties No. 1998/44).
3. Pursuant to Decision 10.118, regarding the control and checking of shipments of CITES specimens, Secretariat staff participated in a World Customs Organization working group on the preparation of a training package for Customs officers. A systematic plan was developed around which training seminars could be structured. Additional material for manuals for participants and trainers is being prepared. Adaptation of these manuals for the training of Police officers is being considered.
4. Also pursuant to Decision 10.118, EAU staff routinely communicate to the World Customs Organization general and technical information that may assist in border controls. In 1998, Notification to the Parties No.1998/37 was distributed regarding illicit trade in caviar. Additional notifications (Nos.1998/16, 1998/38, 1998/39 and 1998/53) communicated information on marking systems used by five range States. The Secretariat believes that such initiatives ought to assist customs officials.
5. Pursuant to Decision 10.119, problems relating to the implementation of CITES in general and, particularly, to the topic of CITES documentation required by Customs authorities were discussed by the WCO working group on training. The participant's manual and the modules provide specific training on the processing of documents and shipments by Customs.
6. EAU staff participated in a regional meeting of the Management Authorities and Customs officials of Japan, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation in Vladivostok from 19 to 22 September 1998 and in the African Elephant Dialogue Meeting III in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 28 September to 2 October 1998. The Vladivostok meeting provided an opportunity for officials of the

Management Authorities and Customs in the four countries to exchange information about illicit trade in that region.

7. Recognizing the importance for enforcement officers of access to advice and practical assistance relating to forensic science, the Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Law Enforcement/Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensic Laboratory. A copy is attached as Annex 1. This promotes a closer relationship between the Secretariat and the laboratory, facilitates the exchange of information and enables the two organizations to work on joint projects. The document was formally signed at the Third International Conference on Environmental Crime, organized by the General Secretariat of ICPO-Interpol in Lyon on 15 and 16 October 1998.
8. In February 1996, the CITES Secretariat and the General Secretariat of ICPO-Interpol signed a letter of agreement to allow for co-operation between the two agencies. During 1998, the two secretariats prepared a Memorandum of Understanding to acknowledge formally the close relationship between the two organizations, to facilitate co-operation on a range of enforcement issues and to exchange information relating to wildlife crime. A copy is attached as Annex 2. This document was also formally signed at the Third International Conference on Environmental Crime.
9. At that meeting, EAU staff made a presentation on CITES enforcement issues. They also made a presentation at the United Kingdom Police Wildlife Liaison Officers' Conference on 17 and 18 October 1998. These encouraged the exchange of information relating to illicit trade and increased co-operation between law enforcement agencies and their national CITES Management Authorities.
10. EAU staff have included useful advice and information in the publication CITES World.