

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November -1 December 2017

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

EUROPE

This document has been submitted by Portugal as regional representative of Europe.*

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Overview of major developments
3. Activities of the regional representatives
4. Regional cooperation
5. Meetings and workshops
6. Problems faced by the regional representatives

1. Introduction

This Report covers activities of the Parties within the European Region in the period between the 66th meeting (Geneva, January 2016) and the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, November-December 2017). It is presented in the format provided in Document SC59 Doc. 23 at the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (March 2010) and adopted by the Standing Committee at that meeting.

This Report was compiled using contributions received from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey. Additional information for the European Union (EU) and its 28 Member States was received from the European Commission.

- Regional Representatives: Hungary, Israel, Portugal and Russian Federation

- Alternate Regional Representatives: Albania, Belgium, Georgia and Poland

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

2. Overview of major developments

Currently there are **48 Parties** to the Convention in the European Region, from which **35 Parties** adopted the Gaborone Amendment to article XXI of the Convention.

Belgium

In **March 2017** the Belgian CITES MA recruited two new administrative assistants in order to manage CITES documents applications submitted through our online system (available on the site web of the Belgian CITES administration since March 2015).

From **July 2017** onwards, the CITES Inspection Service recruited two controllers and five inspectors as well as one CITES Inspection Service coordinator.

Since 2014, the Belgian government is one of the donors of the **African Elephant Fund and is member of its Steering Committee**. Belgium has contributed financially up to now a total €58.000 to this fund and has pledged another €50.000 for 2017.

Czech Republic

A working group consisting of representatives of all relevant agencies incl. the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, Customs, Police, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Environment has been established in order to share information and to prepare National Action Plan against wildlife trafficking (to be adopted in 2018).

To assist with the revealing illegal trade in tiger parts and products a project "TigrisID" has been launched in the Czech Republic with the aim to develop a diagnostic tool for DNA analysis based on individual identifications and species identification in processed products.

Estonia

Estonia has focused particular attention on e-commerce. Estonian authorities have conducted a study on online trade on CITES species and have screened the online stores to find out the extent of such trade in Estonia and how to improve the effectiveness of the enforcement.

Georgia

1. Georgian national legislation is placed in category 2. To fulfil conditions for category 1, draft law on biodiversity has been prepared, which includes chapter on CITES regulations. In 2016 the draft law was reviewed by the secretariat and also informal consultations were held in July 2017. Currently, revised version of the draft law is prepared based on the comments received, which is being reviewed by the stakeholder agencies. Meanwhile, in March 2016, penalties were introduced within the existing legislation, in addition to the already enforced confiscation, for violations of CITES related regulations, namely, penalties for illegal transboundary movement and domestic trade when the specimen was imported illegally. Environmental Supervision Department, structural unit under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, was authorized to control domestic trade, while Customs Service remains responsible for border control.

Capacity building for the Supervision Department is required for full enforcement of new responsibilities. For this reason joint training was held in March 2017, where 120 representatives of the Supervision Department and Customs Service were trained in general CITES regulations, smuggling ways, products in trade, identification of raptors, etc. Training was conducted by Nomenclature Specialist of the Plants Committee, representative of UK Border Force Mr. Guy Clarke and national experts. Follow up training is planned in 2018 year.

2. One additional staff member has joined the Management Authority, who works on CITES issues part time.

3. Several ongoing projects involve illegal trade issues. Flora and Fauna International (FFI) is supporting the project on illegal trade in raptors. The project involves activities of awareness raising activities for local population and falconers, training of enforcement officers in identification of raptors, anti-poaching activities, etc.

4. Two projects cover issues related to sturgeons. WWF and FFI are implementing projects aiming selection of area to establish protected area for conservation of sturgeons, supporting the Ministry in establishment of

protected area, anti-poaching measures, activities against illegal trade in sturgeons, support in law enforcement, including SMART patrolling and training of enforcement officers in identification of sturgeon species.

Hungary

In Hungary there was an important Legislation change on CITES implementation:

Since the 1st of January 2017 in Hungary, the Government Decree No. 292/2008 (XII. 10.) on the specific rules of the enforcement of international and European Community legal acts regulating the international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora was amended to extend and implement a national registration obligation for specimens of Appendix II species with zero export quota adopted by the Conference of Parties as well in order to follow and monitor trade in these species.

Portugal

Recognizing the problem of the illegal wildlife trade and in particular of ivory specimens which contributes to the severe increase of poaching of African elephants in recent years, Portugal as a country with strong relationships namely with some African Portuguese speaking countries has built its efforts to tackle that issue.

Trade of legal pre-Convention ivory specimens is strictly regulate with each item always accompanied with an EU certificate issued after analyzes from Portuguese CITES Management Authority. Furthermore, each company that transfers ivory specimens, even if it is not commercial trade, need to be registered in CITES MA and update all details every year.

