

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



Fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 2-6 October 2006

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

General compliance issues

NATIONAL REPORTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Submission of national reports

2. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea and Iceland returned to compliance by submitting their missing annual reports to the Secretariat after the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, June – July 2005).
3. Guinea-Bissau also returned to compliance by submitting its missing annual reports, and the recommendation to suspend trade, contained in Notification to the Parties No. 2004/023 (30 April 2004), was withdrawn in Notification to the Parties No. 2006/032 (3 May 2006). Guinea-Bissau, however, remains subject to a recommendation to suspend trade under the National Legislation Project [see Notification to the Parties No. 2004/024 (30 April 2004)].
4. Somalia remains subject to a recommendation to suspend trade for the failure to submit annual reports [see Notification to the Parties No. 2002/064 (19 December 2002)]. The Secretariat has learned that UNEP's Post-Conflict Operations Branch recently began working with Somalia, however, and this may assist the Secretariat's communication with officials there.
5. Mauritania also remains subject to a recommendation to suspend trade for the failure to submit annual reports [see Notification to the Parties No. 2003/027 (6 May 2003)]. Secretariat staff discussed the non-submission of national reports with representatives of Mauritania who participated in a regional CITES capacity-building workshop held in Togo during January 2006. The Mauritanian representatives indicated that they were well aware of the matter but explained that the country had experienced chronic political instability between 1999 and 2005. The country seems now to be becoming more stable, and the Secretariat will liaise more closely with the CITES authorities to help it return to compliance.
6. In April 2006 the Secretariat sent reminders to Parties that, according to the records kept by the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, had not submitted one or more annual reports or the 2003-2004 biennial report. These reminders prompted the submission of additional reports. Several responses from Parties indicated that they did not fully understand the distinction between annual and biennial reports, and the Secretariat provided them with additional clarification.
7. The Secretariat has distributed the amended *Guidelines on the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* [see Notification to the Parties No. 2006/030 (2 May 2006)], which were adopted by the Standing Committee through postal procedure.

8. The Secretariat has revised the CITES website section on national reports and has included a table of biennial report submissions. It is now in the process of making complete electronic versions of submitted biennial reports accessible on the CITES website. The Secretariat is in discussion with UNEP-WCMC to identify funding that would allow it to continue working on an interactive, Web-based version of the biennial report and to assist the Secretariat with an analysis of the biennial report submissions for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
9. The table of annual report submissions maintained by the Secretariat, which continues to be regularly updated and accessible on the CITES website, shows that the Comoros, Mongolia, Sao Tome and Principe and Uganda have failed, without having provided adequate justification, to provide annual reports for the period 2002-2004.
10. Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP13), adopted by the Conference of the Parties, instructs the Standing Committee to determine:

on the basis of reports presented by the Secretariat, which Parties have failed, for three consecutive years and without having provided adequate justification, to provide the annual reports required under Article VIII, paragraph 7 a), of the Convention.

Harmonized reporting and knowledge management

11. The Secretariat provided comments to UNEP-WCMC on a draft 'Review of the national reporting systems of the five global biodiversity-related conventions' prepared in October 2005. In June 2006 the Secretariat participated in a set of meetings on harmonized reporting and knowledge management that were organized by UNEP at the offices of UNEP-WCMC in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The reports and recommendations of those meetings are provided as SC54 Inf. 1 and Inf. 2.

Recommendation

12. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP13), determine whether the Comoros, Mongolia, Sao Tome and Principe and Uganda have failed, for three consecutive years without having provided adequate justification, to provide annual reports. If so determined, the Secretariat will, as directed by the Conference of the Parties, issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in CITES-listed species with these Parties until further notice.