

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

Enforcement and compliance

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC VISION: 2008-2013

1. The attached document has been submitted by Germany*, for information only.
2. During the Ministerial Round Table at the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties one of the four key themes which the Ministers discussed was how to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of the Convention. More specifically the Ministers acknowledged that international cooperation, including financial support, technology transfer, capacity - building and education plays a crucial catalytic role in supporting the efforts of all countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to further the implementation and enforcement of CITES.
3. Furthermore objectives 1.7 and 2.2 of the Strategic Vision 2008 – 2013 calls on all CITES Parties to improve compliance and enforcement and to take further measures
 - to enforce the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade and
 - to secure sufficient resources at the national and international levels to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
4. Several indicators are listed to prove that the aims of the CITES Strategic Vision such as the number of Parties that have established regional enforcement action plans or networks or national inter-agency enforcement coordination networks or the number of parties with dedicated staff and funding for Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and wildlife trade enforcement agencies.
5. In order to assist Parties in the African region to meet their obligations under the objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision the Federal German Government committed from 2008 onwards 10 million € financial support for INTERPOL's 'Operational Assistance, Services and Infrastructure Support (OASIS) Africa programme.
6. The OASIS programme which started in 2008 and will end in 2011 has three major aims:
 - capacity building and training;
 - building up of the INTERPOL communication network; and
 - support of the local and regional police forces when dealing with extensive operations.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

7. During the intersessional period between the 14th and the 15th Conference of the Parties one of the most important operations was the operation COSTA, named after the former Tanzanian wildlife director 'Costa' Mlay who had set remarkably high standards of professionalism and integrity in wildlife conservation. Operation Costa which received also support from the Humane Society of Canada involved besides officers from the Lusaka Agreement Task Force hundreds of staff of officers from police, national wildlife, customs and intelligence agencies across six countries - Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.
8. The operation which was undertaken in 2009 resulted in over 100 suspects being taken into custody, over 2 tons of illegal ivory recovered, together with firearms, ammunition, vehicles and a wide range of other illegal wildlife. It also brought together law enforcement officers from both Police and other law enforcement agencies from several Central and East African countries, demonstrated the effectiveness of INTERPOL Regional Bureaus and National Central Bureaus in coordinating this activity and provided valuable intelligence regarding the illegal trade in CITES protected specimens which will enable further operations to be undertaken by all parties and respective agencies being involved.
9. Another important operation carried out in 2008 was operation BABA. Operation Baba was an initiative requested by African members of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (IWWG) during its last meeting in 2007. It was initiated in recognition of recent discussions held at the CITES Standing Committee which noted the significant impact of illegal domestic trade in ivory in Africa on the illegal killing of African elephants throughout its range.
10. Operation BABA was coordinated by INTERPOL Secretary General (IPSG) and was a multi-Agency, multi-lateral law enforcement operation focussing on domestic traders and dealers in raw and worked Ivory. The operation commenced with a planning meeting in Naivasha Kenya during July 2007 at which law enforcement officers including some NCB representatives from Tanzania, Nigeria, Rwanda Kenya, Congo (Brazzaville), Ghana, Zambia and Uganda participated. It was agreed that delegates would go back to their respective countries and begin planning and intelligence gathering in order to prepare detailed national operation plans. The co-ordinated operation has two principle aims: suppression of illegal domestic ivory markets including prosecution of offenders and information/intelligence gathering to enable IPSG to eventually identify organised exporters and trade routes with a view to further and initiate future operations.
11. Beside these operations also a number of training activities and workshops have been conducted. These training activities were dealing with legal question but also with problems related to investigation problems or the use of technical tools such as night vision tools. The overarching aim of the workshops was to bring together members of different enforcement bodies from a range of African countries and to improve the cooperation and communication between their bodies.