

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

Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

National reports

LATE SUBMISSION OR NON-SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16) on *National reports* which:

*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;*

and

*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;*

3. Somalia remains subject to a recommendation to suspend trade for the non-submission of annual reports (see Notification to the Parties No. 2006/074 of 14 December 2006).
4. At its 63rd meeting (SC63, Bangkok, March 2013), the Standing Committee agreed that the Parties that had not yet submitted their missing annual reports for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 (i.e. Afghanistan, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Grenada, Iceland, Lesotho, Palau, Saint Lucia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Vanuatu), be given a further 60 days (i.e. until 4 May 2013) to produce their annual reports.<sup>1</sup>
5. Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iceland, Palau, Saint Lucia and Vanuatu submitted their missing annual reports by the deadline. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia submitted its missing reports on 7 May 2013 and Grenada submitted its missing reports on 9 May 2013.
6. The Secretariat issued Notifications to the Parties No. 2013/018, No. 2013/019 and No. 2013/020 on 17 May 2013 informing Parties that, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16), the Conference of the Parties recommended that they not authorize trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Afghanistan, Djibouti and Lesotho until further notice.
7. Djibouti submitted its missing reports for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 on 20 August 2013. The Secretariat thereafter issued Notification to the Parties No. 2013/040 of 9 September 2013 withdrawing the recommended suspension of trade with Djibouti.

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<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 3 of document SC63 Doc. 12.

8. The deadline for the 2012 CITES annual report was 31 October 2013. Pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16), the Secretariat would like to inform the Standing Committee that its records show that the following Parties have failed to submit annual reports for three consecutive years (i.e. 2010, 2011 and 2012) without having provided adequate justification: Belize; Comoros; Gambia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malawi; Mauritania; Nigeria; the Philippines; and Samoa. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has advised the Secretariat that it will soon submit its annual reports for 2010, 2011 and 2012.
9. The Secretariat will send reminders to the Parties mentioned in paragraph 8 above to bring this potential compliance matter to their attention and obtain the missing reports. In this regard, it would appreciate relevant assistance from the Standing Committee's regional representatives concerned.
10. The Secretariat's table of annual report submissions shows that the following Parties have not yet submitted their annual reports for the years 2011 and 2012:<sup>2</sup> Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Ecuador, Fiji, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mongolia, Niger, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, the Solomon Islands, the Sudan, and Yemen. If the above-mentioned Parties fail to submit their 2013 CITES annual report, due on 31 October 2014, they could be subject to a Standing Committee recommendation to suspend trade in the future. The Standing Committee may therefore wish to urge the submission of these missing reports.
11. Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b), of the Convention requires the submission of a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the provisions of the Convention. This information is needed to enable CITES Parties, scientific committees and governing bodies to take stock of how well the Convention is being implemented. Academic researchers visiting the Secretariat in March 2013 noted that the data contained in biennial reports were useful as they reflected the nature, scope and effectiveness of Parties' implementation efforts, and that represented a unique and valuable resource. Nevertheless, a large number of Parties have not yet submitted their biennial reports for the period 2011-2012, which were due on 31 October 2013.<sup>3</sup> The Standing Committee may wish to urge these Parties to submit these missing reports.
12. Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16) further:

*URGES all Parties to submit their reports required under the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b), one year before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, beginning with the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties...*

The above text reflects a decision by the CoP to effectively align the biennial report with the three-year CoP cycle. Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16) also refers to Parties' obligation to submit periodic reports on their implementation of the Convention and replaced references to the annual and biennial reports with 'national reports'. Substantial work has been undertaken by the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements to develop a format for the 'implementation report' which links information requests within it to the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020*, particularly its goals, objectives and indicators. The aim has been to make the implementation report envisaged under Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b), of the Convention more useful by measuring progress against the Strategic Vision. Additional information on the activities of the Working Group and the Secretariat in relation to national reporting is described in detail in document SC65 Doc. 24.2.

#### Recommendation

13. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16), and on the basis of the present report, and any updated information provided at the present meeting, determine whether the Parties listed in paragraph 8 above have failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years, 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 those Parties until they have provided the missing reports.
14. The Secretariat also recommends that the Standing Committee urge the Parties listed in paragraph 10 above to submit their missing annual reports for the years 2011 and 2012.
15. The Secretariat further recommends that the Standing Committee urge affected Parties to submit their missing biennial reports for the period 2011-2012.

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<sup>2</sup> Available at [http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/resources/annual\\_reports.pdf](http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/resources/annual_reports.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/reports/biennial.php>