



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



December 18, 2006

Subject: Suspension of Trade in CITES-listed Species with Somalia

Background: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received notice that Somalia failed, without adequate justification, to provide required CITES annual reports for three consecutive years within the deadline established in Resolution Conf. 11.17 or the extended deadline. Since its eighth meeting (1992), the Conference of Parties has decided that the failure to submit annual reports by the October 31 deadline constitutes a major problem with implementation of the Convention. At the 11 th meeting (2000), the Conference of the Parties further decided that from 1 January 2001, Parties should not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with any Party that the Standing Committee (representatives of the Conference of the Parties) has determined has failed, without adequate justification, to provide the annual reports required under Article VIII, paragraph 7 (a) of the Convention for three consecutive years within the deadline.

The Endangered Species Act prohibits trade (import, export, re-export) in specimens traded contrary to the CITES Convention. Article VIII of CITES requires that countries take appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the treaty and to prohibit trade in specimens that are in violation. As a member of CITES, the United States is committed to carrying out the decisions and policies approved by CITES countries that reflect appropriate interpretations of the treaty.

Action: Effective December 14, 2006, the United States will suspend imports of CITES-listed specimens from Somalia until further notice. The United States will also suspend export or re-export of CITES-listed specimens to Somalia until further notice. Any such shipments are subject to seizure and forfeiture.

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