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

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Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17-21 March 2009

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANT TRADE
ONLINE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

2. The Secretariat herewith provides a report on the progress made with the development of the online management system for the purpose of implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species.*

3. In 2002, the Secretariat contracted TRAFFIC to compile all recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee in the context of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.); to review their implementation; to follow up on recommendations that have not yet been implemented; to analyse their current relevance; and to develop a database that contained all relevant information for all species reviewed by the Animals Committee.

4. This resulted in production of a Microsoft Access 97 database (the 'Significant Trade Database') containing all relevant information concerning the animal species that were reviewed in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.).

5. The adoption of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) resulted in changes to the process for reviewing significant trade, plant species were introduced into the process. The Resolution establishes a series of activities which need to be completed throughout the process. This creates the need o monitor the implementation of each of the reviews conducted.

6. In order to address these changes and to facilitate data entry and the production of outputs, the Secretariat sought to modify the original database structure and update the software platform. This resulted in an upgraded database, similar to its predecessor, programmed in Microsoft Access 2000.

7. Besides having some technical deficiencies, the current Significant Trade Database also has a very limited utility. Significant changes would be required to overcome its limitations and improve its user-friendliness. Even if all this is done, access to the database by other users would require copying the software as well as constantly copying and distributing updates of the data. It would also require the duplication of data from other databases.

8. The Secretariat therefore decided to create an online management system which all authorized users could access. This system would be interoperable with other databases (e.g. the CITES species and CITES trade databases, the Web-based Identification Manual and links to Parties' national contacts. Giving users the ability to access the database online would also enable them to update the content easily.

9. In December 2008, the Secretariat concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to develop an online system to manage information on

implementation of the Review of Significant Trade in CITES Appendix II species (the Significant Trade Online Management System.

10. Main objectives of the Significant Trade Online Management System are to:

a)   Provide an online interface for the management and communication of information in the three working languages of the Convention;

b)   Provide the necessary structure to store and manage securely information and to produce reports;

c)   Provide secure password-controlled, online access to the information, with different levels of users and access to data;

d)   Provide a deadline-alert mechanism for all relevant users;

e)   Establish links to other relevant information systems, such as the CITES Species Database, CITES Trade Database, CITES Identification Manual, CITES National Contacts;

f)   Transfer data from the existing Secretariat's Significant Trade Database;

g)   Provide a user-friendly help function and downloadable Database User's Guide;

h)   Allow the possibility of future modifications so as to be compatible with other mainstream software and hardware solutions.

11. A demonstration illustrating the concept of the Significant Trade Online Management system will be presented during the meetings of the Plants and Animals Committees by UNEP-WCMC.

12. The Committees are invited to note the contents of this document.