

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



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Opening remarks of the Chair

The Chair welcomed the participants and gave an opening speech.<sup>1</sup>

2. Opening remarks of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General also welcomed the participants and gave an opening address.<sup>2</sup>

**Administrative and financial matters**

3. Agenda

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 3 (Rev. 1).

It was agreed that, under agenda item 51 on *Any other business*, the Committee would consider the issue of purpose codes. With this amendment, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda in document SC65 Doc. 3 (Rev. 1).

There were no interventions.

4. Working programme

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 4.

The Committee adopted the draft working programme in document SC65 Doc. 4, with the following amendments: to reverse the order of agenda items 8.1 and 8.2, under *Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme*; to consider item 42.7 on *Disposal of ivory stocks* with item 42.1 on *Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade*; and to consider item 38 on *Asian big cats* on 8 or 9 July.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia) and Europe (Portugal<sup>3</sup>) and by the Philippines.

5. Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 5.

The representative of North America (United States of America) proposed amendments to Rules 20, 21 and 27 to be consistent with a recent change to the Rules of the Animals and Plants Committees, to specify: a deadline for posting documents on the website in the working languages; and the time at which decisions made by the Committee enter into effect.

<sup>1</sup> The full text of the opening speech of the Chair of the Standing Committee is available at: [http://www.cites.org/eng/sc\\_chair-opening-remarks-SC65](http://www.cites.org/eng/sc_chair-opening-remarks-SC65)

<sup>2</sup> The full text of the Secretary-General's opening address is available at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/CITES-SG-opening-remarks-SC65>.

<sup>3</sup> Portugal was also speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, unless otherwise indicated.

After discussion, the amendments were agreed as follows:

Rule 20 to read as follows:

*Documents to be considered at a meeting shall be provided to the Secretariat in one of the working languages and shall normally be provided to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the meeting where they are to be discussed, and should not be longer than 12 pages.*

Rule 21, paragraph 2, to read as follows, and the existing paragraph 2 renumbered as 3:

At least 14 days before each meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall, to the extent possible, place on its website in the three working languages all documents mentioned in Rule 20 and paragraph 1.a) of Rule 21 above.

In Rule 27, the following new sentence to be appended:

The decisions of the Committee shall come into effect upon endorsement of the Executive Summary in which they are contained.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Europe (Norway), North America (United States of America) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Mexico.

#### 6. Credentials

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item.

The Standing Committee noted that 68 Parties were represented by delegations at the meeting, of which three had not provided credentials. All delegations of the members of the Standing Committee had provided credentials. All of the observers representing organizations had also presented credentials.

There were no interventions.

#### 7. Admission of observers

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 7.

The Committee noted the list of organizations that had been invited to attend the meeting, as contained in document SC65 Doc. 7.

There were no interventions.

#### 8. Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

##### 8.1 Briefing by the Chair / Secretary-General

The Chair introduced this item, speaking about the developments in the administrative and programmatic relationship with the UNEP Secretariat. He expressed concerns about how some matters are managed by the UNEP Secretariat that impact the CITES Secretariat and thus the operation of the Convention. Having consulted with the Vice-Chair, he proposed to establish an intersessional working group to examine options for hosting arrangements for the CITES Secretariat, and to report at the 66th meeting of the Committee. The Chair stressed that he had no predetermined view of the optimal arrangements.

The Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group to review the administrative hosting arrangements for the CITES Secretariat, with terms of reference as follows:

1. Review the observations and findings in the UN Joint Inspection Unit Report of 2014 entitled "Post-Rio+20 Review of Environmental Governance with the United Nations System" insofar as they relate to the hosting arrangements for the CITES Secretariat;

2. Explore the various models that exist within, or are linked to, the UN system for the hosting of convention secretariats, including different models within UNEP;
3. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of different hosting models for the CITES Secretariat, including retaining the status quo; and
4. Outline the steps that would need to be taken if the current hosting arrangements were to be changed.
5. The Chair of the Working group will be the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Committee will be supported by the CITES Secretariat.
6. The Committee will report its findings to the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

It was agreed that the membership of the working group would be as follows: Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Norway (as Chair), Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the European Union.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of North America (United States of America) and by Canada.

## 8.2 Report of UNEP

The representative of UNEP introduced document SC65 Doc. 8.2.

The Committee noted the report.

There were no interventions.

## 9. Financial matters

As Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, Switzerland introduced the Subcommittee's report on this agenda item, in document FBSC/SC65 Doc.1. The Committee adopted all of the recommendations in the document. Appreciation was expressed for the role of Switzerland, and in particular Mr Martin Krebs, in supporting the work of the Subcommittee.

Regarding the review of the terms of reference of the Subcommittee, support was expressed for a review of the number of representatives on the subcommittee. The Committee approved the use of the registration fees derived from meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the permanent Committees to offset any deficit in translation costs as well as to cover any eventual shortfall in funds for the Sponsored Delegates Project.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of the Depository Government (Switzerland) and by Israel.

## 10. Administrative matters

The Committee noted the oral report of the Secretariat regarding the recruitment of new staff and other staff changes including the retirement of five staff members within the next two years, leading up to CoP17.

The Secretary-General informed the Committee of a memo received from the Executive Director on 3 July 2014, which advised him that the Fund Management Officer (FMO) of the Secretariat would be required to dedicate her time for six months to Umoja, would join the UNEP Secretariat Umoja team and would report to UNEP Office for Operations (OfO).

The Committee agreed that the Chair of the Standing Committee should write to the Executive Director of UNEP to express its concern regarding this proposed reporting of the FMO to UNEP OfO for six months. It also agreed that the Chair should write to the Executive Director of UNEP to suggest the possible secondment of a staff member from UNEP to assist with the implementation of Umoja.

Parties also expressed their thanks to the departing members of staff.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), Asia (Japan and Indonesia), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Hungary<sup>4</sup> and Norway) and North America (United States of America) and by Canada.

## 11. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties

### 11.1 Structure and length of future meetings

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 11.1.

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the Secretariat that, in preparing the provisional working programme for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, it should, as a general rule, follow the schedule that was adopted for CoP16, as outlined in paragraph 12 of the document. It was noted that this included a 30-minute extension to the sessions of Committees I and II where necessary.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America).

### 11.2 Guidance on the submission of credentials

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 11.2, noting that it was prepared in consultation with the Chair of the Credentials Committee of CoP16 (Ms Zhou Zhihua of China). It drew the Standing Committee's attention to suggested revisions to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties contained in the main body of the document and the draft checklist for submission of credentials of representatives of Parties to meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) contained in Annex 1 to the document.

Several members of the Committee and observer Parties expressed appreciation for the suggested revisions and draft checklist but some thought that they could be improved by: making them simpler and clearer; including a standard template for credentials; requiring the submission of credentials no later than 24 hours after the opening of a CoP meeting; maintaining the provision of credentials to advisors as well as representatives; and empowering permanent missions to issue credentials.

The Committee noted the Secretariat guidance on the submission of credentials and agreed to establish an intersessional working group chaired by China, and with members from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kuwait, Niger and representatives of the European Union.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Hungary), North America (United States of America), and Oceania (Australia), and by China, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Israel.

### 11.3 Arrangements for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The representative of South Africa, as the Next Host Country, reported that the process had been started to select a venue for CoP17, that the Host Country Agreement was being discussed with the Secretariat and that the meeting would probably be held in October 2016.

The Committee noted this oral report.

There were no interventions.

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<sup>4</sup> Hungary was also speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, unless otherwise indicated.

## 12. Organization of special meetings

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 12.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should provide a document on the subject for the 66th meeting of the Committee following discussions with a consultative group, and noted that interested Parties should send their comments to the Secretariat. It also agreed that the consultative group would comprise Botswana and Niger.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Niger) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia).

