

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/27

Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware that the conservation of wild flora and fauna is essential for the maintenance of biological diversity, preservation of the environment and sustainable development,

Recalling the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,¹ and the Convention on Biological Diversity² and action taken to implement those conventions,

Aware of the existence of organized criminal groups operating transnationally that specialize in trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, and concerned at the adverse environmental, economic and social repercussions of their activities,

Convinced that international cooperation and mutual legal assistance are both essential to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna,

Recalling its resolution 2001/12 of 24 July 2001, in which it urged States to adopt the legislative or other measures necessary for establishing trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna as a criminal offence in their domestic legislation,

Recalling also its resolution 2002/18 of 24 July 2002, in which it urged all Member States to cooperate with the Secretary-General and other competent entities of the United Nations system so that the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of its resolution 2001/12 might be finalized,

Taking note of the replies received from Member States concerning their national legislation and practical experience in the area of trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna contained in the report of the Secretary-General,³

1. *Welcomes* with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and illicit access to genetic resources;⁴

2. *Urges* all Member States to cooperate, as appropriate, with the Secretary-General and competent entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

² See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

³ E/CN.15/2003/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

⁴ Ibid.

3. *Urges* Member States to adopt preventive measures, where necessary, as well as to review their criminal legislation with a view to ensuring that offences relating to trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna are punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account the serious nature of those offences;

4. *Encourages* Member States to undertake awareness-raising activities to improve understanding of the serious impact of trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote international cooperation as well as the conclusion of mutual legal assistance agreements, as appropriate, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003*