

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Elephants

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE TRANSFER
OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT POPULATIONS FROM APPENDIX I TO APPENDIX II

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 10.9, the Conference of the Parties resolves that, amongst other things:
 - a) *all proposals to transfer populations of the African elephant from Appendix I to Appendix II shall be subject to a review by a Panel of Experts, which shall consider:*
 - i) *the scientific evidence regarding the numbers and trends of the populations;*
 - ii) *the conservation and management of these populations, and threats to their status; and*
 - iii) *the adequacy of controls on trade in ivory and other parts and derivatives;*

and

 - c) *the Standing Committee, after consultation as appropriate with UNEP, IUCN, TRAFFIC International, the affected range State and the region concerned, shall nominate the members of the Panel of Experts, which should not exceed six in number.*
3. The process of consultation and establishment of a panel is conducted through postal procedures. Even though the Standing Committee has in the past been willing to waive the rules relating to postal procedures, in order to reach a decision as quickly as possible, it is clear from past experience that the process of establishing a panel, and then organizing and conducting a review, is lengthy. The result is that the report of any panel established in accordance with the Resolution may be available only a very short time before the start of the meeting at which it is to be considered.
4. Consequently, the Secretariat recommends that, if any Party intends to submit a proposal to transfer an African elephant population from Appendix I to II, for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, it should do so as far in advance as possible (even if the supporting statement is in draft form), in order to allow sufficient time for a panel to be appointed and to conduct its work.
5. Finally, the Secretariat would welcome any suggestion from the Standing Committee as to how to accelerate the process for establishing a panel, if it should be necessary to do so.