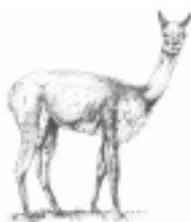


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Twenty-second meeting of the Animals Committee  
Lima (Peru), 7-13 July 2006

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN GREAT APES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. Resolution 13.4 (Conservation of and trade in great apes) urges, "the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee to work closely with GRASP, and to explore and implement other measures through which the Convention can contribute to the conservation of great apes and to the promotion of public awareness of the threat posed to great ape populations by illegal trade".
3. At its 21st meeting (AC21, Geneva, May 2005), the Animals Committee formed a working group to discuss this subject and its report (document AC21 WG7 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1) attached as an Annex to the present document) was subsequently adopted by the Committee. The Chairman of the Animals Committee reported on this matter at the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC53, Geneva, June-July 2005) and the Standing Committee took note of the recommendations made by the Animals Committee.

Information relating to GRASP

4. The Secretariat of GRASP (Great Ape Survival Project), which is jointly provided by UNEP and UNESCO, organized the first Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the first GRASP Council meeting in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, from 5 to 9 September 2005. The Kinshasa Declaration, a high-level statement on the future of great apes was adopted during the meeting. Sixteen range States, six donor countries, 25 NGO Partners, two Multilateral Environmental Agreements and two intergovernmental organizations signed the Declaration. The CITES Secretariat was represented at the meeting and it signed the Declaration. The Secretariat was also elected to represent Multilateral Environmental Agreements on the GRASP Executive Committee.
5. The event in Kinshasa received considerable media attention and the commitment of support for GRASP that was shown by governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations was very encouraging.

Information regarding the recommendations of the Animals Committee

6. At SC53, the Standing Committee discussed the recommendations regarding technical missions to Southeast Asia and Central Africa. It was decided that missions to Southeast Asia were appropriate and practical. The CITES Secretariat has subsequently received confirmation from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand that these countries will welcome a CITES/GRASP technical mission team to examine the illegal trade in orangutans. Cambodia has also been asked to welcome such a visit but it has yet to respond. The Secretariat is coordinating the technical missions. It expects that they may

take place shortly before the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee but it is unlikely that any written report will be available in time for the meeting. The Secretariat has sufficient funds to conduct technical missions and, consequently, Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Animals Committee have not been implemented.

7. The Standing Committee has endorsed the recommendation that a CITES Great Apes Enforcement Task Force should be established. The Executive Director of UNEP has offered the facilities of UNEP headquarters at Gigiri, Kenya, to host a meeting of the Task Force. The Secretariat hopes to convene this later in 2006 and the meeting will provide an opportunity for the collection and exchange of intelligence and information regarding illicit trade in great apes. The Secretariat has already had discussions with relevant non-governmental organizations regarding the production of material that can be distributed to appropriate border control agencies to help combat the smuggling of great apes and it is hoped that a draft of such material will be available for consideration by the Task Force. However, the Secretariat currently has no funds to establish a Task Force and external funding support will be necessary to enable this work to be conducted.
8. With regard to Recommendation 6 of the Working Group, the Secretariat has noted the comment made at AC21 by the observer from IATA that IATA is not an enforcement agency. However, the Secretariat is aware that the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group has been in discussions with IATA to try to raise awareness of the smuggling of wildlife. The Secretariat has consequently been in contact with the Chairman of the Interpol Group and has made suggestions regarding some suitable text that could be introduced to one of the manuals that IATA produces for its members.
9. Recommendation 9 of the Animals Committee requested that a GRASP representative be invited to report at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee on the subject of great ape technical missions and a Great Ape Enforcement Task Force. The CITES Secretariat has advised the GRASP Secretariat of this recommendation. However, since these activities are to be coordinated by the CITES Secretariat, it has suggested that the CITES Secretariat report on these issues. It should be noted, as reported above, that it is unlikely that much information will be available on these subjects by the time of the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee.

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
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Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-25 May 2005

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN GREAT APES

Working Group participants: Regional Representative for Africa (KE), Chair; Republic of Korea; Democratic Republic of Congo; CITES Secretariat (Senior Enforcement Officer); Born Free USA; David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation; Humane Society of the United States; IUCN; World Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

The Working Group on Conservation of and Trade in Great Apes provides the 21st meeting of the CITES Animals Committee with the following recommendations for adoption:

The Animals Committee:

1. Recommends the Secretariat engage in joint CITES-GRASP technical missions to Southeast Asia and Central Africa to explore the challenges of great ape conservation in these regions, enforcement of national laws and CITES regulations governing trade in great apes, border security and the capacity of enforcement agencies to prevent illegal taking and intercept illegal shipments of great apes, and matters surrounding repatriation or rehoming of confiscated live animals.
2. Suggests the Standing Committee explore the establishment of a Great Ape Enforcement Task Force pursuant to Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. COP 13) with a view to enhancing cooperation to prevent illegal trade in great apes.
3. Asks the Secretariat to issue a notification calling on donor countries to match the contributions toward GRASP's work already provided by the Government of the United Kingdom, or in some other way contribute significantly to the general operations of GRASP, or provide specific funding to undertake the technical missions referred to in paragraph 1.
4. Specifically suggests that the CITES Secretariat apply for a grant from the Government of the United States under the Great Ape Conservation Act to undertake the work in paragraphs 1 and 2.
5. Urges CITES and GRASP Secretariats to undertake the technical missions as soon as practicable and provide a timetable for action to the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and GRASP in September 2005.
6. Suggests CITES Secretariat explore possibilities for working with IATA and individual airlines to prevent illegal shipments of great apes by air.
7. Should make contact with the Interim Scientific Committee of GRASP to establish the current availability of DNA information related to great apes; and, if such information is found to be insufficient, cooperate with GRASP to gather the information necessary to create such a DNA database.
8. Further urges all Parties to notify the CITES Secretariat of any sanctuary facilities within their countries suitably equipped to house and care for great apes confiscated from trade, to be included in the list of facilities originally circulated by the CITES Secretariat in Notification 2002/074 ("Confiscation of Live Animals").
9. Requests that a Representative of GRASP be invited to report to the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee on progress made and the outcome of the work mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

10. Encourages CITES Standing Committee to endorse these recommendations when it considers the Conservation of and Trade in Great Apes at its 53rd meeting in Geneva from 27 June – July 1.