



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2004/024

Geneva, 30 April 2004

CONCERNING:

DJIBOUTI, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU,
LIBERIA, MOZAMBIQUE, PANAMA, RWANDA AND SIERRA LEONE

Recommendation to suspend trade

1. In paragraph d) of Decision 12.83, the Secretariat is directed to:

report to the Standing Committee on Parties' progress in enacting legislation and, if necessary, recommend the adoption of appropriate compliance measures, including suspension of trade pursuant to the decisions taken at the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee [contained in Annex 5 of the Decisions].

2. Since the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gigiri, 2000), Parties have been grouped for priority attention under the National Legislation Project on the basis of when their legislation was analysed during the period 1993-1997, the category in which the legislation was placed and their volume of CITES trade. Each of these groups was given a different deadline by which adequate legislation should be enacted. The deadlines were extended by the Standing Committee at its 45th (Paris, June 2001) and 46th (Geneva, March 2002) meetings.

Parties with a deadline of 31 March 2003

3. At the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, April 2003), the Secretariat reported on the legislative progress made by Mozambique and Panama. The Committee decided that it would review their further legislative progress at its 50th meeting.
4. At the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, March 2004), the Secretariat reported that neither Mozambique nor Panama had enacted adequate legislation or provided any information on their legislative progress.
5. The Committee agreed to review at its 51st meeting the legislative progress of Mozambique and Panama provided that a revised CITES Legislation Plan was received from them by the Secretariat by 13 April 2004. It instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending a suspension of commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with these two Parties if the Secretariat did not receive a revised CITES Legislation Plan.
6. Despite sending an additional reminder, the Secretariat has not received a revised CITES Legislation Plan from either Mozambique or Panama.

Parties with a deadline of 31 December 2003

7. At the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat reported that no information on legislative progress had been provided by Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Rwanda or Sierra Leone. The Committee instructed the Secretariat to issue a formal caution to those Parties:
 - a) warning them that they were in non-compliance with Decision 12.83; and
 - b) requesting that a CITES Legislation Plan be submitted to the Secretariat as a matter of urgency so as to inform the Secretariat on the progress to date and on the steps required to meet the 31 December 2003 deadline for the enactment of adequate legislation in accordance with Decision 12.83.
8. At the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat reported that it had issued formal cautions (that included a sample CITES Legislation Plan) in July 2003 to those Parties, with copies to permanent missions and regional representatives to the Standing Committee. It further reported that none of those Parties had provided the Secretariat with information showing adequate legislative progress or good cause for the lack of adequate progress.
9. The Committee agreed to review at its 51st meeting the legislative progress of Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone provided that a revised CITES Legislation Plan or draft legislation or enacted legislation was received from them by the Secretariat by 13 April 2004. It instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending a suspension of commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties if the Secretariat did not receive a revised CITES Legislation Plan or draft legislation or enacted legislation.
10. Despite providing an additional reminder, the Secretariat has not received a revised CITES Legislation Plan or draft legislation or enacted legislation from Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Rwanda or Sierra Leone.

Recommendation

11. The Secretariat therefore informs Parties, pursuant to Decision 12.83, that the Conference of the Parties recommends that all Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique, Panama, Rwanda and Sierra Leone until further notice.