## **Strategic matters**

## 13. Scientific committees

### 13.1 Report of the Animals Committee

The Committee noted the oral report of the Chair of the Animals Committee.

There were no interventions.

### 13.2 Report of the Plants Committee

The Vice-Chair of the Plants Committee presented orally the report that, *inter alia*, drew attention to possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16).

The Committee noted the oral report of the Vice-Chair of the Plants Committee.

There were no interventions.

### 13.3 Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 13.3, noting that it had consulted with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees in the preparation of the document. The Secretariat drew the Standing Committee's attention to the final report of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations, contained in document SC65 Inf. 11, which recommended that guidance regarding conflicts of interest be developed for, and followed by, all United Nations system organizations and multilateral environmental agreements. The Secretariat noted that it had compiled and was reviewing examples of conflict of interest procedures under other relevant agreements and organizations.

Members of the Standing Committee suggested that the policy on conflict of interest established at CoP16 could be improved (e.g. declarations of interest could be made public, and means for addressing identified conflicts of interest could be incorporated).

The Committee noted the information contained in the discussion document as well as the oral report of the Secretariat and agreed to continue consideration of this matter at its 66th meeting.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and Europe (Portugal).

## 14. Implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 14. At the request of the Secretariat, the Committee noted the oral report and agreed to consider this agenda item together with item 24.2.

There were no interventions.

## 15. Celebration of the first World Wildlife Day

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 15 and noted that the follow-up to the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, held on 12 and 13 February 2014, would be hosted by Botswana, possibly on 3 March 2015, in which case this could provide an opportunity to increase awareness of World Wildlife Day.

During the discussion that followed, recognition and appreciation were expressed for activities organized in support of celebrations related to World Wildlife Day 2014. Israel, Portugal, South Africa and the United States of America described activities organized at the national level. Support was also expressed for the inclusion of schools when organizing World Wildlife Day activities.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 15 and endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 20 and 21. To facilitate implementation of the recommendations, the Committee agreed to establish a working group on World Wildlife Day to be chaired by Botswana and composed of Bahrain, Brazil, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guyana, Italy, Kuwait, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, United States of America, United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Migratory Species, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and Wildlife Conservation Society.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), Asia (Kuwait) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), North America (United States of America), Oceania (Australia), the Previous Host Country (Thailand) and the Next Host Country (South Africa), and by Israel, Peru, Portugal, Born Free and IFAW.

## 16. Cooperation with other organizations

### 16.1 Overview

It was noted that the Secretary-General had already provided his oral report on this subject in his earlier interventions.

### 16.2 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 16.2 highlighting the activities undertaken under the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2012-2014 and outlining the plans for the Joint Work Programme 2015-2020. The Secretariat of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) commented particularly on the successful cooperation over saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.), saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), argali (*Ovis ammon*) and sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii) and reported on the appointment of a staff member to assist with CMS-CITES cooperation on elephants, funded by Germany. Cooperation between the Secretariats of CITES and CMS was welcomed. Some speakers cautioned that it should not distract the Secretariat from its core tasks. It was stressed that any work towards harmonization of species nomenclature and listing criteria should not compromise the specific requirements of CITES.

The Committee welcomed the cooperation between the secretariats of CITES and CMS, noted the report in Annex 1 of document SC65 Doc. 16.2 and endorsed the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020 in Annex 2 of the document.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary and Norway) and North America (United States of America) and by Mexico and the CMS Secretariat.

### 16.3 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Canada, as Chair of the working group on cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) introduced document 16.3 and drew attention to the draft Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and CITES contained in Annex 1 to the document.

Cooperation with FAO, especially in relation to sharks, was welcomed and it was noted that FAO's views on the draft MoU were crucial. In this connection, there was a request that the

Secretariat seek the views of FAO and report back to the Standing Committee. Differing views were expressed on the possible development of an overarching MoU between FAO and CITES, which could provide the basis for exploring specific synergies between the two.

The Committee agreed to extend the working group until SC66 with a mandate to consider all options for enhancing cooperation with FAO, including an overarching MoU on institutional cooperation, a subsidiary cooperative agreement regarding forestry resources and consideration of how those two instruments might work together. The Committee also agreed that the Chair and members would remain as specified in paragraph 7 of document SC65 Doc. 16.3. The Committee further agreed that the Secretariat should seek advice from FAO relevant to this work.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America), and by Canada and New Zealand.

#### 16.4 International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 16.4 and gave an oral update on activities conducted by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), and on related activities of ICCWC partner organizations. The Secretariat also noted the two ICCWC side events being held at SC65, and that the *ICCWC Strategic Mission 2014-2016* had been launched at the first of these events. The Secretariat updated the Committee on the recruitment of ICCWC support staff and acknowledged the generous funding and resources provided by Australia, in particular the Government of South Australia, by Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States and the World Bank; as well as support provided to INTERPOL by the European Commission, for this purpose. The Secretariat also noted the crucial role of ICCWC support staff in the successful implementation of the multiple activities conducted by ICCWC, and highlighted that it believes that similar posts within each of the ICCWC partner agencies would significantly enhance the capacity of the consortium to achieve its goals.

In the discussion that followed, speakers commended the efforts of ICCWC as a model of cross-agency coordination, noting that much more that needs to be done to effectively combat wildlife crime. Speakers encouraged Parties to continue to support the work of ICCWC and to consider the implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*.

The Committee commended the activities completed by the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization, as ICCWC, and noted document SC65 Doc. 16.4.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Uganda), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Portugal), and North America (United States of America), and by China and Peru.

#### 16.5 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services

Mexico, as Chair of the working group on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) introduced document SC65 Doc. 16.5 and noted the Group's mandate under Decisions 16.13-16.16 of the Conference of the Parties as well as recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in the document. They drew the Standing Committee's attention to the assessment on sustainable use that had been proposed by CITES, further developed by a member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Group and finally incorporated into the IPBES work plan. They stated that expert nominations would be sought by the IPBES Secretariat for carrying out the assessment and that the CITES Secretariat should issue a Notification to the Parties in this regard.

Hungary asked to join the working group, expressed support for the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, and suggested that the working group monitor the effectiveness of relevant decisions before deciding whether a draft resolution on IPBES should be developed.

One observer organization expressed concern that sustainable use, livelihoods and socio-economic issues were being linked to non-detriment findings (NDFs) and suggested that this would hinder Parties' work on NDFs.

The Committee agreed that the mandate of the Working group comprised relevant decisions adopted at CoP16 and the recommendations adopted at the joint session of AC27/PC21. The Committee also agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification inviting Parties to nominate experts to the planned IPBES assessment on sustainable use, as soon as the IPBES Secretariat launched its invitation for such nominations in September 2014.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Hungary), and by Mexico and the Species Survival Network.

#### 16.6 International Tropical Timber Organization

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item.

The Committee noted document PC21 Doc. 18.1 and the oral report of the Secretariat.

There were no interventions.

#### 16.7 Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 16.7 and advised that the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) working group on the review of implementation had recommended to the Conference of the Parties to CBD an arrangement whereby recommendations of other biodiversity-related conventions related to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) could be channelled to the GEF through the CBD process of providing guidance to the financial mechanism.

One Committee member noted the importance of cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and expressed support for related synergies. The follow-up actions to the meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions were significant at all levels, including the national level, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans should be revised in this regard.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 16.7 and the oral report of the Secretariat.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the representative of Europe (Hungary).

#### 17. Access to finance, including GEF funding and innovative mechanisms

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 17.

