

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

NATIONAL REPORTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Late or non-submission of annual reports

2. The recommendation to suspend trade with Liberia, contained in Notification to the Parties No. 2002/064 (19 December 2002), was withdrawn in Notification to the Parties No. 2005/005 (8 February 2005). The recommendation to suspend trade with Algeria, contained in Notification to the Parties No. 2004/023 (30 April 2004), was withdrawn in Notification to the Parties No. 2005/019 (13 April 2005).
3. Somalia remains subject to a recommendation to suspend trade, contained in Notification to the Parties No. 2002/064 (19 December 2002). Mauritania remains subject to a recommendation to suspend trade, contained in Notification to the Parties No. 2003/027 (6 May 2003). Guinea Bissau remains subject to a recommendation to suspend trade, contained in Notification to the Parties No. 2004/023 (30 April 2004). A comprehensive table of these and other Parties currently subject to a recommendation to suspend trade is available on the CITES website under 'News & Highlights'.
4. The Secretariat wrote to Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Mauritania in December 2004 explaining the steps needed to restore compliance with the Convention. In late January 2005 and early February 2005, the Secretariat sent reminders to those Parties that had failed to submit one or more annual reports.
5. The Secretariat's table of annual report submissions, which is regularly updated and accessible on the CITES website, shows that Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Iceland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela have not provided annual reports for the period 2001-2003.
6. Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP13), adopted by the Conference of the Parties, instructs the Standing Committee to determine:

on the basis of reports presented by the Secretariat, which Parties have failed, for three consecutive years and without having provided adequate justification, to provide the annual reports required under Article VIII, paragraph 7 (a), of the Convention.

Biennial reports

7. At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted a biennial report format. The Secretariat has asked UNEP-WCMC to assess the feasibility of and costs associated with providing an interactive version of the format on the CITES website. The Secretariat will issue a Notification in the near future explaining the results of that assessment and providing an electronic version of the format to Parties.

Collaboration with secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions

8. In January 2005 UNEP-WCMC advised the Secretariat that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had contracted it to carry out a project that would:
 - a) Review the extent to which the purpose of reporting is made clear to parties by the global biodiversity-related treaties, and the extent to which the information in the reports is used, *inter alia*, for measuring progress in achieving the 2010 target, including assessing the links between reporting and strategic planning;
 - b) Identify potential overlaps between conventions in information requested, identify themes relevant across several conventions and agreements and assess the experience in the forest sector of harmonizing reporting by theme; and
 - c) Develop information documents and recommendations based on these analyses in a form that can be used within convention processes and support discussion on these issues both within the convention meetings and at the Biodiversity Liaison Group.

Recommendations

9. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP13), determine whether Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Iceland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela have failed, for three consecutive years and without having provided adequate justification, to provide annual reports. If so determined, the Secretariat will issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with the Parties listed until further notice.