



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



May 22, 2013

Subject: CITES Country-Specific Trade Restrictions

Background: The Endangered Species Act prohibits trade (import, export, re-export, introduction from the sea) in specimens contrary to the CITES Convention. Articles II and VIII of the CITES treaty require countries to take appropriate measures to enforce provisions of the treaty and to prohibit trade in specimens that are in violation. These treaty measures also require countries to monitor trade in CITES-listed specimens and file annual reports. CITES documents may only be issued and considered valid when it is determined that the specimens have been legally acquired.

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. The failure by a country to file their annual reports constitutes a major problem with implementation of CITES. In addition, when countries fail to implement the required CITES legislation, the United States cannot establish legal origin of wildlife that is exported or re-exported from the affected country. The United States also cannot allow trade to the affected country since the necessary enforcement provisions are not in place to ensure the CITES treaty is being implemented.

CITES Notification No. 2013/017 announced the suspension of commercial trade with Guinea.
CITES Notification No. 2013/018 announced the suspension of all trade with Afghanistan.
CITES Notification No. 2013/019 announced the suspension of all trade with Djibouti.
CITES Notification No. 2013/020 announced the suspension of all trade with Lesotho.

Action: Until further notice, the United States will:

- Prohibit the commercial import or introduction from the sea of CITES-listed specimens from Guinea;
- Prohibit the commercial export or re-export of CITES-listed specimens to Guinea;
- Prohibit all imports and introduction from the sea of CITES-listed specimens from Afghanistan, Djibouti and Lesotho; and
- Prohibit the export or re-export of all CITES-listed specimens to Afghanistan, Djibouti and Lesotho.

All such prohibited shipments or specimens are subject to refusal of import/export or seizure and forfeiture. Additional information on CITES trade suspensions can be found at:

<http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/ref/suspend.php>.

Contact:

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