The Committee welcomed the progress made regarding access to finance for implementation of CoP16 Decisions, access to GEF and the establishment of an Endangered Species Technology and Innovation Fund (ESTIF). It re-established the working group on Access to Finance, including GEF funding and innovative mechanisms, under the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, with the same membership and the addition of World Wildlife Fund, Species Survival Network and Wildlife Conservation Society.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger), Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Hungary and Portugal) and North America (United States of America) and by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel and Mexico.

#### 18. Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures

South Africa, as Chair of the working group on multilateral measures provided a short oral report. The consultancy report envisaged under Decision 14.29 a) (Rev. CoP16) had been circulated to working group members for review and revision. As no external funding was available for the review meeting anticipated under Decision 14.29 b) (Rev. CoP16), the working group would be operating by electronic means and would report at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Chair of the Working group and the Group's intention to submit a written report at SC66.



## 19. CITES and livelihoods

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 19 on behalf of the Chair of the working group on CITES and livelihoods (Peru), drawing attention to Resolution Conf. 16.6 and Decisions 16.17-16.25 adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

The working group was commended for its work to date and support was expressed for its re-establishment and the importance of its work. Reference was made to the links between this work and sustainable development policy as well as national legislation. Guatemala and the United States of America wished to join the group.

Noting that FAO had adopted Strategic Objectives in 2013 that were relevant to CITES, it was suggested that the working group should take these into account when carrying out its work.

The Committee noted the document and the oral report of the Secretariat and agreed to re-establish the working group on CITES and livelihoods, with the mandate provided in Decision 16.20. The group would be chaired by Peru, with the following members: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa, the United States of America, Zimbabwe, International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation Force, IFAW, IWMC–World Conservation Trust, Pro-Wildlife, Responsible EcoSystems Sourcing Platform (RESP), Safari Club International Foundation, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Guatemala), Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America), and the Next Host Country (South Africa), and by Argentina, Canada and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

## 20. Capacity building

### 20.1 Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 20.1 and suggested an extension of three months of the deadline for Parties to submit their responses to the questionnaire on *Needs Assessment for Strengthening the Implementation of CITES*.

The Committee noted the report of the Secretariat and agreed to a three-month extension of the deadline for Parties to submit their responses to the questionnaire on the *Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES*. The Committee established a working group on the development of a mechanism to assess the needs of Parties, with Australia as the Chair and with the following membership: Colombia, Guatemala, Switzerland, Viet Nam, the European Union, UNEP-WCMC, Species Survival Network, and TRAFFIC.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia and Guatemala), Oceania (Australia), the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Viet Nam and the Species Survival Network.

### 20.2 Capacity building activities for implementation of the CITES listing of sharks and manta rays

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 20.2 outlining progress made with activities in the implementation of the new CITES-listed sharks and manta rays, including projects implemented under the capacity-building project funded by the European Union, and noting other relevant activities undertaken by Parties and organizations.

Parties commended the efforts of the Secretariat. One Party stressed the benefits of capacity-building activities in Central and South America and the Caribbean, which successfully brought together national sectors that may not regularly communicate with each other. Some Parties shared information on their regional and national undertakings. One Party suggested that it would be useful to provide pertinent training and information materials on the CITES sharks web portal.

The Committee noted the activities listed in document Doc. SC65 20.2 and urged Parties to continue their capacity-building activities to implement the CITES listing of sharks and manta rays.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and North America (United States of America), and by China, New Zealand and TRAFFIC.

## 21. CITES logo

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 21. The United States of America, as Chair of the working group on the CITES logo, provided an oral update and proposed that the working group not be continued if the Committee did not see a need to change the current policy on the use of the logo.

One member of the Standing Committee supported the continuation of the working group and expansion of the use of the CITES logo beyond the current agreed limitation to non-commercial use. Other members, as well as an observer Party voiced concern about possible commercial use of the logo and suggested that the working group need not be continued.

The Committee agreed to discontinue the working group and to maintain the current approach taken by the Secretariat to deal with requests to use the logo. The Committee encouraged Management Authorities to inform the Secretariat of any proposed use of the CITES logo.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger and Uganda), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Guatemala), North America (United States of America) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Israel.

## **Interpretation and implementation of the Convention**

### Compliance and enforcement

## 22. National laws for implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 22 and drew the Standing Committee's attention to the updated legislative status chart in the Annex to the document. It noted that two additional columns had been included to provide a summary of legislative progress and to indicate next steps or needs. It also described legislative assistance activities that had been or were being undertaken by Parties, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental bodies and the Secretariat. The Secretariat observed that the document served as a sort of 'warning flare' which shed light on those Parties, especially ones that had been party to the Convention for 20 years or more as of March 2013, that were still in the process of enacting domestic measures for effective implementation of the Convention. Moreover, the document showed what concerned Parties needed to do to fulfil relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and thereby avoid a recommended trade suspension or other compliance measure at the next meeting of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat pointed out the need for legal authority if governments were to effectively address wildlife crime and, in this connection, referred to legislative weaknesses that had been identified in relation to the illegal trade in rosewood from Madagascar and Asian big cats.

During discussion of the document, it was noted that Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Oman should be included in Table 4 of the Annex rather than Table 3 as they had been party to the Convention for five years or less as of March 2013. Several Parties reported on their legislative progress or asked for legislative assistance. The United Republic of Tanzania noted that it had received and was working to incorporate the Secretariat's comments on draft implementing legislation for Zanzibar.

Concern was expressed about the failure by some Parties to adopt legislation to provide for effective implementation of the Convention and give effect to the amendments to the Appendices that had been adopted at CoP16. There was some support for the recommendations contained in document SC65 Doc. 22.

With regard to the possibility of government lawyers from Category 1 Parties being seconded to the Secretariat to provide support to the National Legislation Project, it was suggested that this might be done remotely. One Party said that it could be helpful to provide examples of how other Parties updated their legislation to include amendments to the Appendices and to request Parties, through a Notification, to indicate whether they had already incorporated such amendments.

The Committee noted the report submitted by the Secretariat. It requested Colombia, Guatemala, Niger and the United States of America to consult informally on the need for a proposed working group on legislation and report back to the Committee at a later time in the present meeting.

The Secretariat was requested to identify the Parties that had not yet updated their legislation to take account of the amendments to the Appendices adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to encourage them to explore ways of accelerating the updating of the legislation after such a meeting.

The Committee agreed with the conclusion of the working group that it was not necessary to establish an intersessional working group on legislation and that it would be more useful instead if each regional representative of the Committee could collaborate with the Parties in their region about any legislative assistance needs and then inform the Secretariat.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Niger), Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia and Guatemala), Europe (Norway, Portugal and Ukraine) and North America, and by Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Environmental Investigation Agency and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

### 23. Application of Article XIII

The Secretariat reported that it had sent letters to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Lao People's Democratic Republic pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention. In these letters, it had identified specific concerns about missing annual reports, possible overexploitation of Appendix-II species and ineffective implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat drew the Standing Committee's attention to related Notifications to the Parties concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It advised the Committee that it would provide a detailed written report on subsequent developments at SC66.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Secretariat and agreed that the Secretariat, as appropriate and respecting the generally confidential nature of communications between the Secretariat and individual Parties on specific compliance matters, would keep the Standing Committee apprised of further developments intersessionally.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America) and by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### 24. National reports

#### 24.1 Late submission or non-submission of national reports

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 24.1 and stated that it had received missing reports from Belize, Mauritania, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Samoa since the document was prepared.

Some support was expressed for the recommendations contained in the document, but it was suggested that a Notification be issued immediately recommending a suspension of trade with those Parties that had not yet submitted their missing annual reports. Some speakers preferred to follow the previous practice of allowing the Parties concerned 60 days in which to submit the missing reports. The Standing Committee was informed that Ecuador would be submitting its reports for 2011 and 2012 to the Secretariat and that an effort would be made to engage with Malawi about its missing reports.

