

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 19-24 April 2008

Regional reports

AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by Mr Khaled Zahzah as the representative of French-speaking Africa on the Animals Committee.

General information

2. Members representing Africa on the Animals Committee: 2
3. Number of Parties in the region: 46 (French-speaking and English-speaking countries)

Communication with the Parties in the region since CoP14

4. Following the elections of the members of the Animals Committee, I sent an e-mail to all the Parties in French-speaking Africa urging them to send me their reports on CITES activities in their country. Only Mali and Togo sent in a report.

Legislation

5. Mali

- a) Law No. 95: establishing the conditions for management of wild fauna and its habitat.
- b) Decision 2007: revoking special hunting permits.
- c) Decree 2007: establishing the list of local species and procedures for obtaining permits for production, possession, use for commercial purposes, trade, sale, offering for sale and manufacture of objects originating from all or part of a species subject to the provisions of Law No. 02-017 of 3 June 2002 governing the possession of, trade in, and export, re-export, import, transport and transit of specimens of species of wild fauna and flora.

6. Togo

Besides the national legislation on nature conservation, Togo has a CITES implementation decree.

7. Tunisia

- a) Law No. 2005-13 of 26 January 2005 amending the forestry code. Under this law:
 - i) Hunting, destruction, possession, sale, giving away and purchase of species of rare or critically endangered wild fauna and flora and trade in non-migratory game and critically endangered wild fauna are considered grave offences, not open to settlement.
 - ii) It is prohibited to hunt, possess, capture, remove, transport, taxidermize, give away, offer for sale, sell or purchase rare and critically endangered wild animals or their eggs, nests, broods or young, except with a special permit issued by the minister responsible for forests.
 - iii) It is prohibited to destroy rare or critically endangered plant species, to cut, mutilate, pull up, pick, remove, load, transport, give away, offer for sale or buy rare or endangered plant species. The same prohibition applies to the fruit of such species, whether whole or in pieces.
 - iv) Breeding facilities for indigenous or foreign wild fauna, with the exception of fish hatcheries or facilities whose purpose is to display live specimens of such species to the public, must be established in accordance with a list of specifications approved by an order of the Minister of Agriculture.
 - v) It is prohibited to mistreat tamed animals or those kept in captivity.
 - vi) The species of wild fauna and flora and products thereof protected by the international conventions ratified by Tunisia may only be purchased, imported, offered for sale, exported or owned in accordance with the provisions set forth by those conventions.
 - vii) Criminal proceedings will be initiated against those infringing these provisions, and specimens of animal or plant species held illegally may be confiscated.
- b) Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of 19 July 2006 establishing the list of the rare and critically endangered species of fauna and flora.

CITES activities in the region

8. Mali

- a) In 2006: Training workshop on CITES, on identification of specimens listed in Appendix I, II or III, and on the content of Appendix IV, organized at the Centre for Practical Forestry Training in Tabakoro and attended by forestry workers, economic operators and NGOs.
- b) Participation in the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14) in The Hague in June 2007.
- c) Participation in the dialogue meeting of African elephant range States.

9. Togo

- a) Participation in CoP14 from 3 to 15 June 2007.
- b) Participation in the seventh dialogue meeting of African elephant range States from 30 May to 1 June 2007 (The Hague).
- c) Participation in a subregional training workshop organized by the CITES Secretariat from 23 to 27 January 2006 in Togo, which focused on 'CITES and science'.

10. Tunisia

- a) Participation in a trainer training session organized by the CITES Secretariat in Rabat in December 2005.
- b) Participation in a consultative meeting in Kuwait organized by the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the CITES Management Authority of Kuwait in March 2007, and attended by representatives of the Arab States party to CITES.
- c) Participation in the 21st meeting of the Animals Committee in Geneva.
- d) Organization of a training workshop on CITES in December 2006.
- e) Organization of a workshop for preparation of a national law on CITES, in March 2007.
- f) Organization of a workshop dealing with wild animal welfare and attended by foresters, vets, economic operators and NGOs (December 2007).

Control of illegal trade

11. Mali

- a) Unannounced checks carried out in May 2006: seizure and destruction of six panther skins.
- b) Poaching of elephants is becoming increasingly rife in the northern part of the country, around the border with Niger; a male elephant roaming in the Ménaka area was killed by a poacher who is currently on the run (enquiry in progress).

12. Togo

Within its policy to combat illegal trade in wild animals, particularly those protected by CITES, Togo has adopted measures that have led to the creation of:

- a) CITES check-points at the Lomé airport and seaport.
- b) The CITES check-point of Sanvi Kodji, at the border between Benin and Togo.
- c) The CITES check-point of Aflao, at the border between Ghana and Togo.
- d) The CITES check-point of Sinkassé, at the border between Burkina Faso and Togo.
- e) Control flying squads that travel throughout the country.

13. Tunisia

- a) Unannounced checks carried out in the weekly markets: seizure of protected parrots and other birds.
- b) Customs checks at the Tunis Carthage airport: seizure of ivory, tiger skins and tortoises.

Suggestions

14. With regard to the problems of export of CITES-listed animals or animal products from Mali to countries in the European Union, the CITES Secretariat should undertake scientific studies on certain species such as *Geochelone sulcata* and *Python sebae*.
15. Togo faces challenges that are mainly linked to a lack of materials to determine the age of pre-Convention specimens, lack of species identification manuals, capacity building needs, and problems in air transport that have prevented traders from making full use of the quotas allocated to them.