The Portuguese CITES MA together with the judiciary Police have made progress in their investigation tackling the illegal trade of birds specially parrots. The investigation is ongoing and is leading for new persons. Portugal approved the new national action plan for enforcement for the period 2017-2018.

Portuguese legislation that regulates CITES was changed in 2017 (Decree-Law nº 121/2017, 20th September) but the main objective was to clarify some of the procedure steps to import, export or legalize CITES specimens.

Slovakia

Slovak CITES Management Authority decided to suspend issuance of CITES import permits for rhino horns as hunting trophies to the Slovak Republic since 20th May 2016. The suspension (consulted also with representatives of the Slovak Hunters Chamber) is valid until further notice. Slovak enforcement authorities discovered that than 19 of rhino horns imported by hunters within two years disappeared. There is a strong presumption that rhino horns might be illegally re-exported to fuel the demand for rhino horns for medicine in Asia. The suspension does not apply to other parts of hunting trophy. CITES Management Authority of South Africa was officially informed about the suspension.

Slovakia had implemented its National Action Plan 2014 –2019 for the enforcement with special focus in the control of taxidermist and big breeders and training enforcement officers for wildlife trade controls.

Turkey

Turkey has a very rich biodiversity because of its geographical location on the world and also because of its geological and morphological structure. This diversity is also valid for game and wildlife.

A species which do not have a value today may be the raw material of a medicine in the future. Breeding stocks of domesticated plants and animals are essentially provided from the wild species. Because of this reason, the natural resouces are the common heritage of not only the country also of the entire world.

The game and wildlife in Turkey is being managed by General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks under the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. Sustainability is our essential principle for the management of game and wildlife. Sustainable management, therefore, is only possible with the establishment of protection and exploitation balance.

Turkey, as a country at the intersection of 5 gene centers, has a geographical location that is rich in biodiversity.

Both the climate and topography have played an important role in maintaining astonishing biodiversity in Turkey. Turkey has a very rich flora and fauna with more than 11 000 species of plants, 150 species of mammals, 481 species of birds, 716 species of fish and 130 species of reptiles. In addition, two of the three major flyways for millions of migratory birds, which move between the Western Palearctic and Africa each year, pass through Turkey.

The Turkish Constitution, laws, regulations, and international conventions such as Paris, Ramsar, Bern, Washington (CITES), Barcelona, Combatting Desertification, and Biological Diversity provide the legal framework for nature conservation, sustainable resource use and management. Forest Law coded 6831 enacted in 1956, National Parks Law coded 2873 enacted in 1983, and Land Hunting Law coded 4915 enacted in 2003 authorizes Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs for conservation, improvement, and sustainable management of forests, wildlife resources, and biodiversity.

Our culture attaches great importance to conserve nature. Nature conservation practices of Turkey have been institutionalized since 1839.

Sustainable management of wildlife resources depends on successful conservation. For the successful implementation of conservation measures an efficient inspection and control mechanisms have to be developed. Within the frame of this policy, wildlife rangers working in 15 regional and 81 provincial offices of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs have been trained in inspection procedures and a handbook is prepared, published, and distributed to all provincial and regional offices in order to provide standardization. In addition, to develop an efficient control mechanism, necessary equipment such as guns, radios, binoculars, cameras, sleeping bags, tents, and field vehicles have been provided to all the rangers in the provincial and regional offices.

Wildlife managers have been working to maintain or restore rare and declining wildlife populations for more than 50 years in Turkey. Especially since the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) more resources and public attention have been focused on species that are legally recognized as endangered or threatened. There are 20 wildlife breeding stations in Turkey for raising species of birds such as Bald Ibis, (*Geronticus eremita*), pheasants, partridges, and species of big mammals such as Anatolian Mouflon, red deer, roe deer, fallow deer, and gazella. Wild animals raised in captivity are released into wild at selected sites according to IUCN guidelines for re-introduction and restocking purposes. Personnel at the Center of GDNCNP as well as at the regional directorates have been trained on IUCN guidelines on captive breeding and re-locations of wild animal species and on wild animal breeding in order to improve game stocks. Turkey is rewarded with the prestigious Edmond Blanc Prize of the CIC (The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation) for the conservation of Anatolian Mouflon in Konya Province. The Prize is rewarded for outstanding efforts of Turkey in wildlife conservation and game management based on the principles of sustainable use of wildlife resources. Besides, according to the Turkish laws, regulations, and international conventions such as CITES, we have been establishing Wild Animal Rescue Centers for injured and confiscated wild animals. So far we have established 6 Wild Animal Rescue Centers in different regions. In addition, we have a plan to establish 9 Wild Animal Rescue Centers in the other different regions.

Türkiye has been a party of the CITES Convention since 1996. The purpose of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is to provide and arrange the sustainable usage of the wild animals and plants species which are included in the Appendixes of the CITES Convention by taking control of their international trade through the principles and methods in coordination with relevant foundations and associations. The implementation of CITES involves different departments and all of them play an important role.