The Committee determined that Comoros, Gambia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years, without having provided adequate justification, and agreed that if they did not provide their missing reports within 60 days of the present meeting the Secretariat would issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties until the missing reports were provided.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Africa (Botswana), Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Hungary), North America (United States of America) and the Next Host Country (South Africa).

#### 24.2 Special reporting requirements and reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants

The Chair of the working group on special reporting requirements (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) introduced certain parts of document SC65 Doc. 24.2 and the Secretariat introduced the remaining parts of the document, drawing attention to the Annexes and the recommendations in the document. The Chair reported that the working group had met for four days in the margins of the present meeting and had prepared a summary of its discussions, which was contained in document SC65 Com. 6.

Appreciation was expressed for the work accomplished by the working group. Developing countries were encouraged to provide additional representatives to the group in order to achieve more balance in the experiences and perspectives, which would inform its decisions. It was suggested that additional consideration of Annexes 2 and 3 were needed. General support was expressed for anticipated cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on a global study on illegal wildlife trade, which would make use of data submitted by CITES Parties. Nevertheless, there were certain concerns about contributing such data to UNODC without a related decision of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations of the working group contained in the Annex to document SC65 Com. 6 on CITES reporting requirements. The Committee also agreed that Annexes 2 (Strategic Vision indicators) and 3 (draft implementation report) to document SC65 Doc. 24.2 would be revised following this meeting and a Notification would then be issued requesting comments from Parties within a limited time-span. The Committee further agreed that a Notification would be issued containing a special report format for use by Parties under Decision 16.43, including a box where Parties could indicate whether they were willing for the information they provided to be shared with UNODC. The Committee agreed as well to defer its consideration of the reporting on trade in artificially-propagated plants until SC66. The Committee also agreed that a Notification should be issued inviting comments from Parties on draft revised *Guidelines on the preparation and submission of annual reports* and that the Secretariat would further revise the draft Guidelines and present them for consideration at SC66.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America) and Oceania (Australia), and by China, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and IWMC-World Conservation Trust.

#### 25. Ranching operations in Madagascar

##### 25.1 Report of Madagascar

and

##### 25.2 Report of the Secretariat

Madagascar introduced its report contained in document SC65 Doc. 25.1 and the Secretariat introduced its report contained in document SC65 Doc. 25.2.

Following discussions in the margins of the meeting, the Chair of the working group on ranching operations in Madagascar (France) presented the group's report and recommendations contained in document SC65 Com. 1.

The Committee commended Madagascar for its efforts to implement earlier Standing Committee recommendations. The Committee agreed with the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 of document SC65 Com. 1 and noted paragraph 8 of the same document.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger), Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America), and by France and IWMC-World Conservation Trust.

## 26. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

### 26.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 26.1, adding that since the document was written, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had complied with the Plants Committee's recommendations addressed to it in relation to African teak (*Pericopsis elata*) and that, after consulting the Chairs of the Plants and Standing Committees, the Secretariat had notified the Party concerned that the species had been removed from the process. The need for continued engagement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo over *Pericopsis elata* was stressed in discussion. One speaker commented that Parties subject to Animals and Plants Committee recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade should be treated equally and that account should be taken of capacity limitations in exporting Parties.

Concern was expressed about instances where Parties established a voluntary zero export quota rather than implement the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, thus leaving themselves free to re-establish trade at a later date without necessarily improving their process for making non-detriment findings. It was suggested that this matter should be addressed under the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade. With respect to the Asiatic softshell turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*), Indonesia stated that it had initiated its five-year monitoring programme for this species (2013-2017). One speaker asked that Parties exercise caution when extrapolating the results of studies on captive specimens of this species to determine harvesting levels for populations in the wild. Regret was expressed that the Review of Significant Trade Management System was not fully operational. The Secretariat explained the technical challenges experienced in establishing this database and that it was working with UNEP-WCMC to resolve these.

The Committee noted the contents of document SC65 Doc. 26.1 and the oral presentation of the Secretariat. While doing so, the Committee agreed that, if the Solomon Islands wished to resume allowing exports of specimens of *Tursiops aduncus* with permits issued under Article IV of the Convention, it should first provide the Secretariat with details of the basis for its non-detriment finding (NDF). With respect to *Pericopsis elata* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Committee encouraged that Party to communicate to the Secretariat, by 30 November 2014, its annual export quota for 2015 on the basis of inventory management reports that have been submitted to the national forestry administration, and to present its NDF process for this species at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee.

The Committee endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 13 of the document and agreed that, if the Islamic Republic of Iran wished to resume allowing exports of specimens of *Huso huso* with permits issued under Article IV of the Convention, it should first provide the Secretariat with details of the basis for its NDF.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations in the Annex to document SC65 Doc. 26.1, with the addition of a paragraph vi) for *Tridacna derasa* and for *Tridacna crocea*, *T. gigas*, *T. maxima* and *T. squamosa* stating, "The Secretariat should issue a Notification to the Parties to state that no ranching or captive breeding of *Tridacna* species currently takes place in Solomon Islands and that, until further notice from the Secretariat, Parties should not authorize the importation of specimens from these sources from Solomon Islands".

The Committee noted that the Secretariat will increase its efforts to make available a fully functional database of actions undertaken under the Review of Significant Trade.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America), Oceania (Australia) and by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, Mexico, the Animals Committee Chair and the Animal Welfare Institute.

### 26.2 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Chair of the Animals Committee reported on the good progress that the Committees were making on the implementation of Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP14). She encouraged participants to read the report of the meeting of the Advisory Working group for the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade (AWG) in Annex 2 of document AC27/PC21 Doc. 12.1 and thanked Germany

for funding this meeting. She expressed the hope that the AWG would be able to submit a draft revision of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) for consideration at AC28 and PC22 and expected this draft to propose streamlining the Review of Significant Trade and to address the selection process for the Review, standardization of consultation with Parties and of the process for requesting information to them and making recommendations to them. She confirmed that the working group would address the issue of Parties establishing a voluntary zero export quota, rather than implementing the Committees' recommendations.

The Committee noted an oral report from the chair of the Animals Committee on progress with the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade being undertaken in accordance with Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP14) and that the Advisory Working group for the evaluation would be addressing the situation where reviews are concluded merely by the establishment of a zero export quota rather than by implementation of the recommendations of the Animals or Plants Committees.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Portugal) and by Mexico and the Animal Welfare Institute.

## 27. Enforcement matters

### 27.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 27.1 and noted that a correction should be made in paragraph 15, where the text "SC65 Doc. 42.2 on *Illegal trade in elephants specimens*" should be changed to "SC65 Doc. 42.1 on *Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade*". The Secretariat also noted that it had just received a report from IUCN on *Humphead wrasse enforcement information* in relation to this agenda item and had not yet had time to consider the report.

In the discussion that followed, speakers welcomed the increased attention to illegal wildlife trade as outlined in document SC65 Doc. 27.1, and highlighted a number of activities that had been conducted by Parties and organizations. Speakers also stressed that much more needed to be done and that enforcement efforts, including collaboration and the support of ICCWC, should be maintained.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 27.1 and the oral update provided by the Secretariat. The Committee established an intersessional working group on enforcement to implement Decision 16.39, with the terms of reference contained in document SC65 Com. 2. The working group on enforcement will be chaired by the United States of America and include Indonesia, South Africa, Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IUCN, Lewis and Clark College, Natural Resources Defense Council, Species Survival Network and WWF.

