



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



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NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

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CONCERNING:

ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

The IUCN Environmental Law Centre

As part of a continuing project, the CITES Secretariat has signed a one-year contract with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (Centre), located in Bonn, Germany, for the purpose of updating the Centre's databases of national legislation relating to the protection of flora and fauna.

A principal reason for the contract is to provide information to Parties on existing wildlife legislation in other countries of the world. This may be of assistance to CITES Management Authorities when checking the validity of CITES documents, particularly when national legislation in the exporting country further restricts or prohibits trade in specimens of certain species that may normally be traded under the terms of the Convention. In addition, when national legislation provides for penalties for the contravention of laws of other countries, it is important that information on such laws is easily available to CITES enforcement authorities.

A great deal of information can be derived from the several databases that are maintained by the Centre:

- i) A taxonomic database - a list of the scientific names of all animal taxa mentioned in legislation. Most of the common English and French names are entered in the database, as are some Spanish. Some 12,000 animal taxa and 4,000 plant taxa are currently listed. Not all are CITES taxa, but all CITES taxa are listed.
- ii) A legislation database - a listing of all known legislation that focuses on protection of flora and fauna for each jurisdiction, which can be the sovereign country or its various components (states, provinces, departments, territories, etc.). Over 200 jurisdictions are now represented. All legislation referring to animals (and plants to a lesser degree, focusing primarily on Europe) is collected and entered.

For each piece of legislation a summary of information is entered (title, translated title, date of entry into force, etc), along with: a) a summary of the text with particular emphasis on provisions dealing with the protection of species; b) a list of all the taxa in the text; c) for each taxon listed, a code indicating the kind of legal protection from which it benefits under the text in question (e.g. full or partial protection; national or international

trade restricted); and additional information on the taxonomic or legal status of the listed taxon.

- iii) A database of taxa mentioned in international treaties including, in the case of CITES, a history of the protection status of each taxon.

The databases will be annotated to identify taxa which are listed in the CITES appendices, as well as those taxa that apply to another international convention or particular piece of national legislation.

In addition to other stipulations, the current contracts states that the Centre will provide, from these databases, information that has been requested by a Party via the Secretariat. This information can be in the format of printouts from the databases and, when required, photocopies of national legislation from a particular country.

Parties are invited to send enquiries to the Secretariat for information regarding national legislation in specific countries. Requests will be reviewed by the Secretariat staff, and then forwarded to the Centre for action. The Secretariat hopes that this service will be helpful to the Parties, particularly as an aid to CITES enforcement activities.

The Parties are asked to keep the Secretariat and the ELC informed of current national legislation relating to the protection of flora and fauna, by forwarding copies of such legislation to the Secretariat on a periodic basis.