By-law on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was published in the Official Gazette dated December 27, 2001 with no. 24623 and was revised in 2004. Because of By-law on CITES; Turkey takes place in Category A (I). According to By-law on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; **Management authorities** are; Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, **Scientific Authority** is the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and **Enforcement Authorities** are Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Customs and Trade.

As the Primary Management Authority, the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs through the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, has functions imposed by the text of the Convention, included in Resolutions and Decisions and others.

International trade of Appendix I species is restricted by the Turkish National Law. It is only allowed for artificial propagation and scientific research purposes. Stopping or suspending the international trade or not giving quotas for endangered species may occur in cases of population decrease.

“Strengthening of Institutional Capacity on CITES Implementations EU Project” has been completed in 2013. Project Partner was Spain. The aim of the project was to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of CITES implementation of all the authorities involved. Also, to increase the public awareness about what CITES is, its rules and conditions for the international trade of the specimens of the species regulated under the Convention.

In this Project; a very complete and complex electronic permitting system was given to Türkiye. Preparing of Central CITES Database program was one of the project's main benchmarks. The trade monitoring and database system was established to issue the CITES permits and certificates electronically. **CITES Database program has been working to issue CITES Permits electronically since January 1, 2016.**

10 Identification Guides and 543 identification sheets have been translated into Turkish and 300 copies of each one have been published and distributed among Customs, CITES Local Offices and related CITES institutions. 10.000 informative brochures, 1.000 posters and 5.000 booklets have been performed, published and distributed. A Website has been designed and established.

European Commission

On 26 February 2016, the European Commission adopted a [Communication on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking](#) which sets out a comprehensive blueprint for joined-up efforts to fight wildlife crime inside the EU, and for strengthening the EU's role in the global fight against these illegal activities. The plan has three main strands – greater enforcement, better cooperation, and more effective prevention. The Action Plan is to be implemented jointly by the EU and its Member States until 2020.

On 20 June 2016, the Council adopted [Council conclusions](#) on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking endorsing the three priorities of the AP and calling for timely implementation of the relevant actions by all actors concerned. A large number of actions and initiatives have been taken by the EU Member States and the European Commission since the inception of the Action Plan. At the occasion of a Conference organized by the Commission on 8 February 2017 to take stock of progress made and identify next steps for the implementation of this Action Plan, the European Commission services, the European External Action Service and Member States reported on the measures taken so far to implement the Action Plan (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/Achievements_WAP_overview.pdf).

As part of the implementation of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking, the European Commission adopted on 17 May 2017 a guidance document recommending that EU Member States (i) suspend the (re)export of raw ivory items from 1st July 2017 and (ii) ensure a strict interpretation of the provisions in EU law authorising intra-EU trade in ivory and the (re)export of worked ivory¹.

The European Commission also launched on 15 September 2017 a survey on ivory trade in the EU², which runs until 8 December 2017. This survey aims at compiling information and views on the extent, structure and main features of legal and illegal trade in ivory in and from the EU, as well as on the priorities that the EU should follow in its approach against ivory trafficking

The European Commission published in July a document presenting an overview of the most important seizures of CITES-listed specimens carried by EU Member States in 2016³. This reflects the significant efforts by enforcement agencies in the EU Member States to address wildlife trafficking. These efforts should be further

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/guidance_ivory.pdf

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-ivory-trade-eu_en

³ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/reports/2016_overview_significant_seizures.pdf

reinforced in the coming years, in view the recognition that environmental crime features as priority in the EU policy against organised crime for the period 2018-2021.

Other legislative developments

CITES is implemented in the European Union through Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97/EC of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

In 2016-2017, The European Commission has also revised the Annexes to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 at two occasions:

- Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/2029 of 10 November 2016 (Official Journal L 316 of 23.11.2016) incorporated changes to CITES Appendix III into EU law, as well as the deletion of some other species, based on the entry into force of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 of 13 July 2016 adopting a list of invasive alien species of Union concern.
- Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/160 of 20 January 2017 (Official Journal L 27 of 1.2.2017) reflects the decisions to CITES Appendices taken at CoP 17.

The European Commission adopted on 19 October 2017 a new "Suspension Regulation" (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2017/1915), which was published in the Official Journal L 271/7 of 20 October 2017.

On 6 March 2017, the European Commission released a "Questions and Answers" document on the implementation in the EU of the listing of rosewood and palisander species into CITES Appendix II following CITES CoP17:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/cop17/implementation_of_cites_cop17_listing_of_rosewood_clean.pdf

More information on the EU policy relating to wildlife trade can be found on the webpage of the European Commission dedicated to this issue:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/index_en.htm

Implementation

Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 establishes the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the Scientific Review Group and the Enforcement Group. The Committee on Trade in Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which agrees on implementation measures for CITES, met four times in 2016 and 2017. The Scientific Review Group, which consists of the Member States' Scientific Authorities and examines any scientific question relating to the application of the Regulations, also met four times in 2016 and 2017. The Enforcement Group, which consists of representatives of each Member State's authorities with responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Regulations, met twice in 2016 and 2017. This group plays a key role for exchanging enforcement related information among enforcement, customs and police authorities.

