



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/129

Geneva, 23 November 2023

CONCERNING:

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN BANGLADESH

Recommendation to suspend trade for commercial purposes in specimens of CITES-listed birds with Bangladesh and other recommendations

1. At its 77th meeting (SC77, Geneva, November 2023), pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee agreed that Parties suspend trade for commercial purposes in specimens of CITES-listed birds with Bangladesh from the date of adoption of executive summary SC77 Sum. 10, i.e., 22 November 2023, until the Party is in a position to adequately regulate and monitor trade in CITES-listed birds and comply with a set of recommendations.
2. Recommendations agreed by the Standing Committee concern trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds; legislation and law enforcement; handling of live animals and disposal of seized live specimens; and Scientific Authority and surveys. All recommendations agreed by the Standing Committee are set out in the Annex to this Notification.
3. The Committee requested Bangladesh to submit a report on the implementation of the above recommendations to the Secretariat 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee at which the Committee will assess progress.
4. Parties are requested to inform their enforcement and customs authorities of this recommendation to suspend trade for commercial purposes in specimens of CITES-listed birds with Bangladesh and exercise due diligence to avoid the inadvertent acceptance of specimens of species subject to this recommendation. Parties are reminded that the complete list of Parties subject to a recommendation to suspend trade is available on the CITES website under [Documents/Trade suspensions](#).

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SC77 RECOMMENDATIONS
[SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SC77 SUM. 10]

The Committee recommended that:

Regarding management of trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds

- a) Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds with Bangladesh until the Party is in a position to adequately regulate and monitor trade in CITES-listed birds, on which progress could be revisited at SC78, notably through the establishment of a reliable and efficient information system in accordance with Article VIII.6.

To achieve compliance, the Committee recommended that Bangladesh:

- i) establish, preferably an electronic system, resources permitting, to facilitate the issuance of permits and certificates and the verification of the legal acquisition of specimens in trade;
- ii) maintain up-to-date records of traders and establishments, which should facilitate controls, communications, and collaboration;
- iii) liaise and integrate with other permitting/certification systems relating to the breeding of and trade in CITES-listed birds, including health and veterinary documentation, or customs declarations;

Regarding legislation and law enforcement

- b) Bangladesh strengthen the regulatory framework in relation to management of and trade in birds and marine species, notably by ensuring appropriate measures to enforce the provision of the Convention, prohibit trade in violation of the Convention, and penalize offences related to wildlife crime (Art. VIII.1).

Consideration should be given to:

- i) reviewing “Pet Bird rearing rules, 2020” enacted under the provision of the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation & Security) Act, 2012, notably to bridge the gaps and close the loopholes that may be generated by the distribution of competences between different divisions, lack of adequate enforcement powers, the No Objection Certificates (NOC) system, lack of adequate penalties for offences related to wildlife crime and the final disposal of confiscated live specimens;
- ii) strengthening the regulatory framework in relation to CITES-listed marine species and the implementation of the shark listings, including strengthening institutional cooperation between the Department of Fisheries, the CITES Management Authority and customs and develop protocols and guidelines for exchange of information, division of tasks, harmonized interpretation of applicable provisions in relevant laws, including the planning of regular meetings and guidance on the final disposal of seized specimens;
- iii) assessing relevant authorities’ law enforcement capacity, their mandates and needs to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species and the fight against transnational organized wildlife crime, and, based on the assessment, build capacity among law enforcement agencies to strengthen CITES controls, using risk-based management approaches, in particular container controls at airports and seaports, as well as control of mailed parcels and of air cargo; combat transnational organized wildlife crime by strengthening criminal intelligence, exchange of intelligence, controlled delivery, wildlife crime investigation and prosecution, and financial investigations linked to wildlife crime;

- iv) establishing a national platform for enforcement cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities with the aim to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized wildlife crime, as recommended in paragraphs 9 a) and b) and Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement;
- v) scaling up efforts to conduct analyses of available information to map out organized crime groups active in the country and convene multidisciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities to work in close collaboration with local authorities in key identified areas, and initiate intelligence-driven operations and investigations, with a particular focus on birds and sharks;

Handling of live animals and disposal of seized live specimens

- c) Bangladesh take measures to ensure strict implementation of Article VIII.4 of the Convention, taking into account the recommendations and all management options contained in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*, and of Article VIII.3 of the Convention, taking into account the recommendations in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*.

Consideration should be given to:

- i) maintaining an inventory of all seized live specimens of CITES-listed birds and ensuring that disposition of confiscated live specimens follows guidance in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19), including the management measures of the specimens in the immediate short term (an initial period that may last between several hours to several weeks) and the longer term (which may often be a 'permanent' situation);
- ii) establishing adequate control measures for seized live specimens of CITES-listed birds, including measures to reduce the risk of injury, mortality or theft from the rescue centre, and developing a uniform protocol for the marking, recording, handling and disposal of seized and confiscated live specimens;
- iii) developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy for border controls as recommended by Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev CoP19);

Scientific Authority and surveys

- d) Bangladesh take measures to ensure the appropriate implementation of Article III and IV with respect to non-detriment findings, taking into account recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17), giving consideration to strengthening its Scientific Authority by building capacity on wildlife issues, and allocating sufficient resources to undertake population surveys that can be used in the making of the non-detriment findings and in the setting of annual export quotas prior to authorizing exportation of CITES-listed species of fauna and flora, with a particular focus on commercially exploited aquatic species.

The Committee invited Bangladesh to report to the Secretariat on progress made on the implementation of the recommendations agreed, 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and its comments to the Standing Committee.