

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

RANCHING OPERATIONS IN MADAGASCAR

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The summary record of the 60th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC60, Doha, March 2010) shows that the Committee

agreed to recommend a suspension of trade with Madagascar in Nile crocodile specimens until 30 September 2010. It further agreed to review the situation via postal procedure after 30 September 2010 if the Secretariat determined that Madagascar had implemented the actions agreed at [the] meeting, and to then determine whether its recommendation should be withdrawn.
3. At its 61st meeting (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), on the basis of information before it and in the absence of a representative of Madagascar, the Standing Committee agreed "to maintain the recommendation to suspend trade with Madagascar in *Crocodylus niloticus* and to defer consideration of [its ranching operations] until [the present meeting]".
4. Since SC61, the Secretariat has undertaken two missions to Madagascar. The primary purpose of the first mission (November-December 2011) was to review, on site and with national CITES authorities, the country's efforts to implement the recommendations adopted at SC60 in relation to Madagascar's ranching operations for the Nile crocodile, crocodile management and trade in specimens of the Nile crocodile. The mission was funded by the CITES capacity-building project supported by the European Commission, which is aimed at assisting Parties with bringing about the withdrawal of existing CITES recommendations to suspend trade and European Union trade suspensions.
5. The primary purpose of the second Secretariat mission (February 2012), funded by the International Tropical Timber Organization, was to address management issues regarding CITES plant species. There was an opportunity during this mission, however, to follow up on matters related to the Nile crocodile that had been discussed during the Secretariat's earlier mission.
6. During both missions, the Secretariat advised CITES authorities in Madagascar about the availability of funds under several projects, which could support scientific, legislative, law enforcement, institutional capacity building and information management activities agreed with Madagascar. It was envisaged that such activities would be targeted at priority animal species subject to recommendations to suspend trade, including the Nile crocodile; timber species listed in Appendix III; and various priority plant species, including those concerned by Decisions 15.96 and 15.97. The Malagasy authorities expressed keen interest in this approach and initiated steps in developing and undertaking relevant project activities in collaboration with the Secretariat.
7. Madagascar's Minister of Environment and Forests met with Secretariat staff during the missions mentioned above. He also met with the Secretary-General in the margins of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC26, Geneva, March 2012), following which he made an intervention and stressed Madagascar's commitment to CITES implementation.

8. Madagascar's CITES authorities participated in AC26, the 20th meeting of the Plants Committees (PC20, Dublin, March 2012) and the joint sessions of both committees (Dublin, March 2012). The results of those meetings, in relation to issues of concern to Madagascar, were very positive and there were statements of praise from the committees for Madagascar's involvement in the meetings.
9. The Secretariat deeply appreciates Madagascar's renewed engagement with the Convention and its clear commitment to undertaking specific actions which will strengthen the country's implementation of the Convention.
10. The Secretariat is currently working with Madagascar to develop several small scale funding agreements designed to improve Madagascar's current and longer-term management of the Nile crocodile and related reporting; to undertake scientific work on several plant species, including trees; to organize a national workshop on the making of non-detriment findings for plant and animal species; to participate in the next *Master's Course in Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework of the University of Andalusia* (which begins on 1 October 2012); and to compile information which could assist Madagascar with the withdrawal of trade suspensions and recommendations to suspend trade for selected fauna species or genera. With regard to the request from Madagascar to help with the management of existing stockpiles of CITES-listed timber species, the comprehensive review and updating of Madagascar's forestry legislation and the possible development of an environmental code in Madagascar, the Secretariat directed the country to appropriate sources of assistance and technical support.
11. The Secretariat will assist Madagascar in its reporting to the Standing Committee at the present meeting on the implementation of the SC60 recommendations concerning the Nile crocodile. It may also be useful for the Working Group on ranching operations for *Crocodylus niloticus* in Madagascar (France, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, the United States, the Secretariat, the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group and representatives of the leather industry in Japan) to meet in the margins of the present meeting, in order to review Madagascar's submissions to SC62, compare the actions taken by Madagascar against the SC60 recommendations and advise the Standing Committee on a way forward.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that the Standing Committee determine, on the basis of information provided to it at the present meeting, whether Madagascar has fulfilled the SC60 recommendations on ranching operations for the Nile crocodile in Madagascar and whether the recommendation to suspend trade can be withdrawn.
13. It is also recommended that the Working Group on ranching operations for *Crocodylus niloticus* in Madagascar meet in the margins of the present meeting, to address the points described in paragraph 10 above and thereby facilitate the Standing Committee's consideration of this matter.