3. Activities of the regional representatives

Portugal

Portugal MA coordinated:

-training of police officers engaged at custom and territory level on investigation techniques for fighting wildlife crime

-elaboration of a draft memorandum of understanding between Portuguese CITES MA and the National Prosecutors office

-training of police officers engaged at custom and territory level on CITES matter and related issues

Portugal CITES MA and SA took part in:

- 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, held in Joannesburg from 24 September to 04 October 2016
- 67 st meeting of the Standing Committee (Joannesburg, 23 September 2016)
- 68th meeting of the Standing Committee (Joannesburg, 04 October 2016)
- 28th meeting of the Animals Committee and 23th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, 18-27 July 2017). Portugal is s member of Plant Committee

European Commission

The European Commission is currently revising the Implementing Regulations (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 and (EU) No 792/2012 laying down rules for the design of permits, certificates and other documents in order to implement certain Resolutions adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and in order to ensure that the Regulation is implemented consistently within the Union.

The European Commission is preparing a new Regulation reflecting recent changes to CITES Appendix III.

The European Commission is currently updating Commission Regulation (EC) No 578/2013 suspending the introduction into the Community of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora.

Implementation

Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 establishes the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the Scientific Review Group and the Enforcement Group. The Committee on Trade in Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which agrees on implementation measures for CITES, met four times in 2013 and will have met twice in 2014 by the time of SC 65. The Scientific Review Group, which consists of the Member States' Scientific Authorities and examines any scientific question relating to the application of the Regulations, met four times in 2013 and so far twice in 2014. The Enforcement Group, which consists of representatives of each Member State's authorities with responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Regulations, met twice in 2013 and so far once in 2014. This group plays a key role for exchanging enforcement related information among enforcement, customs and police authorities.

On 7 February 2014, the European Commission adopted a Communication and launched a stakeholder consultation on the future EU approach to wildlife trafficking. On 10 and 11 April 2014, the European Commission organized an expert conference, followed by dedicated workshops to discuss how to strengthen enforcement and the fight against organized wildlife crime in the EU and how to make EU support against wildlife trafficking at global level more effective. Based on the results of the stakeholder consultation and the conference, the European Commission will review the existing policies and measures at EU level so as to enable the EU to react more effectively to the current crisis situation.

4. Regional cooperation

Belgium

Belgian Customs and Federal Police do regularly make use of the EU-TWIX list-server to share information on seizures and others related enforcement subjects with colleagues of CITES authorities in other EU Member States

In 2017, Belgian Customs participated to the Thunderbird operation organised by Interpol at international level. A total of 4 weeks of CITES target control were organised to this purpose at Brussels National and Liege airports.

Czech Republic

Following the declaration on cooperation in the field of CITES implementation signed between the Czech Republic and Viet Nam (in 2015) the Czech-Vietnamese information leaflets raising public awareness about CITES and addressing demand reduction for CITES specimens have been produced and distributed within Vietnamese community living in the Czech Republic.

A 2-day workshop for experts from middle European Countries (AT, CZ, PL, SK, SI) in Envi Crime incl. Wildlife Crime was organized in December 2016 in Prague in order to share best practice in the field of CITES enforcement.

Georgia

German International Cooperation Society (GIZ) financially supported abovementioned training held in March 2017. FFI has provided both financial and intellectual support.

Poland

On the 8th of September 2017, in Prague, there was a bilateral meeting between Czech and Polish CITES management and enforcement authorities. The meeting was focused on the issue of illegal trade in rhino horns, pseudo-hunting and misuse of rhino horns imported as a part of hunting trophies, basing on the Czech experience in the field. Polish enforcement authorities launched in 2017 an investigation aiming at possible illegal trade in rhino horns imported to Poland with rhino hunting trophies.

Portugal

Portugal participated implemented in Serbia the Project "Policy and Legal Advice Center EuropeAid/131430/C/SER/RS in EU Environmental Legislation – Zoo directive and in EUROPOL coordinated action against eel trafficking.

Spain

Five operations against illegal European eel trafficking in the last five fishing seasons have been developed. The last two have been coordinated in EUROPOL and in EUROJUST, with the following countries participating: Spain, Portugal, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Sweden.

European Commission

EU funds have been granted or approved for the following projects which are directly linked to the implementation of the CITES Convention:

- support to the CITES tree species programme (7 Mi Euro, to be implemented by the CITES Secretariat), in support of 25 main exporting range States of CITES-listed tree species in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and 37 African elephant range States (2017- 2020)⁴;
- Support to the African Elephant Fund (1 million Euro, to be implemented by UN Environment);
- Support to the implementation of CITES CoP17 Decisions, with a special focus on marine species (2.25 Mi €)⁵

The EU is also supporting financially a wide range of national, regional and global programmes for the conservation of biodiversity and to address all aspects of wildlife trafficking.

