

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

CITES IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

1. In its Strategic Plan adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doc. 9.17), the Secretariat introduced its plan to initiate the preparation of a 'CITES Implementation Manual'. Regrettably, however, a lack of resources prevented it from starting the preparation of the Manual.
2. At its 10th meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of decisions jointly referred to as the Action Plan. One of these, Decision 10.97, states that:

In consultation with the Standing Committee, appropriate tools shall be developed to assist the Parties in the interpretation of existing Resolutions.

3. Consequently, the Secretariat is hereby presenting, for endorsement, its plan for the development of the CITES Implementation Manual.

Proposal

4. The plan is to produce the Implementation Manual as a loose-leaf publication (in the same way as the Identification Manual) of at least four volumes with dividers marking clearly the separate sections of each volume. The number of volumes could be increased later if necessary. The following list is not exhaustive.

Volume 1 would contain:

- the current text of the Convention (i.e. as amended in Bonn, with the amendment clearly indicated since it does not apply for all Parties)
- the current Appendices I and II
- the current Appendix III
- Appendix IV, together with the permit/certificate form recommended for use by the Conference of the Parties
- the current Reservations
- the current Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties
- the current Decisions of the Conference of the Parties
- an index to the Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Volume 2 would contain the current Notification to the Parties

Volume 3 would contain:

- the Checklist of CITES Species
- the Annotated Appendices and Reservations

Volume 4 would provide concise commentaries on the implementation of various provisions of the Convention, with reference to Resolutions, Decisions and Notifications to the Parties where appropriate and with cross references to other sections of the Manual. For example:

- Issuance of permits and certificates for Appendix-I species
 - Issuance of permits and certificates for Appendix-II species
 - Issuance of permits and certificates for Appendix-III species
 - Permits and certificates
 - Transit
 - Pre-Convention specimens
 - Personal and household effects
 - Ranched specimens
 - Captive-bred specimens
 - Artificially-propagated specimens
 - Loans, donations or exchanges between scientists or scientific institutions
 - Travelling exhibitions
 - National legislation to implement the Convention (including guidelines)
 - Submission of annual reports (including guidelines)
 - Designation of Management and Scientific Authorities
 - Trade with non-Parties
 - Specific species issues (significant trade, elephants, leopards, etc.)
5. The Secretariat would not expect to write all parts of Volume 4 itself but would seek contributions from the Parties and appropriate experts, although the Secretariat would take ultimate responsibility for any text included in the Manual and would only include texts that were in accordance with the Secretariat's view.
 6. Work on the Manual is planned to start in the first half of 1999 and is it expected that, subject to resources, the first two volumes should be published before the end of the year. The Secretariat would seek to identify funds for the publication from within its regular budget but, if this proves impossible it will seek external funding.
 7. The Standing Committee is invited to comment on this proposal and to endorse the Secretariat's plan.