

Recommendations¹ to Parties in West and Central Africa for consideration in their implementation of measures and activities to address wildlife crime affecting the two subregions

1. National and regional strategies and activities

It is recommended that Parties of West and Central Africa:

- a) raise awareness among decision- and policy-makers at the highest levels to ensure that they are aware of the serious threat posed by wildlife crime and the importance of effective CITES implementation;
- b) strengthen measures to ensure strict compliance and control in respect of all mechanisms and provisions of the Convention relating to the regulation of trade in animal and plant species listed in Appendix II, and of all provisions ensuring protection against illegal trafficking as anticipated by paragraph 8 a) and b) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*;
- c) where such measures are not yet in place, as a matter of priority pursue the implementation of measures and activities that would facilitate the establishment of a strong scientific basis for the making of non-detriment findings for trade in animal and plant species listed in Appendix I and II; and
- d) initiate capacity-building activities to strengthen border controls at key airports, seaports and land border crossings taking into consideration paragraph 13 a) i) to viii) in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19).

2. Legislation

It is recommended that Parties of West and Central Africa:

- e) where legislation is not yet placed as Category 1 under the CITES National Legislation Project, reach out to the Secretariat for advice;
- f) where legislation is diffuse amongst different legislative and regulatory instruments, take urgent steps to review and consolidate relevant legislative provisions and regulations facilitating clear mandates, investigation and national coordination roles and powers;
- g) for species included in Appendix I and significantly affected by illegal international trade, but not protected from harvesting under national law, consider protecting such species from harvesting under their national legislation;
- h) in the development or review of legislation take into consideration the provisions of paragraphs 6 a), c), d) and f) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19), and draw upon support from the Secretariat and other partner agencies of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), relevant experts, as well as tools such as the *Guide on Drafting Legislation to Combat Wildlife Crime* as described in paragraph 35 of document CoP18 Doc. 32, to criminalize serious wildlife offences and thereby enhancing prosecution and criminal justice capacities; and
- i) where legislation is considered adequate, conduct capacity-building activities to improve

¹ The recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 have been updated by the CITES Secretariat after the 19th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties to where applicable reflect the correct new paragraph numbers of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement* as revised at CoP19. The recommendations in the current document represent the recommendations updated by the CITES Secretariat.

the understanding and implementation of national legislation applicable to trade in CITES-listed species, as well as legislation that could be mobilized to address wildlife crime, to ensure that all national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement are familiar with legislative provisions and actively pursue its application.

3. Addressing corruption

It is recommended that Parties of West and Central Africa:

- j) review their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*, and make every effort to fully implement the provisions of the Resolution;
- k) draw upon the *Integrity Guide for Wildlife Management Agencies* as reported upon in document CoP18 Doc. 32 to strengthen responses to and address corruption and, as may be needed, request support from ICCWC; and
- l) raise awareness of the threat posed by wildlife crime among national anti-corruption agencies and request these authorities to thoroughly investigate credible allegations of corruption associated with wildlife crime.

4. International cooperation

It is recommended that Parties of West and Central Africa:

- m) increase law enforcement cooperation with Parties in other regions identified as destination Parties for illegally traded CITES specimens originating from West and Central Africa, by using existing mechanisms, or where needed, putting in place appropriate new mechanisms, for example through the establishment of treaties on extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters, in order to address such illegal trade.

5. Stakeholder engagement

It is recommended that Parties of West and Central Africa:

- n) if they have not yet done so, initiate activities to raise awareness among transport and logistics companies, government agencies, transport personnel, and others as relevant, about illegal trade in wildlife and how they can contribute to combatting it, including consider engaging with initiatives such as the *Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES) Partnership*, and the *United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce* and other organizations as appropriate;
- o) where affected by illegal international trade in parrots, particularly African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) (Appendix I), initiate targeted activities to ensure that officers working at international airports are aware of this illegal trade, and take specific actions to increase interdictions rates at these key locations; and
- p) engage with those sectors associated with the most significant levels of trade in CITES specimens, to educate such sectors on the effective use of CITES and to encourage appropriate codes of conduct.

6. Controlling trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*

It is recommended that Parties in West and Central Africa:

- q) with domestic legislation in place prohibiting the export of timber and timber products, including from *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, establish a voluntary 'zero export quota' for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*.