5. Meetings and workshops

Belgium

Belgian CITES authorities participated to all CITES meetings at international level since January 2016 :

- 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties Johannesburg , 24 September-04 October 2016
- 66th meeting of the Standing Committee Geneva, 11-15 January 2016

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-contributes-8-million-euro-support-cites-tree-species-programme-and-protection_en

⁵ https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/EU-provides-900000-EUR-support-CITES-marine-species-capacity-building-projects_19052017

- 67th and 68th meeting of the Standing Committee Johannesburg , on 23 september 2016 and 4 October 2016
- 29 th meeting of the Animals Committee Geneva, 18-22 July 2017
- 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee Geneva, 22-27 July 2017
- "Implementing the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking: Stronger Engagement with Business" - 8 February 2017, Brussels
- 28th Meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, Singapore, 9 – 13 October 2017
- In the framework of EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking: participation of representants of Belgium in several working groups on ivory, reptiles, birds and timber during 2017. Also, several meetings have been organised between CITES MA and Customs to enhance the cooperation, coordination, communication and improve data flows between the different competent authorities as foreseen in the EU Action Plan.

Belgian CITES authorities participated in all CITES meetings at EU level since January 2016 :

- 76th to 81rd CITES Management Committee meetings (Brussels, November 2016 to November 2017)
- 5th to 9th Expert Group meetings (Brussels, June 2016 to November 2017)
- 75th to 81th SRG meetings (Brussels, March 2016 to November 2017)
- 32th to 35st CITES Enforcement meetings (Brussels, May 2016 to June 2017, The Hague, November 2017)
- Meeting with stakeholders (Brussels, May 2016)

Other meetings :

- 6th meeting of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee, Geneva 12-15 January 2016
- 7th meeting of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee, Gabon, 22-23 June 2016
- Save Wildlife 'Act now or Game over' Wildlife Conference, The Hague, March 2016
- Conference on "Implementing the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking: Stronger Engagement with Business" Brussels , February 2017

Training Activities

Belgian CITES Management Authority has given several sessions of CITES training for CITES controlling authorities and stakeholders in the course of 2016 and 2017.

For the air transportation sector: Presentation on CITES and exchange of ideas on better cooperation, Brussels National Airport, 10 January 2017.

For French speaking African Customs : Two days of CITES theoretical and practical sessions given to groups of French speaking African students of the international training course organised by Federal Public Service Finance, Brussels 09 June 2016 and 06 February 2017.

For the CITES Inspection Service: Theoretical and practical training sessions on CITES legislation and enforcement, Brussels, July, August and September 2017.

For the musical sector: Information session on new CITES wood species given during the Cordefactum Guitar Festival organized by the CMB (Center for Musical Instruments Construction), Lier 15 April 2017.

For birds associations: Information session on CITES legislation regarding trade and breeding of birds, Putte, 20 October 2017.

For veterinarians: Information session on CITES and links to veterinary work at the yearly EXPOVET (exhibition for veterinarians and students), Gent, 28 October 2017.

For representatives of chamber of commerce : participation of the CITES management authority to one day of information given by SPF economy Unit Economic Analyses and International Economy , the aim is to explain the use of the CITES documents; Brussels, 21 November 2017.

The CITES Inspection Service attached to the Belgian Federal Administration, DG Environment, participated during 2016 at several joint Federal controlling operations (so-called "BACON" actions) taking place approximately twice a month at different airports in the country (Brussels National, Gosselies and Biersele). It is an initiative conducted by the Belgian Customs in cooperation with the Belgian Federal Sanitary Agency, the Belgian Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products and different departments of the Federal Public Service Public Health, Security of the Food Chain and Environment. The aim of this initiative is to detect illegal products brought back in the EU by passengers coming from third countries.

Participation of the CITES MA to various CITES target actions :

- 'Control of passengers' organised by the Customs with collaboration of CITES MA, Brussels National Airport, 21 to 27 November 2016.
- 'Control of CITES live animals and documents at time of export' organized by Belgian Federal Sanitary Agency , Brussels National Airport, 6 days in total during April , May and July 2016.
- 'TEMBO operation' : This operation is a joint effort of Europol, RILO WE and the EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Group represented by UK Border Force, October 2017. The Belgian customs will take part to this joint customs-police operation , looking for antique ivory illegally carried out in packages to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan without CITES export license.

Czech Republic

The following CITES workshops for the state authorities and the public were organized in the Czech Republic:

- A 2-day workshop "The CITES evergreens" in June 2017 was organized by the Czech Scientific Authority (Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic) and opened to the public. The workshop was focused on the issues of implementation of changes in CITES Appendices after the CoP17.
- A 2-day workshop "CITES enforcement in the Czech Republic" for the Enforcement, Scientific and Regional Management Authorities was organized by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate in June 2017.
- A UNEP exhibition "Wild for life" (<https://wildfor.life/>) opened for public at the Václav Havel Airport in June-December 2017 aiming at raising of public awareness about seriousness of wildlife trafficking.

