

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 August 2003

Regional reports

AFRICA

1. As this report was submitted after the deadline, it will be provided in its original language (English) only.

Introduction

2. This report covers the period since the 18th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC18, San José, April 2002).
3. Of the 52 countries in Africa (Western Sahara is not recognized by the UN), 50 are members of CITES; the most recent member, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya acceded in January this year. Non-member countries are Angola and Lesotho. We have been informed that Angola is in the process of becoming a signatory, but no specific date has been projected.
4. The African region contains about one third of total CITES membership.
5. Communication within the region continues to be problematic. We attempted to contact all 50 Parties using the contact details given on the CITES website. We did not attempt to use postal communication because of the time factor and experience with poor past results (this immediately eliminated Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia which do not have telephone, fax or email). This yielded the following array of results:
 - a) Fifteen parties were not contactable using either telephone, fax or email addresses, i.e. telephone numbers seemed out of operation, emails were returned (with undeliverable notations) and/or fax messages were verified as undelivered.
 - b) Thirty-five countries were successfully contacted and seven responded (Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and South Africa).
6. The development of websites, presenting national CITES information is a welcome initiative taking place in a number of member States. To date, only Kenya and South Africa are on-line.
7. In the Annex to this document is a list, for the Secretariat, detailing listed fax and e-mail addresses that we found inoperable.
8. We requested national information for the regional report, and specific issues to raise at the present meeting. We also requested input from both regional TRAFFIC and MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing

of Elephants) programmes and received no responses; requests from programme head offices however were both quick and helpful.

9. Past experience has shown that much of the input for the regional report is gathered during the AC, when members are able to meet and communicate verbally. This is why we have always given the African regional report at the end of AC.
10. Due to the overall low response, this report cannot be viewed as comprehensive or representative.
11. In past years we have noticed that the CITES Secretariat is often busy in the region but without AC regional representative's knowledge. In future, these activities can be included in the regional report by requesting the Secretariat to supply this information.

Continuing civil unrest and military activities

12. An estimate by CNN describes c. 30% of countries within the African region labouring under these conditions. Until national situations improve and socio-economic conditions, socio and political stability has been achieved, the adherence to regional and international agreements, such as CITES, will not be achieved.
13. Long-term planning, on a national as well as regional level is also hampered by political instability. For instance, recent planning of marine turtle meetings and workshops has been hampered by the necessity of changing venues at short notice.

Bushmeat trade

14. Regional unrest (resulting in lax local controls, coupled with rampant opportunism and growing expatriate communities) has led to an increased West African (and currently a smaller (?) East African) bushmeat trade to the UK and Europe (primarily for ethnic expatriate consumption).
15. Many CITES-listed species are included in this trade, as well as many non-listed species; this needs to be monitored closely as non-listed species could be moving towards conservation-status categories, where CITES listing could be warranted.
16. Although local bushmeat is a traditional activity and integral in many local economies, there is clearly a growing need for additional data on the bushmeat trade (regionally and internationally) and its effects on populations of CITES-listed species and potential future CITES candidates.
17. Probably all the region's member countries conduct a small and informal bushmeat trade with immediately-adjacent neighbours (porous borders); however, at this time, off-continent trade seems to involve relatively few African countries.
18. Although TRAFFIC has documented the East and Southern African trade, a similar study urgently needs to focus on the West African situation – which seems to be the major supplier for the UK and Europe.

Unsustainable harvest of species which might be candidates for CITES listing

19. Despite serious efforts by South African authorities to curb the illegal harvesting and export (to the Far East, primarily) of abalone, *Halitosis midge*, the trade is still active. South Africa is currently considering proposing the inclusion of local abalone in Appendix III. Perhaps related to this trade in the Southern African region is the unsustainable trade in Patagonian toothfish.
20. The new order of insect, called gladiators (Mantophasmatoidea), recently discovered in Namibia has drawn considerable interest from scientists and private collectors alike. As reported at the last AC, the trade, which has become established in the interim, is being closely monitored.

Reptile and amphibian trade

21. There is increasing evidence that trade is expanding within the region. This includes, but is not limited, to Benin, Angola (non-member), the Comores, DRC, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, South Africa, Togo and Uganda. Many willing national participants in the legal trade have no expertise in quota setting and, as such, quotas are no more than bureaucratic decisions. Training in quota-setting procedures would place decision-makers in better positions to make wise choices.

Madagascar is still a special case

22. This nation has been identified for a test case for the country-based Review of Significant Trade. This decision (AC17) was based on the perception that trade in listed reptiles, for the exotic pet trade, was out of control, and this perception has been supported by recent investigations.

23. The formal Review of Significant Trade (which will covers all Appendix II plant and animal species) has been delayed, but significant progress has been made locally as well as on the organizational side; constructive meetings were held at CoP12, in May in Antananarivo, and also in Antananarivo, a training workshop (addressing the roles and responsibilities of Scientific Authorities, and the making of non-detriment findings) for the western Indian Ocean region in July. This training programme was obviously a success as we have received complimentary comments, as well as encouragement to arrange training workshops in other regions. Our experience is that African members request training courses more than anything else.