Many speakers expressed concern about the illegal trade in pangolins, noting the high volume of seizures and the potential impact of illegal trade on the conservation of pangolin species. Speakers concurred that further information on levels of illegal trade and the status of pangolin populations was needed. The importance of focusing attention on African pangolins as well as Asian pangolin species was also stressed. One party suggested that the transfer of pangolin species to Appendix I should be considered at CoP17. Many speakers expressed the need for a working group to consider matters relating to pangolins.

The Committee also established an intersessional working group on pangolins, chaired by the European Union and with the following membership: Cameroon, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, the Philippines, South Africa, Uganda, the United States of America, Zimbabwe, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Annamiticus, Born Free Foundation, Chinese Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Conservation International, Humane Society International, IFAW, Lewis and Clark College, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Protection Society of India, WWF and the Zoological Society of London. The Committee endorsed the draft mandate of the intersessional working group on pangolins as proposed in document SC65 Com. 8.

One member of the Committee expressed concern regarding illegal trade in Appendix-I species and suggested establishing a process to assess implementation of the Convention for such species. One member drew attention to the ongoing illegal trade in humphead wrasse and felt that further information from Parties on actions taken to stem this trade was required.

With regard to humphead wrasse, the Committee noted the oral report by the Secretariat and requested that it issue a Notification to Parties seeking updated information on trade in humphead wrasse and that it report at SC66.

The successful repatriation of Bahamian Rock Iguanas (*Cyclura rileyi*) that were seized in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to the Bahamas was commended. The United States of America offered to establish a 'contact' group, with the Bahamas, regarding illegal trade in this species, and invited interested Parties to contact them.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Bahamas referring to document SC65 Inf. 4, *Report on the smuggling of Bahamian rock iguanas*, and the request to look into the issues raised in the document. The Committee endorsed the offer of the United States to form a contact group to engage in these discussions, and to report its findings and recommendations at SC66.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America) and by the Bahamas, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, IUCN, Annamiticus, China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Lewis and Clark College and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

#### 27.2 Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of Appendix-I, -II and -III species

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 27.2 and noted the recommendation, in paragraph 5, that the Standing Committee consider establishing an intersessional working group to assist it with the implementation of Decision 16.47. It suggested that such a working group comprise Parties from each of the six CITES regions. The Secretariat drew the Standing Committee's attention to document SC65 Inf. 26, submitted by Indonesia, which called for the establishment of a working group and provided suggestions for its mandate, membership and operation.

Indonesia recalled the discussion document on this issue that it had submitted at CoP16 [document CoP16 Doc. 31 (Rev. 2)], which led to the adoption of Decision 16.47. It recommended that any working group established by the Standing Committee include representatives of exporting and importing countries.

Several members of the Committee and observers supported the establishment of a working group and expressed interest in participating. It was suggested that any working group consider consolidating and simplifying Resolutions Conf. 9.9, Conf. 9.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) to provide a quick reference for Parties on the issue of disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of Appendix-I, -II and -III species.

The Committee agreed to establish a working group, chaired by Switzerland, and with the following members: Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mexico, New Zealand, Niger, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, IUCN, IFAW, Lewis and Clark College, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Safari Club International and Species Survival Network. The Committee further agreed that the terms of reference for the working group would be those contained in Decision 16.47 and that the group would also take into account the related document prepared by Indonesia, document SC65 Inf. 26.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger), Asia (Indonesia and Kuwait), Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America), the Next Host Country (South Africa) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania, IUCN, IFAW, Lewis and Clark College, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Safari Club International and Species Survival Network.

## Trade control and traceability

### 28. Introduction from the sea

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 28 and advised the Standing Committee that the meeting with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), mentioned in paragraph 6, had gone well and that RFMOs had asked for additional information on introduction from the sea.

It was suggested that the Secretariat issue a Notification asking Parties to submit the information identified in paragraph 12 of the document and that it place the information contained in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 on the shark/ray page of the CITES website. One observer Party suggested that the Standing Committee keep in mind that Parties were at different stages in their capacity to implement the provisions regarding introduction from the sea, so related capacity-building should be given more attention. Another observer Party expressed concern about giving RFMOs authority that they should not have over issues related to introduction from the sea.

The Committee noted the document as well as the oral report of the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification inviting Parties, where relevant, to provide the information on chartering, which is anticipated under Resolution Conf.14.6 (Rev. CoP16), Decision 16.48 and paragraph 12 of the discussion document.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America), and by Argentina and China.

### 29. Electronic permitting

Switzerland, as Chair of the Working group on Information Technologies and Electronic Systems, introduced document SC65 Doc. 29 and provided a summary of discussions by members of the Working group during its side meeting on 7 July 2014.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 29 and the oral report of Switzerland, as Chair of the working group on information technologies and electronic systems, regarding the meeting of the working group during SC65. The Committee also noted the offer by Colombia to organize a meeting between France and Switzerland and member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization on CITES e-permitting systems.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Portugal) and the Depository Government (Switzerland), and by Peru.

### 30. Transport of live specimens

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 30, noting that it had been prepared in consultation with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and that work on cooperative memoranda of understanding with those organizations was underway.

The Committee noted the document and the oral report.

There were no interventions.

### 31. Physical inspection of timber shipments

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 31 and noted that consultations had been held with Italy and the United States of America following preparation of the document. It reported having received from those Parties copies of the questionnaires mentioned in paragraph 5 of the document.

It was suggested that the Secretariat issue a new Notification, without a questionnaire, inviting Parties to share their timber-inspection tools and procedures. In response to certain concern expressed about inspection practices in Hong Kong SAR, it was explained that new legislative procedures should soon be in place which would rectify the situation.



The Committee noted the document and the oral report of the Secretariat and agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification to solicit more information from Parties on tools and procedures they have developed for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species and the physical inspection of timber shipments.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of North America (United States of America) and by China and the Environmental Investigation Agency.

### 32. Identification manual

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 32 and provided a summary of the outcomes reached at the joint session of the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (AC27 & PC21, Veracruz, 2014) with regard to Decisions 16.59 to 16.61 on the 'Identification manual'.

In the ensuing discussion, some Parties noted difficulties in using the WIKI identification manual, including the absence of information on many plant species, and supported efforts to enhance it by adding photos of species and making it more user friendly. Some Parties also described the development of identification materials of CITES-listed species and of materials for training of customs and enforcement officials.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 32.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Hungary) and by China, India, Mexico and the Republic of Korea.

### 33. Inclusion of CITES-listed species in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 33, noting the Decisions adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2013), which made reference to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. It also noted that a Party had raised concerns over the Secretariat's support of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) proposal on *Possible amendment to the nomenclature in respect of fishery products, agricultural products and fertilizers*, which was discussed at the 53rd Session of the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization (Brussels, 2014). The proposal covered four shark species included in the CITES Appendices and other species that were not included. The Party concerned believed that these could create problems for Customs authorities when trying to identify specimens in trade.

Some Parties expressed support for the Secretariat's work with FAO for the inclusion of CITES species in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. Other Parties expressed scepticism that it would be possible to identify species at the commodity level without the use of DNA technologies and did not support the inclusion of shark species in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

The Committee noted the document.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), North America (United States of America), and by Canada, India and the European Union.

### Exemptions and special trade provisions

#### 34. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens

34.1 Report of the Secretariat

and

34.2 Report of the Animals Committee

These agenda items were considered together. The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 34.1, drawing attention to the linkages between Decisions 16.63, 16.65 and 16.66 and other Decisions of a similar nature concerning particular taxa. The Secretariat outlined the progress made in contracting the reports mentioned in paragraph a) of Decision 16.63, and thanked the European Union for providing funds for this work. It noted, however, that further studies needed to

be commissioned and the resulting reports reviewed by the Animals Committee, and more time was needed to complete this work. It expressed its understanding that subparagraph a) iv) of Decision 16.63 referred to the production of a report on findings and recommendations by the Secretariat.