Estonia

Estonia CITES authorities participated in a couple of training seminars for enforcement officers organized in Estonia. Estonian authorities have also attended the Tourist Fair, introducing the CITES rules.

France

France authorities have implemented the following capacity building activities:

1.1 Aimed at local Management Authorities

- 01-03 June 2016: initiation to CITES and the Wildlife Trade EU Regulation
- 21-25 November 2016: experienced CITES Officers
- 29-30 March 2017: Management Authorities networking

- 06-10 March 2017: initiation to CITES and the Wildlife Trade EU Regulation
- 09-13 October 2017: experienced CITES Officers

1.2 Aimed at the private sector (music instrument makers):

- 01 December 2016: practical implications of the *Dalbergia* spp. listing
- 11-12 January 2017: practical implications of the *Dalbergia* spp. listing

France authorities also participated in some International cooperation actions:

A member of the French CITES Management Authority participated in 2 missions in South America, which were facilitated by TAIEF - The Environmental Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Facility of the European Union:

- To Colombia, together with a Spanish colleague (14-19 May 2017): further to SC66 (January 2016), the Colombian Government kindly invited the EU to best understand the situation with *Caiman crocodilus* farming and also with the Bahia de Cispata *Crocodylus acutus* programme.
- To Peru, to attend the XIX Technical Meeting and the XXXIII Ordinary Meeting of the Vicuña Convention. These meetings have been held in Cusco from the 22nd to the 25th of August 2017.

Hungary

International meetings, workshops:

A Wildlife Trafficking Investigators Program was organised by the embassy of the US at the FBI's International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest between 17-28 October 2016. The 2 weeks training was given by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This specialized course presented the planning methods and techniques for conducting successful wildlife investigations, such as various types of investigating techniques and crime scene processing, interviews, undercover operations, and case report writing. The participating countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary) could nominate 10 persons each to attend this course, which consisted of ministry personnel, police officials, customs officials, inspectors and technicians that support such criminal investigations, and prosecutors; and by that the training was available for the entire part of enforcement / judiciary chain. The Hungarian CITES MA was involved in the preparation of the meeting, the designation of participants, and participated in the course.

An International Workshop on the protection of the European Turtle Dove took place in Kecskemét, Hungary, between 16-18 January 2017. The meeting was organized by BirdLife International in the framework of the Project LIFE EuroSAP (LIFE14 PRE UK 002). This globally vulnerable species is listed in Annex A of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation and threatened by unsustainable use.

National meetings, workshops:

The CITES Management Authority organises a wildlife trade committee meeting each year, with the participation of customs, police, nature conservation authorities, veterinary authority as well as the representative of TRAFFIC with the aim to discuss enforcement matters. The last meeting was held the 6th of July 2017, where the representatives shared information and agreed on the following Hungarian efforts in relation to the implementation of the EU's Action Plan against wildlife trafficking.

The embassy of the United States, in cooperation with the CITES Management Authority, organised a meeting with the participation of enforcement agencies, CITES authorities as well as TRAFFIC on 21 November 2017. The meeting focused on the Central- and Eastern European region's role in illicit wildlife trade and on the current efforts and possible future activities and cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking.

Awareness raising activities:

The Hungarian CITES Management Authority organised awareness raising events on the World Biodiversity Day in May 2016 and 2017. It was held in Szeged Zoo which is one of Hungary's main rescue centres for confiscated live animals. The event focused on the younger generations, through various games, explaining the need for the conservation of species and sustainable use of wildlife products.

A thematic exhibition on “Illegal Wildlife Trade in Endangered Species” was held from the 4-31 October 2017 in one of Hungary’s major city, Szeged, with the contribution of the Hungarian CITES Management Authority, exhibiting confiscated specimens of CITES-listed animal and plant species.

Latvia

Between the 66th and 69th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee Latvia have continued to strengthened enforcement of CITES by raising capacity and awareness of enforcement officers through special training program. During this period one of the main enforcement priorities have been the fight against illegal online trade in CITES species. Effective and ongoing collaboration between national CITES Management Authority and National Police have been the key to achieve the short term goals in this fight. Regarding enforcement Latvia also took part in the operation Thunderbird organized by Interpol which led to several discovered and penalized infringement cases and also helped to consult stakeholders about CITES, thus preventing possible further violations of CITES requirements. Awareness about CITES in general public as well as in special stakeholder groups have been raised also through several awareness raising events and actions, for example - celebration of World Wildlife Day, media day and special publications in press, radio and TV, lectures in Universities etc. The most important and relevant (for particular audience) decisions of CITES COP17 have been emphasized within these events. During that period national protection plans of several native CITES listed species (*Lynx lynx*, *Canis lupus*, *Ursus arctos*, *Lutra lutra* and several species of birds of prey) have been updated or are currently developed. Within all of these plans CITES aims have been emphasized and special tasks devoted to achieve goals of legislation related to trade in endangered species.

