

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN BEARS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 12th meeting (CoP12, Santiago, 2002) the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions:

12.27 The Parties that did not report to the Secretariat by 31 July 2001 as required by Decision 11.43, and that are believed to be significant range and consumer States for bear and bear products – namely, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam – should submit to the Secretariat by 31 July 2003 reports documenting the actions they have taken to implement Resolution Conf. 10.8 (Rev. CoP12) (Conservation of and trade in bears).

12.28 The Standing Committee shall include the international trade in bear parts and derivatives in the agenda of its 50th meeting with a view to identifying additional legislative and enforcement measures that may be necessary to stop illegal international trade in bears and bear parts and derivatives, drawing upon the information received by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 12.27.

Work by the Secretariat and the Standing Committee

3. By the deadline of 31 July 2003, only one Party had submitted a report to the Secretariat. Reminders were sent to the relevant Parties and by the time of the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, March 2004), Australia, Belarus, Bhutan, Canada, Finland, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Latvia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and Viet Nam had submitted reports. Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Pakistan subsequently submitted reports after another reminder.
4. At its 50th meeting, the Standing Committee noted the report of the Secretariat (document SC50 Doc. 17). It was recalled that at its 45th meeting (Paris, June 2001) the Standing Committee had agreed, during discussions of the Conservation of and trade in specific species, on a number of essential elements that are necessary to implement the Convention effectively, regardless of which species is being traded. These were:
 - a) adequate national legislation to regulate trade in specimens of CITES-listed species;
 - b) adequate national legislation to protect species of conservation concern and regulate the harvest of such species;

- c) adequate national legislation to enable enforcement and penalize offenders;
 - d) economic incentive policies, incorporated in legislation where necessary, to promote compliance;
 - e) sufficient provision and training of administrative and enforcement personnel (specialized wildlife enforcement units having been found to be especially effective);
 - f) provision of effective scientific advice for both administrative and enforcement personnel;
 - g) trade monitoring and analyses, combined with information management systems, to aid policy-making;
 - h) education and awareness-raising campaigns directed toward traders and the public;
 - i) the support of the judiciary in adequately responding to crimes and helping deter offenders; and
 - j) inter-agency cooperation and exchange of information at national, regional and international levels.
5. Having discussed the matter at its 50th meeting, the Committee did not identify any additional legislative and enforcement measures to stop illegal international trade in bears and bear parts and derivatives. The Secretariat undertook to seek reports from those Parties that had still to respond to Decision 12.27, namely Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan. It will report orally upon submission of these reports, and any additional information relating to bears, at CoP13.