The Chair of the Animals Committee outlined the work carried out by the Committee and the provisional conclusions it had arrived at, but stressed that its work on this matter was not concluded and that it would like to report more fully at SC66.

The progress made was welcomed and the need to defer implementation of Decision 16.66 to SC66 was supported. Calls were made for the Secretariat to further investigate the examples in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 26 regarding trade in specimens claimed to be derived from captive breeding or ranching, to engage with the Parties involved and to assess whether the involvement of the Standing Committee was required. The importance of the correct use of source codes was stressed and mention was made of the need to ensure that for Appendix-I species, the breeding stock of any specimens traded as 'bred in captivity' should be of legal origin. Concerning paragraph 8 b) and the Annex of document SC65 Doc 34.1, concern was expressed about illegal trade in great apes described as 'bred in captivity'. China stated that it had trusted documents and assurances from the exporting Party and had acted promptly when advised that these could not be relied upon. In the circumstances that prevailed, China had no legal powers to take action against the importers of the great apes in question.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 34.1 and that the Secretariat would prepare the report on its findings and recommendations referred to in sub-paragraph a) vi) of Decision 16.63. The Committee endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 10, noted document SC65 Doc. 34.2 and endorsed the conclusions of the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America), and by China, Côte d'Ivoire and Mexico.

#### 35. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 35.1 concerning an application from the United States of America to include a commercial breeding facility of *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* in the CITES 'Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes' in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), and the objection from the Philippines regarding this application. The Secretariat explained that owing to the time frames provided in the Resolution, the document had been made available at short notice, and it drew attention to the comments from the Animals Committee on the application and the objection.

After the Philippines and the United States explained their positions, they were requested to consult bilaterally and to report the results of their discussions at the beginning of the following session.

Later in the meeting, the United States reported that no agreement could be reached with the Philippines, which confirmed that it maintained its objection against the registration. The Chair requested a vote on the matter in accordance with Rules 24 and 25 of the Rules of Procedure.

By a vote of six votes in favour, and one against, with eight abstentions, the Committee agreed to the inclusion in the Register of captive breeding operations of Hyacinth Macaw Aviary Inc., in the United States, for the breeding of *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia and Kuwait), North America (United States of America), and by Mexico and the Philippines.

#### Species trade and conservation

#### 36. Bushmeat

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 36.

One member of the Standing Committee and an observer Party summarized activities that had been undertaken or were being undertaken in relation to bushmeat. These included a study of bushmeat imports

together with a manual to assist customs officers with the visual identification of bushmeat specimens and a subregional GEF project on bushmeat, which included the development of a regional strategy and policy for the sustainable use of wildlife.

The Committee noted the document and the oral report of the Secretariat and agreed to establish a working group with the mandate provided in Decision 16.149, chaired by the Chair of the Animals Committee, and with the following members: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United States of America, the Animals Committee representatives of Africa (Mr Kasiki), Asia (Mr Soemorumekso) and Europe (Mr Loertscher), UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and the Zoological Society of London.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of the Depository Government (Switzerland) and by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### 37. Great apes

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 37 and highlighted the diverse pressures on great ape populations, including illegal trade in live animals, poaching for bushmeat, disease and habitat loss, with habitat loss and illegal domestic trade in bushmeat being the two most significant factors impacting on great ape populations. The Secretariat stated that although there was some illegal international trade in great apes, data from official sources suggested that such trade was limited. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Illicit Trade Report for 2013, stated that no seizures of great apes had been reported to the WCO Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) in 2013. The Secretariat, however, noted that even if official data reflected limited illegal international trade in great apes, it remained vigilant, as trends can change quickly. The Secretariat noted the lack of information on the impact that illegal domestic trade in great ape specimens has on the species, and the lack of data on the impact of other pressures on great apes, which might be much greater than the impact of illegal trade. The Secretariat believed that the consideration of the possible need for special reporting on illegal trade in great apes, as referred to in Decision 16.67, and the establishment of a database as envisaged by the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), should take into account the potential utility of compiling data on all pressures impacting on great ape populations.

In the discussion that followed, speakers said that further information was required to determine the threat posed by illegal international trade compared to other threats to the conservation of great apes, in particular the impact of illegal domestic bushmeat trade and habitat loss. Some speakers agreed that the mechanism to be established in accordance with Decision 16.67 should include the gathering of data about all threats affecting great ape populations. The Secretariat's document had recommended that the mandate of the Standing Committee's working group on special reporting requirements (WGSRR) be expanded to include consideration of Decision 16.67.

There was mixed support for the recommendation that the Secretariat commission a report on the status of great apes, with speakers noting that the revision of the IUCN Red List and a number of other recently prepared reports were already compiling this information. The improper use of source codes for allegedly captive-bred great apes was raised as an important issue, as was the need to develop DNA testing methods. In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the Secretariat advised there was no CITES-registered captive breeding facilities for great apes.

In response to a request from the Chair of the WGSRR, the Secretariat clarified that the working group would be expected to continue to operate within its current mandate and was not expected to address great ape related matters more generally.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 37 and the oral report of the Secretariat and endorsed the recommendations in paragraph 22 of the document.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger), Asia (Japan), Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America), and by Côte d'Ivoire, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (speaking as Chair of the WGSRR), UNEP, IUCN, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Pro Wildlife, Species Survival Network and Wildlife Conservation Society.

### 38. Asian big cats

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 38 and summarized the findings of the report from the consultants contracted by the Secretariat to review the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*, contained in Annex 1 to document SC65 Doc. 38.

In the discussion that followed, in response to a request for clarification, the Secretariat stated that the inclusion of Decision 14.69 in the list of superseded Decisions was the result of an oversight, and that Decision 14.69 was still valid.

China stated that its authorities were not detecting illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, and provided an overview of the regulation of domestic trade in specimens of captive-bred tigers. China stated that, although it had never banned trade in tiger parts and products, other than tiger bone, commercial use of tiger parts and products other than bone was strictly subject to approval by the State Forestry Administration (SFA). In practice, the SFA only approved the use of tiger skin for scientific and educational purposes and it had never approved commercial trade in tiger skins. China added that, according to its national legislation, commercial trade in tiger parts and products (except bone) obtained from captive-breeding operations could be conducted at designated shops if the SFA approves. However the SFA had not approved any such trade to date.

One observer organization stated that in a recent study it had conducted, it found a legal domestic trade in skins from captive tigers in China for commercial purposes. It had shared this information with the CITES Management Authority of China.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 38, including the consultants' report in Annex 1.

At the request of a number of Parties, the Committee established an in-session working group to consolidate the recommendations in these documents. The United States of America agreed to Chair the in-session working group which included: China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, the European Union, IUCN, Asiatic, Born Free, Environmental Investigation Agency, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Protection Society of India and WWF.

At a later session, the United States, as Chair of the in-session working group, presented the recommendations of the in-session working group. The working group recommended that the Standing Committee adopt recommendations a) to e) in paragraph 31 of document SC65 Doc. 38, without change.

The working group also recommended that the Standing Committee adopt a number of additional recommendations and requested that the Secretariat communicate all the recommendations to Parties via a Notification to the Parties. Following further discussions, these were agreed with minor amendments.

