

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Forty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 8-12 February 1999

Issues relating to species

Elephants

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF
PARAGRAPH g) OF DECISION 10.1, PART A

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2(b) of the Decision of the Standing Committee taken at its 40th meeting 'Regarding Decisions Adopted at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties Relating to Elephants', with respect to the mechanism it was required to put in place to discharge the requirement of paragraph (g) of Decision 10.1, Part A, the Secretariat will adopt the following procedure.
2. The reporting and monitoring procedures already in place using the Incident Report Form on Illegal Hunting of Elephants and the National Reporting Form on Illegal Killing of Elephants and ETIS will provide the Secretariat with information on rates and levels of illegal hunting and/or trade in elephant specimens.
3. The Secretariat will work with the Parties that report an important increase in illegal hunting of elephants or illegal trade in elephant specimens, to establish the veracity of such reports and the linkage, if any, to the experimental commercial trade in raw ivory.¹
4. If the Secretariat determines that there is reason for concern, it will report to the Chairman of the Standing Committee and to the Parties concerned and will adopt a precautionary approach acting in the best interests of conservation in formulating its recommendations.
5. If the Secretariat establishes non-compliance with the conditions in Decision 10.1, Part A, by one or more of the Parties involved, it will recommend to the Standing Committee that international trade from the State or States concerned in specimens referred to in Annotation 604 of Appendices I and II be halted, pursuant to paragraph g) of the Decision.
6. If the Secretariat concludes that there has been an important increase in either illegal hunting of elephants or illegal trade in elephant specimens owing to the experimental commercial trade, it will recommend to the Standing Committee that international trade in specimens referred to in Annotation 604 of Appendices I and II be halted, pursuant to paragraph g) of the Decision.
7. The Secretariat will report to the Parties at least every six months on the implementation of this procedure.

¹ Information on escalation of illegal hunting of elephants will become more precise once MIKE begins to provide better information on 'background rates' of poaching.