



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2013/017

Geneva, 16 May 2013

CONCERNING:

GUINEA

Recommendation to suspend trade

1. At the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), the Secretariat reported its concerns regarding illegal trade in CITES-listed species involving Guinea. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should undertake a mission to Guinea. This mission was conducted in September 2011 and significant problems were identified in the implementation of the Convention. Consequently, a comprehensive list of recommendations to be implemented was formulated in consultation with the relevant Guinean authorities.
2. On the basis of correspondence between the Secretariat and Guinea, the Secretariat reported at SC62 (Geneva, July 2012) that limited progress had been made with the implementation of the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above. The Secretariat further reported that the challenges faced by Guinea in implementing CITES related to enforcement as well as broad compliance issues, such as the adoption of adequate legislation, the efficient issuance of permits, the monitoring of significant levels of trade and the making of non-detriment findings.
3. The Committee expressed concern about the situation in Guinea and emphasized that urgent action should be taken by Guinea to implement the Convention effectively. In compliance with subparagraph 29. g) of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (*CITES compliance procedures*), the Committee instructed the Secretariat to issue a warning to Guinea requesting it to take urgent measures to implement the recommendations made during the 2011 mission of the Secretariat. The Committee also instructed the Secretariat to provide Guinea with a set of minimum actions that should be undertaken. It requested Guinea to implement these actions and to provide a progress report to the Secretariat by 31 December 2012. Finally, it asked the Secretariat to evaluate that report and make a recommendation at its 63rd meeting (SC63, Bangkok, 2 March 2013).
4. The Secretariat issued the warning to Guinea on 17 September 2012 and provided a set of actions for the country to undertake. Guinea was requested to provide a detailed report to the Secretariat by 31 December 2012.
5. At SC63, the Secretariat informed the Standing Committee that no report had been received from Guinea by the agreed deadline of 31 December 2012, and that Guinea had also not replied to a letter that the Secretariat had sent on 19 February 2013, inviting the Party to provide a written report at SC63 (see document SC63 Doc. 16).
6. Noting that significant measures remained to be implemented by the Guinean authorities to implement the Convention effectively, and that the minimum actions referred to in paragraphs 3 above had not be implemented yet, the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending a suspension of commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Guinea, pursuant to paragraph 30 of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3.
7. The Secretariat therefore informs Parties that the Standing Committee recommends that all Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Guinea until further notice.

8. Parties are reminded that the complete list of Parties subject to a recommendation to suspend trade is available on the CITES website under Documents / Trade suspensions.