

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Standing Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

31. National laws for implementation of the Convention SC53 Doc. 31

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 31. The Committee agreed to the following:

Regarding Parties with a deadline of 31 March 2003

- a) review at its 54th meeting the legislative progress of Mozambique and South Africa; and
- b) review the legislative progress of Cameroon provided that enacted legislation is received by the Secretariat by 1 August 2005. It instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending a suspension of commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Cameroon in the event that no enacted legislation is received by this deadline;

Regarding Parties with a deadline of 31 December 2003

- a) review at its 54th meeting the legislative progress of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia; and
- b) review the legislative progress of Belize, Comoros, Kazakhstan and Pakistan provided that a revised CITES Legislation Plan or draft or enacted legislation is received by the Secretariat by 1 August 2005. It instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending a suspension of commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those four countries in the event that no revised CITES Legislation Plan or draft or enacted legislation is received by this deadline;

Regarding Parties and dependent territories with a deadline of 30 June 2004

- a) review at its 54th meeting the legislative progress of Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Dominica, Georgia, Latvia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Saint Helena and Dependencies, Saudi Arabia and Swaziland; and

* Revised by the Secretariat after the meeting to incorporate amendments agreed at the ninth session.

- b) review the legislative progress of Belarus and Uzbekistan provided that a revised CITES Legislation Plan or draft or enacted legislation is received by the Secretariat by 1 August 2005. It instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending a suspension of commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those two countries in the event that no revised CITES Legislation Plan or draft or enacted legislation is received by this deadline;

Regarding Nigeria and Paraguay

review at its 54th meeting the legislative progress of Nigeria and Paraguay; and

Regarding Parties and dependent territories with a deadline of 30 September 2006

- a) review at its 54th meeting the legislative progress of Albania, Aruba, Bailiwick of Guernsey, Bailiwick of Jersey, Bermuda, Bhutan, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)[†], French Polynesia, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Macao, Mayotte, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Wallis and Fortuna Islands; and
- b) that the Secretariat shall issue a formal caution to Azerbaijan and Croatia:
 - i) warning them that they are in non-compliance with Decision 13.81; and
 - ii) requesting that a CITES Legislation Plan be submitted to the Secretariat as a matter of urgency informing the Secretariat on the progress to date and on the steps required to meet the 30 September 2006 deadline for the enactment of adequate legislation, as required in Decision 13.81.

32. Enforcement matters..... SC53 Doc. 32

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 32. The Committee instructed the Secretary-General to write to the CITES Management Authority of Cambodia to remind it of Cambodia’s obligations under the Convention in relation to illicit trade, particularly in response to the illicit trade in orangutans referred to in that document, and to report at its 54th meeting. The Committee adopted the recommendations in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the document. The Committee noted the oral report of the representative of Saudi Arabia regarding its recent enforcement efforts and asked for a written version to be submitted to the Secretariat. The Committee noted the invitation to the Secretariat to visit Saudi Arabia to examine implementation of the Convention. It noted the oral report of the Secretariat relating to the intention by Interpol to recruit an officer to work full time on wildlife law enforcement matters, the donation by the Interpol Secretary General of USD 85,000 to assist wildlife law enforcement in Africa, and the selection of the Kenya Wildlife Service as the first recipient of the Interpol/IFAW Ecomessage award.

33. National reports SC53 Doc. 33

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 33. The Committee determined that Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Iceland and Venezuela had failed, for three consecutive years and without having provided adequate justification, to provide annual reports for the period 2001-2003. It instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those four countries unless they submitted their reports to the Secretariat by 1 August 2005. The Committee noted that Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Somalia remained subject to a recommendation to suspend trade.

[†] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas).

Strategic and administrative matters

14. Dialogue meetings..... SC53 Doc. 14

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 14. The Committee approved the draft terms of reference and rules of procedure for dialogue meetings presented in document SC53 Doc. 14.1, with the following amendments to the draft rules of procedure:

- paragraph 5 should read as follows: The Chairman of the Standing Committee shall serve as the Chairman of each CITES dialogue meeting. If he/she is unable to serve, he/she should appoint the Vice-Chairman or Alternate Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee to serve in his/her place or identify a Chairman who is acceptable to the range States.
- in paragraph 9: the words "concerning the discussions taking place, or that have taken place" should be replaced by concerning the statements made by other participants.
- paragraph 11 should be deleted and the following paragraphs renumbered.

The Committee agreed that, on the basis of this document, the Secretariat should prepare a draft resolution for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

16. Trade in Appendix-I species SC53 Doc. 16

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 16. The Committee requested that comments on the Annex to that document be given to the Secretariat, which should prepare a revised version for discussion later in the meeting.

17. Illegal trade in tigers SC53 Doc. 17

The United States of America, on behalf of the North American region, introduced document SC53 Doc. 17. The Committee noted oral reports from the Secretariat and the representatives of China and India in relation to recent activities regarding the combating of illicit trade in specimens of Asian big cat species, as well as a written document submitted by Nepal (SC53 Inf. 4). The Committee directed the Secretariat, in conjunction with the North America Wildlife Enforcement Group, to undertake an analysis of intelligence relating to this trade and to report on this subject at its 54th meeting. The Committee also agreed that all range States of Asian big cat species should submit reports relating to their work in combating illicit trade in specimens of Asian big cat species for review at its 54th meeting. Where relevant, such reports should include information describing how the Parties have implemented the recommendations made by the 1999 CITES Tiger Missions Technical Team.