

Kingdom of Bahrain remarks
1 July 2010

Secretary General of CITES,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

On this occasion, I'm pleased to announce that Bahrain is all set to join the CITES convention.

The Kingdom of Bahrain attaches great importance to the environment and the protection of biodiversity, especially endangered species, which is clearly reflected in its legislation derived from the Constitution that calls for the preservation of natural resources, as in Article 11 of the Constitution which reads " All natural wealth and resources are State property. The State shall safeguard them and exploit them properly."

As practical measures, laws and legislation have been activated and environmental considerations have been placed into national development strategies. To date, seven natural reserves have been declared to protect important species and conserve threatened monuments. Bahrain is also working within its strategic scheme on the identification and declaration of other protected areas and natural reserves that will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In the area of international cooperation, Bahrain acceded to several regional and international conventions directly related to the protection of living organisms, for example, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), the Convention on the protection of World Natural Heritage, as well as the Convention for the Conservation of wildlife and Natural Habitats in the Gulf Cooperation Council States. In addition, Bahrain acceded to more than 20 other agreements related to quality of life and control of pollutants that affect the environment and living organisms present in the kingdom.

With regard to the CITES Convention, Bahrain attaches great importance to this agreement which creates a framework of international coordination and strict regulation of international trade in endangered species.

Bahrain has completed the internal procedures, legal, operational and logistical issues, to accede to this Convention. We are currently applying the Convention voluntarily as we believe in the importance of control of international trade in endangered species. Bahrain has also worked on training and held workshops for those involved in the implementation of control of trade in these species, and it coordinates between relevant institutions in preparation for the formal process of accession to this Convention.

In conclusion, Bahrain shall remain committed to its international obligations aiming at protecting endangered wild animals and plants and ensuring their survival.

I thank you