The Committee then adopted recommendations a) to e) in paragraph 31 of document SC65 Doc. 38, without change, and the following additional recommendations:

The Standing Committee:

Concerning legislative and regulatory measures

- f) encourages Parties to review all relevant national legislation to ensure that national measures restricting internal and international trade in Asian big cat parts and their derivatives are comprehensive in that, recalling Decision 14.69, parts and derivatives obtained from specimens bred in captivity are included;
- g) recalling Decisions 14.66 (Rev. CoP15) and 14.69, as well as Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), requests all Parties where internal and international trade in Asian big cats and their parts and derivatives is permitted, to report to the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee on what legal trade is allowed, the species and trade volume involved, and describe how such trade is monitored and enforced, and to inform about measures taken to prevent illegal exports;

#### Concerning national law enforcement

- h) encourages Parties to engage with e-commerce trading site companies, and to encourage them to ensure that no online advertisements are being made for illegal specimens of protected species;
- i) encourages Parties to take note of the recommendations of INTERPOL's 2014 assessment of enforcement responses to tiger crime;
- j) encourages Parties to share images of seized tiger skins with range States with photographic identification databases so as to assist in the identification of the origin of the illegal specimen;

#### Concerning demand reduction, education and awareness

- k) recalling Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), urges Parties to address the growing use of Asian big cats, including as pets, and including parts and derivatives as luxury items through targeted demand reduction strategies, including behavioural change interventions, and to strengthen demand reduction efforts;

#### Concerning the prevention of illegal trade in parts and derivatives from breeding facilities

- l) recalling Decision 14.69, urges Parties to develop and implement regulatory controls for Asian big cat breeding facilities to prevent illegal trade, including oversight of any international trade to ensure non-commercial purposes, and monitored destruction of the specimens that die in captivity;
- m) encourages Parties developing DNA registration, photographic identification, or other types of identification databases of captive Asian big cats to make this information available outside national borders for law enforcement purposes to assist forensic determination of the origin of seized specimens, and encourages the Secretariat and Parties with financial resources and technical expertise to assist, through in-country activities, Parties that have yet to establish national registries or identification databases for Asian big cats to do so;

#### Concerning the management of national and privately-held stocks of parts and derivatives

- n) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), requests all Parties with national or privately held stockpiles of captive-bred or confiscated Asian big cat body parts and derivatives to report to the Secretariat on the volume of these stockpiles, measures taken to guarantee the security of these stockpiles, and if applicable, actions to destroy such stockpiles with the exception of those used for educational or scientific purposes;

#### Concerning intersessional work

- o) requests the Working group on Special Reporting Requirements to consider all reporting requirements for individual species and devise a template which would form the basis for consistent reporting across species;
- p) decides to establish an intersessional Working group on Asian Big Cats to identify outstanding issues of concern, assess implementation of these recommendations, Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), and related Decisions, and to make recommendations for further action at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Committee agreed that the intersessional working group on Asian big cats, called for in paragraph p) would be chaired by China, with the following membership: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Viet Nam, IUCN, Asiatic, Born Free Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency, Elephant Action League, IFAW, Panthera, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Protection Society of India and WWF.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan and Indonesia), Europe (Norway and Portugal), North America (United States of America), Oceania

(Australia) and the Previous Host Country (Thailand), and by China, India, Viet Nam, Environmental Investigation Agency, the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

39. Illegal trade in cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 39 (Rev. 2) and summarized the findings of the consultant contracted by the Secretariat to undertake a study (in Annexes 1 and 2 of the document) of the legal and illegal trade in cheetahs, and to assess the impact of this trade on the species' conservation in the wild. The Chair of the Animals Committee presented the recommendations of the Animal Committee to the Standing Committee on this matter, as outlined in Annex 3 to document SC65 Doc. 39 (Rev. 2). She drew attention to recommendation 3, calling for a workshop bringing together cheetah range States and Parties implicated in the illegal trade in cheetahs.

In the discussion that followed, speakers from several cheetah range States and destination States for legal and illegal trade in cheetahs outlined the legislative, capacity-building and enforcement measures that they were taking to regulate trade and to combat illegal trade. There was general concern about the levels of illegal trade in cheetahs and broad agreement that both range and destination States had to take measures to combat this trade. There was also general support for the recommendations of the Secretariat and the Animals Committee as detailed in document SC65 Doc. 39 (Rev. 2), and in Annex 3 to document SC65 Doc. 39 (Rev. 2).

The Committee noted the oral updates provided by the Secretariat on document SC65 Doc. 39 (Rev. 2) and by the Chair of the Animals Committee on Annex 3 of that document. The Committee established an intersessional working group on illegal trade in cheetahs with Kuwait as Chair, and requested the working group to meet in-session to develop terms of reference. The working group comprised Bahrain, Botswana, Kenya, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Zimbabwe, IUCN, Born Free Foundation, IFAW, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF, and the Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the working group (Kuwait) introduced document SC65 Com.5 with draft terms of reference. Following discussion, the terms of reference for the intersessional working group on cheetahs was agreed by Committee as follows:

Terms of reference of the intersessional working group on illegal trade in cheetah (IWG)

Chair: Kuwait

Working group Members:

Botswana, South Africa, Kuwait, Kenya, Oman, Zimbabwe, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Uganda, UAE, Chair of Animals Committee, Born Free Foundation, IUCN, Panthera, Wildlife Conservation Society, Zoological Society of London, Elephant Action League, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Species Survival Network and WWF.

Meetings and mode of operation of the IWG:

The members of IWG shall communicate by electronic means between meetings of the Standing Committee.

Responsibilities of the IWG:

1. Consider the results of the study presented in Annexes 1 and 2 of document SC65 Doc. 39 (Rev. 2) undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.71;
2. Consider the relevant decisions of the 65th session of the Standing Committee (Geneva, July 2014) and the recommendations of the AC presented in Annex 3 of document SC65 Doc. 39 (Rev. 2), and made in accordance with Decision 16.72
3. Develop recommendations to address the illegal trade in cheetahs and report at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee;

4. Work with the Secretariat to develop a questionnaire for all cheetah range, transit and consumer States to document the status of the implementation and enforcement of CITES provisions relevant to the trade in cheetahs, and the challenges experienced by these States. A draft of the questionnaire will be prepared by 15 August 2014 and finalized by the working group by 1 September 2014. The Secretariat should contact relevant Parties, inviting them to complete the questionnaire and any other information, and return it by 15 November 2014;
5. Convene a workshop of illegal take off and trade in cheetahs, taking into the account the information gathered through the questionnaire, subject to the availability of funding; and
6. Coordinate with the Secretariat the organization of a workshop with the terms of reference specified in paragraph 3 of Annex 3 of document SC65 Doc. 39 (Rev. 2), which should be held before March 2015, subject to the availability of funding.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Uganda), Asia (Kuwait) and the Next Host Country (South Africa), the Chair of the Animals Committee, Bahrain, Kenya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Zimbabwe, Born Free Foundation, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

#### 40. Saiga antelope

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 40, explaining that saiga range States and the relevant consumer and trading countries had not provided information on the measures and activities they had undertaken, as requested in Decisions 14.93 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.98, and that the Secretariat was therefore unable to provide a report to the Standing Committee as directed in Decision 16.100. It nevertheless highlighted the launch of the website of the Saiga Resource Centre, Saiga News, a bi-annual newsletter of the Saiga Conservation Alliance, and the continued joint actions of the CITES and CMS Secretariats in favour of the conservation of saiga antelopes.

The participants expressed disappointment about the lack of reporting, and urged the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties, requesting relevant Parties to submit information on saiga antelopes and trade in saiga specimens in time for the Secretariat to report at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Committee noted the document and the oral report of the Secretariat. It agreed to the recommendation in subparagraph 13.b) of document SC65 Doc. 40, and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to seek the information mentioned therein.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America), and by the China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

#### 41. Tibetan antelope

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 41 (Rev. 1).

