



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2005/069

Geneva, 8 December 2005

CONCERNING:

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)

Recommendations of the Standing Committee

1. As part of the Review of Significant Trade, the Animals and Plants Committees regularly make recommendations to States to ensure that trade in specimens of Appendix-II species is not detrimental to them. If Parties fail to implement the recommendations, or fail to submit the necessary information to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee may recommend that all Parties suspend imports from the States concerned of specimens of a particular species.
2. Over 20 States are currently affected by such recommendations for suspension of imports. These States, and the species involved, are listed on the CITES website in the section 'Resources/Trade suspensions'.
3. It appears, however, that there have been a number of instances where Parties have not implemented such recommendations. This has led to a situation where the offspring of specimens obtained against the Standing Committee's recommendations are also now being traded internationally.
4. The Secretariat understands that, in some cases, imports of such specimens may have occurred inadvertently; for example, border control agencies may not have been aware of the recommendation when shipments were presented for import or Management Authorities may have failed to recognize that such recommendations were in force if they were processing import applications.
5. In order not to undermine the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat encourages Parties:
 - a) to take steps to ensure that they can effectively implement recommendations of the Standing Committee; and
 - b) not to authorize the re-export of any specimens imported against such recommendations.

6. Parties are requested to inform their enforcement and Customs authorities of the availability of the list of trade recommendations on the CITES website in order to avoid the inadvertent acceptance of specimens subject to a recommendation to suspend trade. Parties that require the issuance of import permits for trade in specimens of Appendix-II species are also encouraged to consult the list when processing applications.