

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

National reports

LATE SUBMISSION OR NON-SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Late submission or non-submission of annual reports

2. In Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14) on *National reports*, 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 within the deadline (or any extended deadline) provided in the present Resolution;*

3. In the same Resolution, the Conference recommends that Parties:

*not authorize trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with any Party that the Standing Committee has determined has 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 within the deadline (or any extended deadline) provided in the present Resolution;*

4. In a letter dated 26 March 2012, the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Environment of the Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic indicated that no CITES trade had been authorized and that it was committed to submitting timely annual reports in the future. The Secretariat will send a letter seeking clarification from Somalia as to the years covered by its statement. When this information has been provided, it will prepare a Notification withdrawing the Standing Committee's recommendation to suspend trade for the non-submission of annual reports (see Notification to the Parties No. 2006/074 of 14 December 2006).
5. At its 61st meeting (Geneva, August 2011), the Standing Committee determined that the Congo, Libya and Sierra Leone had failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years and agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those three Parties until they had provided the required number of reports. Following the Committee's determination, the Congo and Sierra Leone submitted their missing reports.
6. Notification to the Parties No. 2011/036 was issued on 14 September 2011 recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Libya until further notice. Libya thereafter provided its missing reports on 5 January 2012 and the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2012/005 on 6 January 2012 to withdraw the Standing Committee's recommendation to suspend trade.

7. The Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2012/016 on 28 February 2012 to draw Parties' attention to the national reporting requirements under the Convention, the compliance-related recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14), the deadlines for the submission of annual and biennial reports, the guidance materials available for Parties and the tables of report submissions maintained by the Secretariat on the CITES website. Parties were urged "to review the tables of annual and biennial report submissions which are accessible on the CITES website..., advise the Secretariat if any information is incorrect, submit any missing reports and, if needed, request assistance with the preparation and submission of reports." At the time of writing (April 2012), the Secretariat had not been advised that any information contained in its submission tables was incorrect or that a Party needed assistance with the preparation and submission of reports.
8. As of April 2012, the Secretariat's records show that the following countries have failed, without providing any justification, to provide annual reports for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010:

Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.
9. The Secretariat will contact those countries to seek the missing reports. The assistance of the regional representatives to the Standing Committee in this regard would be welcome.
10. The deadline for submission of annual reports for 2010 was 31 October 2011. The Secretariat's records show that 59% of Parties had submitted their annual reports for 2010 in April 2012. The Secretariat's records also show that 74% of Parties had submitted their annual reports for 2009 and that 85% of Parties had submitted their annual reports for 2008. With regard to the annual reports for 2011, the Secretariat's records show that 7 Parties had already submitted their reports at the time of writing, well before the deadline of 31 October 2012.
11. The deadline for submission of the biennial reports for 2009-2010 was 31 October 2011. The Secretariat's records show that 27% of Parties had submitted their biennial reports by the time of writing. The Secretariat's records further show that 39% of Parties had submitted their biennial reports for 2007-2008. Overall, the Secretariat's records show that 62% of Parties have submitted at least one biennial report since the standard biennial report form was provided in Notification to the Parties No. 2005/035 of 6 July 2005.

#### Recommendation

12. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14) and on the basis of updated information provided at the present meeting, determine whether the Parties listed under paragraph 8 above have failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years and without having provided adequate justification. If so determined, the Secretariat will issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with these Parties until they have provided the requisite number of reports.