

The convention on international trade in endangered species: issues with implementation and compliance in Nepal

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The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has proven particularly difficult to implement due to the complex legal requirements that it places on parties. As with many other nations, Nepal has lacked national implementing legislation which has greatly hindered compliance and effectiveness of CITES in the country and, indirectly, in the region. Here we explore several case studies of actual and potential CITES violations in Nepal that have come to light in the past decade, especially as a result of the Maoist insurgency. We also review draft legislation (not yet passed) that is designed to implement the convention and to close gaps in enforcement. We predict that some gaps will remain regarding implementation and compliance with CITES. We make several recommendation to close those gaps via rule-making procedures during the formulation of Regulations and via the actions of the CITES Coordination Council, a provision in the draft Act that is designed to improve cross-sectoral cooperation.

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