



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2016/030

Geneva, 23 March 2016

CONCERNING:

GUINEA-BISSAU AND LIBERIA

Recommendation to suspend commercial trade

National legislation

Compliance matter

1. Guinea-Bissau and Liberia have been Party to the Convention for more than twenty years. Under the National Legislation Project (NLP), the legislation of those two parties has been placed in Category 3, indicating that appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention have not yet been put fully in place by the two Parties as required by the Convention.
2. At its 16th meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 16.33 - 16.38 on *National Laws for implementation of the Convention*. Pursuant to Decision 16.38 e), Guinea-Bissau and Liberia were identified by the Standing Committee as two of the seventeen Parties requiring attention as a priority under the NLP.
3. According to Decision 16.33, these Parties were requested to submit to the Secretariat in one of the working languages of the Convention appropriate measures that had been adopted for effective implementation of the Convention by the time of SC66.
4. By the time of SC66, the Secretariat had not received enacted legislation from Guinea-Bissau or Liberia and had not agreed on an appropriate legislative timetable with either of the two Parties.

Compliance measure

5. At its 66th meeting (SC66, Geneva, 2016), the Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species from those Parties that required attention as a priority and have failed to adopt appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention or agree an appropriate legislative timetable with the Secretariat as required under Decision 16.33. The recommendation would take effect 60 days after the conclusion of SC66.
6. At the expiry of the 60 days period, the situation is unchanged and the Secretariat therefore hereby notifies all Parties that with effect from 15 March 2016, the Standing Committee recommends all Parties to suspend commercial trade with Guinea-Bissau and Liberia in specimens of CITES-listed species until further notice.

Compliance monitoring

7. The sixty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee to be held on **23 September 2016** is expected to review progress made by Guinea-Bissau and Liberia and to take further action if the concerned Parties fail to adopt appropriate measures to comply with the Convention.