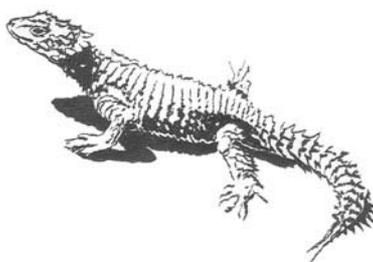


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twentieth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Johannesburg (South Africa), 29 March-2 April 2004

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species  
(Resolution Conf. 12.8 and Decision 12.75)

PROGRESS ON THE FIRST COUNTRY-BASED REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat and TRAFFIC International.
2. Following a recommendation from the Animals Committee adopted at its 17th meeting (Hanoi, July-August 2001), the first country-based Review of Significant Trade was initiated by the Secretariat, with Madagascar chosen to be the subject of the review.
3. The country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar concerns all Appendix-II animal and plant species in the country. It generally follows the same sequence of events as laid out in Resolution Conf. 12.8 on the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species, i.e. consultation with Malagasy CITES authorities concerning the implementation of Article IV; compilation and review of information on the implementation of Article IV; formulation of recommendations; implementation of the recommendations; and monitoring and evaluation of that implementation.
4. Activities undertaken up until June 2003 were reported in detail at the 19th meeting of the Animals Committee [Geneva, August 2003 (see document AC19 Doc. 8.4)]. As noted at the time, the culmination of work in 2002 and early 2003 was a stakeholders' workshop held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, in May 2003, organized by the Malagasy Management Authority, the CITES Secretariat and TRAFFIC International (the consultants responsible for implementing the Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar). Workshop participants agreed on the elements of an action plan with regard to exports of native fauna and flora covering wildlife trade policy, legislation, operation of national CITES authorities, management issues and enforcement. Thanks to support from the *Coopération Française* and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), a CD-ROM containing the background documents and workshop outputs has been prepared for distribution, principally within Madagascar.
5. On the basis of the outputs from the May workshop, a draft action plan for the reform of Madagascar's wildlife export trade was prepared and circulated to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Malagasy Management Authority for comment. Following more extensive stakeholder consultations, held in Madagascar in September and October 2003, a final version of the action plan was agreed by the Malagasy Management Authority and the other major stakeholders. The plan incorporates comments received from the Animals and Plants Committees, setting out a series of actions under five principal axes: national policy; legislation; needs of the CITES Scientific Authority; management procedures; and enforcement. It identifies the principal actors for each axis

and categorizes each of the actions by dividing them into short-term, medium-term and long-term as well as giving a general indication of the resources needed to carry them out.

6. As the action plan is put into operation, the Malagasy CITES Authorities may require assistance in determining appropriate milestones and criteria by which to assess its state of implementation, with the development of reporting formats and timetables.
7. Full implementation of the action plan will require considerable financial and other resources, and will take several years. It will depend on the maintenance of a favourable political climate in the country and, largely, on continuing donor support and ongoing external technical assistance. Such assistance should primarily be aimed at capacity-building through provision of training and technical expertise; but should also support coordination between the different actors involved in implementing the plan.
8. To complement the action plan, the consultants have prepared a funding and implementation strategy identifying likely sources of support. The framework for donor support for environmental activities in Madagascar for the next five years is the third phase of the Environmental Programme [*Programme environmental* (PE III)]. PE III will run for five years from inception. It provides rolling support for the Environmental Action Plan [*Programme d'Action Environnemental* (PAE)], adopted by the Government of Madagascar in 1989. PEs I and II, which ran consecutively from 1991 to 2001, had some success in policy formulation, institution building and protected area management but effectiveness of implementation was hampered by a number of factors. The donor community has identified environmental governance and enforcement as the main issues that need to be addressed in this regard, with inadequate implementation of CITES noted as a key area of weakness. Improving governance at all levels (from local to the national) will be a major focus of PEIII, providing an important opportunity for implementation of the action plan.
9. The major donors to PE III, which include *inter alia* 'Coopération Française', CI, GEF, KFW, UNDP, US-AID, the World Bank and WWF, have different (though often overlapping) remits and interests. Different elements of the action plan fit more closely with some of these remits than others. Obtaining funding for implementation of the plan will therefore require the matching of elements of the plan to the specific interests of particular donors.
10. At least some funding is currently more or less assured for implementation of the action plan. For example, funding being made available by US-AID in support of 'Sustainable Environment and Forest Ecosystems Management in Madagascar' contains explicit reference to improvements in CITES implementation.
11. The final action plan for the reform of Madagascar's wildlife export trade is provided as an information document (AC20 Inf. 10). The Animals Committee is asked to consider how it wishes to be kept informed of future progress with this action plan. The Animals Committee may also consider advising the CITES Authorities of Madagascar on the further implementation of the action plan as indicated in paragraph 6 above.