



## NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



September 8, 2008

**Subject:** Trade Restrictions on Certain CITES-Listed Species from Equatorial Guinea, Comoros and Mali

**Background:** The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service received notice from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Secretariat that Equatorial Guinea, Comoros and Mali failed to satisfy the CITES Parties that the required non-detriment findings are being made when issuing permits for certain CITES-listed species. This failure poses a serious threat to populations of these species.

The CITES Secretariat's notice recommends that all CITES countries refuse import of African gray parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) from Equatorial Guinea, two species of day geckos (*Phelsuma v-nigra* and *Phelsuma comorensis*) from Comoros and one species of spiny-tailed lizard (*Uromastyx dispar*) from Mali.

The Endangered Species Act prohibits trade in specimens contrary to the CITES Convention. Articles II and VIII of CITES require that we take appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the treaty and to prohibit trade in specimens that is in violation of the treaty. Article III of CITES requires that we consider permits and certificates to be valid only when the exporting country has made the required determination that trade in the specimens will not be detrimental to the wild population. 50 Code of Federal Regulations § 23.26 states that we will only accept a CITES document as valid when the issuing country has made the required non-detriment finding.

As a member of CITES, the United States is committed to carrying out decisions and policies approved by CITES countries that reflect appropriate interpretations of the treaty. Based upon the lack of required non-detriment findings, the United States cannot establish that current trade in these species is sustainable and not detrimental to the wild population. Any export permit or re-export certificate issued for *Psittacus erithacus* from Equatorial Guinea, *Phelsuma v-nigra* or *Phelsuma comorensis* from Comoros, or *Uromastyx dispar* from Mali is considered invalid and the species may not be imported.

**Action:** Effective immediately, the United States will prohibit the import of *Psittacus erithacus* from Equatorial Guinea, *Phelsuma v-nigra* or *Phelsuma comorensis* from Comoros and *Uromastyx dispar* from Mali. This prohibition will apply to all commercial and noncommercial imports of these species, including tourist souvenirs and personal effects. All such shipments or specimens imported directly or indirectly from these countries are subject to seizure and forfeiture.

**Contact:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax)  
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Additional Information on CITES Trade Restrictions  
[Countries Subject to Recommendation by CITES of Trade Suspension](#)  
[CITES Notification on Recommendations of the Standing Committee](#)