

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

Forty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Lisbon (Portugal), 28 September-1 October 1999

Implementation of the Convention in individual countries

ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

1. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.8 and Decision 10.106, the CITES Secretariat continues to maintain a close liaison with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and ICPO-Interpol. Secretariat staff attend all meetings of the WCO/CITES Working Group and the Interpol Wildlife Crime Sub-Group. In recognition of the increasing importance of the subject, the latter group has been upgraded by ICPO-Interpol and is now entitled the Wildlife Crime Working Group. Its most recent meeting took place in Lyon, France, on 23 and 24 June 1999.
2. Secretariat staff recently assisted the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group in reviewing its Practical Guide for CITES Management Authorities and training material for a new Interpol awareness course on environmental crime. Assistance was also provided to Interpol's Analytical Crime Intelligence Unit during its review of illegal trade in primates. It is hoped that copies of the Practical Guide and the report of Project Primates will soon be available for distribution to the Parties.
3. The Secretariat participated in the CITES Tiger Missions technical team and took advantage of the missions to examine wildlife crime issues relating to species other than the tiger. The Secretariat discovered several apparent infractions and these have been brought to the attention of individual Parties.
4. From 12 to 14 July 1999, the United Nations Environment Programme hosted a Workshop on Enforcement of and Compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Geneva. The Acting Chief of the Enforcement Assistance Unit acted as a facilitator. Aimed at developing countries and those with economies in transition, the event discussed ways in which enforcement of and compliance with the Basel Convention, CITES and the Montreal Protocol could be enhanced. Almost 40 countries from around the world were represented. It is expected that a summary of the proceedings will be distributed to the Parties once it is available.
5. The Secretariat expects to participate in a project being conducted by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute on environmental crime and hopes to develop closer links with other United Nations bodies that are engaged in tackling organized crime.
6. In March 1999, the Secretariat participated in the second meeting of the Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, held at the Kenya Wildlife Service Headquarters, which is also the designated headquarters of the Task Force to the Lusaka Agreement. The six Parties to the Agreement (the Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia), which comprise the Governing Council, agreed to appoint the Task Force Director, Intelligence Officer and Field Officers and for the Task Force to be operational from 1 June 1999. The Council also requested the assistance of the Secretariat, within the framework of Resolution Conf. 9.8 (Rev.), paragraph b) of the first Directs. The Director of the Task Force is preparing a project proposal to be submitted to the Secretariat for fund-raising.

7. In June 1999, the Secretariat participated in a UNEP-sponsored Expert Workshop to review a Draft Handbook on Implementation of Conventions Related to Biological Diversity in Africa. This was financed under the UNEP/UNDP/Dutch Joint Project executed by UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation. The Handbook focuses on the domestication of biodiversity-related international, regional and subregional conventions and agreements including CITES. It will help countries in the African region to assess the adequacy of their national legislation relative to the implementation of conventions and agreements to which they are Party, and to formulate such legislation where it does not exist. This effort is complementary to the CITES project on national legislation.