

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

GREAT APES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 13.4 (*Conservation of and trade in great apes*), the Conference of the Parties directs the Secretariat to "report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of this Resolution at each of its regular meetings" and directs the Standing Committee to "review the implementation of this Resolution at each of its regular meetings on the basis of the Secretariat's reports".
3. In this report the Secretariat will seek simply to highlight current or urgent issues, in accordance with the suggestion made by the Secretariat and adopted by the Standing Committee at its 61st meeting (Geneva, August 2011).
4. Additionally, the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions at its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010):

Directed to the Secretariat

15.44 *The Secretariat shall seek external funding to undertake, in conjunction with GRASP, ICPO-INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, technical missions to a limited number of gorilla range States. The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on the outcome of the missions.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

15.45 *The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and also consider:*

- a) *endorsing any relevant recommendation or measure that could be implemented prior to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16); and*
- b) *requesting the Secretariat to prepare a report for consideration at CoP16.*

5. The Secretariat wishes to reiterate its gratitude to the European Commission for providing funds to enable the technical missions to take place. The United Nations Environment Programme's Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), ICPO-INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) have indicated their willingness to participate. Owing to the restructuring of the CITES Secretariat's Enforcement Support Unit (see Notification No. 2011/058 of 15 December 2011) it has not been possible to organize the missions to date. However, the Secretariat intends to do so in late 2012. The Secretariat proposes to include the results of these missions in its comprehensive report for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013).

Other related matters

6. The Minister for Trade of Sweden and the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism of the United Republic of Tanzania, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and the World Customs Organization, organized a round table on how to prevent and combat illegal trade in endangered species on 26 January 2012, in Dar es Salaam. This round table was arranged following a meeting between the Swedish Minister for Trade and the CITES Secretary-General on 15 December 2011 in Geneva.
7. The round table aimed to identify the main challenges posed by illegal trade in endangered species and to discuss possibilities for future collaboration, with a particular focus on great apes. Participants included representatives of Sweden, the United Republic of Tanzania, Nigeria's Customs Services,, the CITES Secretariat, WCO, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), GRASP, African Apes, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, TRAFFIC, World Wild Fund for Nature and several other organizations and actors actively engaged in and knowledgeable about these issues.
8. Project GAPIN I (Great Apes and Integrity) targeted the illegal trade in great apes. Project GAPIN II, which will be coordinated by WCO during 2012, will keep the same target, but its scope will be broadened to include elephants, rhinoceroses and pangolins. Twenty countries will participate in Project GAPIN II: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This Project aims to reinforce integrity within Customs authorities through:
 - training for frontline officers;
 - building risk management capacity;
 - strengthening detection and investigation of wildlife crime;
 - two seminars (one in Africa and one in Asia); and
 - Operation HOPE (a wildlife enforcement operation and awareness-raising campaign aimed at Customs officers and travellers).
9. As feedback from participants who were involved in Project GAPIN I was extremely positive, it is believed that Project GAPIN II will make a significant contribution to combating illegal trade in great apes and other targeted species. It will also increase enforcement officers' awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime.
10. The Secretariat will work closely with WCO in this regard and at the time of writing this document arrangements were in place for the Secretariat to participate in a "Project GAPIN II Workshop for Frontline Customs Officers at Airports" in Zurich, Switzerland, from 19 to 22 June 2012.

Recommendation

11. The Committee is asked to note this report and to agree to the suggestion in paragraph 5 above that the Secretariat report on the technical missions at CoP16.