24. This bears repeating; nearly all our respondents requested technical help, training in implementing CITES obligations and local capacity building.

Elephants and ivory

25. The focus of MIKE has been to establish infrastructure, and to facilitate the collecting of field data. Preparations for forest-sites population surveys are currently underway.

26. The Standing Committee (April 2003) approved a baseline definition for MIKE 2. All sites and national offices have now been provided with computer systems and appropriate software (Access), and sub-regions were provided specialized database training.

27. The EC approved an extension of the current funding until April 2004, and they have indicated their willingness to provide further funds for the 2004-2009 period.

28. The programme is operational at differing levels of efficiency and commitment within the region; national implementation ranges from serious commitment to total non-compliance.

29. A previous comment by some Parties was the lack of feedback. This situation is still problematic, and it is important to realize that cooperation from members will only take place in an atmosphere of give and take.

30. Southern African parties who received a quota at CoP12 are preparing for the 2004 sale.

31. The Southern African elephant population, at least, is expanding and elephant-man conflicts are increasing as well. Of Namibia's estimated 10,000 elephants, for instance, 80% occur on communal lands, where conflicts are common. Another concern with the subregion's expanding elephant population is the severe habitat-alteration/destruction which is often a direct result.

32. Stockpiles of legal ivory are continually increasing in all southern African countries.

33. Registered but non-marketable ivory is a common issue. Ethiopia mentioned that they are regularly asked about the future of the market by traders with registered stock. Presumably this is a common concern, as secure storage is a continuous financial burden.

34. ETIS (Elephant Trade and Information System), as an efficient system of monitoring trade in ivory and other elephant products, is still suffering from unsatisfactory reporting from most members; this

involves the timeliness of reporting as well as the quality of data submitted. Although a few members are doing an admirable job, overall adherence to this commitment is poor. This can be attributed to a lack of national capacity, and in some cases, lack of will.

Rhino

35. Breeding programmes specifically directed at increasing populations of white and black rhino have been very successful, specifically in Namibia and South Africa. Meta-population management at SADC sub-regional level is an unqualified success, and benefits of *ex situ* breeding programmes are starting to be realized.
36. Consequently, stockpiles of legal rhino horn are increasing and members will be requesting quotas.

Meetings

37. Numerous meetings and workshops, which discussed CITES-related issues, were held in the region. Examples are:
 - a) A short Africa meeting (attended by four West African members) was held at the "Second International Congress on Chelonian Conservation" in Sala, Senegal in June this year.
 - b) During the period under review, two meetings of the IWC were convened (the CITES-recognized Scientific Authority on cetaceans) and were attended by Benin, Gabon, Republic of Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and South Africa in 2002, and Benin, Gabon, Republic of Guinea, Morocco, Senegal and South Africa in 2003. These figures represent approximately 18% (7/38) of potential range states in the African region.
 - c) All but Kenya and South Africa supported the Japanese proposals.
 - d) Eight southern African members plus Angola recently held a preparatory workshop, in anticipation of the IUCN World Parks Congress to be held in Durban, South Africa in September later this year. As one would expect, elephant issues were a major discussion point, and therefore CITES members were unanimous in the broad concept of utilizing natural resources to promote, manage and maintain parks.
 - e) Sympathies of members at these last two meetings demonstrate the high importance (and expectations) placed on the utilization of natural resources to promote conservation in the region. It is necessary to keep in mind, however, that there is clearly no consensus on this contentious issue within the African community.
 - f) CITES CoP12 (Santiago, Chile) was attended by 37 African nations (75%), with very broad geographical representation.

Trade suspensions

38. Currently, Benin (wild-captured reptiles only), Djibouti, Liberia, Mauritania, Rwanda and Somalia are under recommendations of trade suspensions.
39. The previous recommendation to suspend trade with Democratic Republic of the Congo was withdrawn in December 2002.

National CITES Authority contact details which we found inoperable (c. 1 July to middle August 2003)

Algeria

213 21531097
dfg@wissal.dz

Botswana

267 312354

Burkina Faso

226 360353

Burundi

257 403032, 2344426

Cameroon

237 229485, 239236, 226909, 273135

Central African Republic

236 615741, 617921, 614010

Comores

269 736357

Congo

242 837363, 832458

Democratic Republic of Congo

243 8802381

Djibouti

252 353178

Ethiopia

ewco@telcom.net.et

Gabon

241 761073, 766183, 721004, 760062

Ghana

233 51 60137

irnjqqs@africaonline.com.gh

Liberia

231 222448, 222515, 271909, 271898, 271865

Madagaskar

261 200223 1398, 223 0488
dgef@malagasy.com

Malawi

265 75 4772, 75 7584, 77 2982, 77 4059

Mauritania

222 525 0741, 5292370

Morocco

212 7 764446, 766855, 774540

Mozambique

dnffb@dnffb.imoz.com

Niger

fauna@intnet.ne

Rwanda

250 76514, 76515

Sierra Leone

232 223989, 22241613, 242128,

Sudan

249 13344622

awadalla3362002@yahoo.com

Togo

direfauna@yahoo.fr

Tunisia

216 71801922

Zambia

zawares@copperbelt.zm