Portugal

Portugal has participated in all CITES meetings whether at international or EU level since March 2016, including EU CITES Management Committee Meetings, EU Scientific Review Group Meetings, EU Enforcement Group Meetings, the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee and the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee.

Slovakia

Training activities:

June 2016 - one day training of new district officers

November 2016 - training of prosecutors and judges

March 2017 - one day training of district officers and inspectors

April 2017 - two one day trainings of customs officers (CITES+FLEGT)

May 2017 - two one day trainings of customs officers (CITES+FLEGT)

May 2017 - one day training of new district officers

June 2017 - training of prosecutors and judges

October 2017 - two one day trainings of district officers and inspectors

October 2017 - Slovak MA in cooperation with trainers from Czech enforcement authorities (inspectors and customs officer) organised 2 days training seminar for Slovak customs officers.

The CITES issue has been included in lectures on environmental crime conducted within the courses of Secondary Schools of Police in 2016 and 2017.

Meetings and workshops:

In 2016 Slovak MA and SA took part in 67th meeting of the Standing Committee as well as CoP17 (Johannesburg).

Slovak CITES representatives regularly participate on the Management Committee, the Group of Experts, Scientific review group and Enforcement group meetings organized by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

Slovakia attended also:

- CITES-PARCS workshop (CITES and customs authorities of EU, 29.11.2016, Brussels)
- Central European Specialists Meeting to Combat Environmental Crime (Prague, 5 – 6. 12.2016)
- conference “Save wildlife – act now or game over” (Hague, 1 – 3.03.2016)
- EnviCrimeNet meetings in 2016 and 2017
- Conference IMPEL (Utrecht, 12.-13.5.2016)
- Envirocrime workshop (18 – 19.04.2017); the aim of the workshop was to exchange information on illegal trade in specimens of endangered plant and animal species in the territory of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic
- Expert Workshop for Converting EU Priority on Environmental Crime into Multi Annual Strategic Plan (29 – 30.06.2017) and workshop for preparing Operational Action Plan to Combat Environmental Crime in 2018 (5 – 6. 10.2017).

Slovak Ministry of interior organized:

- EnviCrimeNet - European Network for Environmental Crime Meeting (Bratislava, 2. – 4.11.2016)
- International Conference on Environmental Crime – Necessity for action Plan on Fight against Environmental Crime (Bratislava, 24 – 25.11.2016).

Public awareness actions:

Ministry prepared articles on results of CoP17 and on 25th anniversary of Slovakia's membership in CITES convention to the “Enviromagazin” journal.

State ZOO Bojnice organised several CITES events for public including training programs for schools. Trainings for firemen were organised in order to inform them about CITES species and their potential escape (firemen are one of the authorities responsible in case of capture of animals on escape).

Spain

From 4th April to 17th June 2016, the 12th edition of the UNIA Master's Course in Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: the International Framework took place. In this edition, 25 students from 23 different countries, mainly African countries, received the training. With this edition, a total of 302 people from 90 countries have received the UNIA Master course.

To inform about the new inclusions in the CITES Appendices after the CoP, Spanish Authorities organized meetings with the wood industry, wood importers and animal breeders and traders.

Turkey

Training programs on CITES implementations for Customs inspectors were organized regularly by the Management Authorities.

6. Problems faced by the regional representatives

Estonia

Main challenges related with the issuance of permits for cosmetic products containing CITES species which leads to an huge amount of bureaucracy with no really effect to conservation.

Deputy Head of Department Mr. Levente Körösi
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation Department, Biodiversity and
Gene Conservation Unit, CITES Management Authority
Hungary

Trondheim, 14.11.2017

Your ref.:

Our ref. :
2017/12339

Contact person:
Liv-Stephanie Bantle

Norwegian contribution - European report SC69

The Norwegian Environment Agency would like to thank the regional representatives of Hungary and Portugal for the opportunity to share our work on CITES in the regional report presented at 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Norwegian Management Authority has together with the Swedish MA, applied for funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers as regards a project on e-permitting options and challenges, including legal and technical issues. The project is planned to commence in 2018 and will involve Nordic countries (Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark). Final decision on the application is expected in December. Norway also collaborates with Switzerland on establishing an e-permitting system between the two countries. The issuance of permits from Switzerland to Norway will be operational within the end of this year, and a letter of intent will be signed within the margins of the SC69 meeting between the MAs of the two countries.

A revision of the Norwegian CITES-legislation was sent on WTO-hearing and is currently being heard by the EFTA Surveillance Authority. The proposed legislation is, where feasible, linked to the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation.

The annual informal Nordic CITES meeting to share information on compliance and technical issues was conducted upon invitation by the Icelandic MA in Reykjavik, May 2017. Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden were represented with officers from the MAs, customs and police.

Regarding outreach information and training, the Norwegian MA has focused on information on the listings of the Conference of the Parties, with special focus on timber species, see our homepage (www.miljodirektoratet.no). Furthermore we have conducted meetings with music associations, orchestras and private persons. End of November there will also be a Swedish-Norwegian training seminar for the customs, as initiated by the Swedish MA.

Best regards
Norwegian Environment Agency

This document has been signed electronically

Bjarte Rambjør Heide
Head of section

Liv-Stephanie Bantle
senior advisor

Kopi til:
Klima- og miljødepartementet Postboks 8013 Dep 0030 OSLO

**ФЕДЕРАЛЬНАЯ СЛУЖБА
ПО НАДЗОРУ В СФЕРЕ
ПРИРОДОПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ**



**THE FEDERAL SERVICE
FOR SUPERVISION OF
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MANAGEMENT**

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To: Levente Korosi
Deputy Head of Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Nature Conservation Department
Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Unit
CITES Management Authority
levente.korosi@fm.gov.hu

From: Federal Service for Supervision of Natural
Resources Management in the Russian Federation
(Rosprirodnadzor)

Date: AA-10-03/69 on 30.11.2017

The Management Authority for CITES in the Russian Federation has
considered your request sends the necessary information (see attached).

Best regards,
Deputy Head of Rosprirodnadzor,
Mr. Amirkhan Amirkhanov

1. The Russian Federation occupies 1/8 of the world's land area and the territory of the country includes landscapes of 8 natural zones, where hundreds of thousands of different representatives of flora and fauna live, accounting for 1-20% of the world variety of individual taxa.

On the territory of the Russian Federation there are 203 taxons protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora dated March 3, 1973:

43 species included in Annex I of CITES;

150 species included in Annex II of CITES, including 48 mammals, 61 species of birds, 6 reptiles, 2 species of fish, 1 insect, 84 orchids and primroses;

10 species included in Annex III of CITES, including 7 mammals and 3 plants.

In order to conserve biodiversity, as well as reduce threats to a number of rare species of interest to international trade, the Russian Federation.

In order to ensure compliance with the obligations of the Russian Federation arising from the CITES, for species of wild fauna and flora threatened with extinction, beside sturgeon species, 2 Scientific Authorities are established by the Government of the Russian Federation. These are the federal state budgetary institution "All-Russian Scientific Research Institute for Environmental Protection" and the federal state budgetary institution of science the Institute of Ecology and Evolution named after AN Seversov of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

At the legislative level of the country, in terms of exporting from the territory of the Russian Federation the species of wild fauna and flora that are under threat of extinction, their parts or derivatives subject to the Convention, except sturgeons and their products, including caviar, is allowed with permission certificate) given by the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources Management, defined as CITES Management Authority in the Russian Federation.

2. The Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources Management, as CITES Management Authority in the Russian Federation, is doing a lot of work. Currently, the administrative procedures used to issue permits (certificates) of CITES are being finalized and the list of justification documents necessary for issuing such permits (certificates), including for such species as Mongolian oak, Manchurian ash and Korean pine included in the annexes CITES.

Work is under way to introduce changes in the part of the transportation procedure, musical instruments, the contribution of samples included in Annexes I, II, III of CITES, without permits for export or re-export, aimed at harmonizing the domestic legislation of Resolution 16.8.

Also, the Russian Federation is currently preparing a new edition of the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation, which is an official legal document regulating the protection of rare species of animals at the federal level, and also contains data necessary to determine the conservation status of a rare species (range, numbers, limiting factors) and a list of measures to be taken to preserve this species. The Red Data Book of the Russian Federation also includes a number of species that are endangered on the territory of the Russian Federation and protected by the Convention.

3. The Russian Federation is working to prepare for the holding of 70 meetings of the Standing Committee of CITES in Sochi in 2018, and the Government of the Russian Federation issued orders. Currently, preparations are being made for the signing of an agreement between the CITES Secretariat and the Government of the Russian Federation.

4. Correspondence with the administrative authorities of the participating countries on various issues is conducted on a regular basis.

5. The scientific bodies of CITES in the Russian Federation and the Administrative Bodies of CITES in the Russian Federation regularly work with customs and law enforcement officials to explain the procedure for the passage of CITES facilities through the customs posts of the Russian Federation, the main aspects of species management of animals, verification of tags, e.

6. One of the main problems at present is the presence of unreliable contact data on the site, namely: electronic mail services of the member countries of the Convention, which makes information exchange more difficult and also hampers the verification of the legitimacy of transactions with CITES objects. In addition, in a limited amount in the personal mode, due to the fact that it can not be delivered to the addressee because of exceeding the volume of investments in limits.