In the discussion that followed, there was general support for the Secretariat's recommendations in paragraphs 10. a) to c) of the document, in particular the need for Parties to continue to report to the Secretariat any information on seizures of illegally traded wool and products of Tibetan antelope, in accordance with Decision 16.93. One Party requested that paragraph b) under "DIRECTS", of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13) be retained. The Chair of the Standing Committee noted that this item would be considered at SC66.

Switzerland informed the meeting that it had hosted a side event on the topic "Shahtoosh – Methods of identification and case studies (from Switzerland)" on the margins of the present meeting, and offered to share their presentation with interested Parties.

The Committee noted the document and endorsed the recommendations in paragraphs 10. a) to c) of document SC65 Doc. 41 (Rev. 1).

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by China.

## 42. Elephants

### 42.1 Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade

### 42.2 National ivory action plans

and

### 42.7 Disposal of ivory stocks

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.1 and provided an update on activities that were conducted in support of the implementation of CoP16 Decisions related to elephants. IUCN and TRAFFIC introduced Annex 1 to document SC65 Doc. 42.1 and summarized their findings on the status of elephant populations and trends in elephant poaching and ivory seizures. South Africa as the Chair of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee provided an update on the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, as also described in Annex 1 to document SC65 Doc. 42.1.

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.2 and outlined the evaluation of the nine national ivory action plans (NIAPs) of China (including a separate plan for Hong Kong SAR, China), Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam as presented in the Annex to document SC65 Doc. 42.2.

Chad introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.7 on disposal of ivory stocks.

Following an invitation from the Chair, each of the eight Parties of "Primary Concern" that implemented NIAPs made an intervention in response to the Secretariat's evaluation of their plans. Speakers provided an update on implementation activities and detailed their notable successes and challenges. China (addressing both the China NIAP and the Hong Kong, China, NIAP) provided additional information on actions evaluated as 'unclear' by the Secretariat, and on the basis of this information, advised that they believe that progress of these actions should be evaluated as 'substantially achieved' or 'on track'. The Philippines noted that it would shortly be submitting a further report on implementation to the Secretariat. Uganda noted a need to review actions in its NIAP that were dependent on external support and had not substantially progressed. A number of Parties noted the need for the Standing Committee and other Parties to support the efforts that were being taken to implement NIAPs.

In the discussion that followed, speakers commended the comprehensive and objective nature of the reports prepared by the Secretariat for agenda items 42.1 and 42.2, commended the efforts that some Parties had taken in implementing their NIAPs and recommended that these efforts be continued until SC66. Speakers expressed concern at the lack of response from countries of 'secondary concern' and 'importance to watch', and showed broad support for the need to increase efforts in these countries in accordance with the Secretariat's recommendations. The lack of information provided on stockpiles was also noted.

It was requested during some interventions, that NIAPs should be made publicly available. The need for implementation reporting to focus on the impacts of activities and not just the activities delivered was also raised, as was the need for the Standing Committee to consider the use of compliance mechanisms if plans were not being adequately implemented. Particular concern was raised about Thailand's lack of progress at implementing its NIAP.

Following the preliminary discussion, the Committee noted the comprehensive reports provided for these agenda items, and established a working group to develop a consolidated set of recommendations, focusing on issues within the mandate of the Standing Committee. The working group was chaired by Uganda, as the current Chair of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, and included the full membership of the Subgroup as well as the following: Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, Niger, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, European Union, UNDP, UNODC, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Asiatic, David Shepherd Wildlife Association, Environment Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, IFAW, IWM World Conservation Trust, Safari Club International, Safari Club International Foundation,



Species Survival Network, Stop Ivory, WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the working group reported the results of its discussions.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document SC65 42.1, as submitted in SC65 Com. 7, with the following amendments:

– Paragraph g) to read:

“encourage Parties that submit ivory samples for analysis in accordance with Decision 16.83, to use the forensic analysis results as suggested in paragraphs 39 and 40 of document SC65 Doc. 42.1;”

– Paragraph h) to read:

“encourage Parties to share with the Secretariat and affected countries of origin information on the origin of ivory specimens, arising from forensic analysis of ivory samples, for use in further investigation and prosecution in these countries and by the MIKE and ETIS programmes and their reporting to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties;”

The Committee adopted the recommendations related to document SC65 Doc. 42.2, as submitted in SC65 Com. 7, with the following amendments:

– Paragraph d) to read:

“request the Parties of “Primary Concern” to report on the further measures taken to implement their NIAPs to the Secretariat by 15 May 2015\* and in the format used for the Secretariat’s evaluation of the progress reports as presented in the Annex to document SC65 42.2, so that the Secretariat can make the reports available to the Standing Committee and convey any recommendations it may have, as appropriate, at SC66;”

– Paragraph f) to read:

“taking into consideration the reports and the Secretariat’s evaluation, the Standing Committee will, at its 66th meeting, decide whether Parties have substantially achieved their NIAPs and should no longer be considered of primary concern; or have made progress but remain of primary concern; or have made insufficient progress and require compliance measures.”

Regarding agenda item 42.7, the Committee adopted the recommendations contained in document SC65 Com. 9, with the following amendment: deletion of the words “if needed” in paragraph c).

During discussion of these items, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana, Egypt, Niger and Uganda), Asia (Indonesia and Japan), Europe (Hungary, Norway and Portugal), North America (United States of America) and the Previous Host Country (Thailand), the Next Host Country (South Africa), and by China, Côte d’Ivoire, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, the Philippines, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, IWMC–World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC.

#### 42.3 Decision-making mechanism for authorizing ivory trade

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.3, summarizing some intersessional activities relevant to the working group on a decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory, which the Standing Committee had established at its previous meeting pursuant to Decision 16.55.

Participants noted the lack of progress in implementing Decision 16.55, and recognized the difficulty of debating possible future trade in ivory at a time when levels of elephant poaching in

Africa and illegal trade in ivory were very high and of global concern. As no new information was available for the working group to consider, it did not convene during the present meeting. The United States and South Africa, as members of the working group on the decision-making mechanism, believed that Norway should chair the group.

The Committee agreed that the working group on the decision-making mechanism should continue to work intersessionally. It also requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Secretariat of UNEP, to prepare a background document, as mentioned in paragraph 8 of document SC65 Doc. 42.3, and make it available to the working group by January 2015 at the latest. The working group was invited to report on progress in the implementation of Decision 16.55 at SC66. The Committee noted the oral report of the Secretariat on how it would develop the background document for the working group on the decision-making mechanism for authorizing ivory trade.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Niger), Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America) and the Next Host Country (South Africa), and by Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and UNEP.

42.4 Review of Resolution Conf. 10.9 on Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.4. It suggested that the working group that the Committee was directed to establish to review Resolution Conf. 10.9 be kept separate from the group considering a decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory.

The Committee established an intersessional working group to review Resolution Conf. 10.9, while taking into account the proposal made in document CoP16 Doc. 73 (Rev. 1) and the Secretariat's comments in the same document and to report to the Committee at SC66. The membership of the working group is as follows: Botswana (Chair), Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia, Niger, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zimbabwe, IUCN, Environmental Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, IFAW, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Pro Wildlife, Safari Club International, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF and Zoological Society of London.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Niger), Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America) and by Côte d'Ivoire, Israel and Kenya.

42.5 Elephant Protection Initiative

Botswana introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.5 and outlined the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI). Parties that sign up to the EPI are required to close any domestic ivory markets they may have. It was further explained that EPI is not a duplication of the African Elephant Fund, and that it can support the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan.

In the discussion that followed, speakers generally welcomed the EPI and the further attention to combating the illegal ivory trade. However, a number of speakers noted their concerns about the potential duplication between the EPI and the African Elephant Fund. It was emphasized that it is important that the EPI work within the framework provided by existing initiatives. It was also noted that the scope of the EPI was broader than the mandate of the Standing Committee, and that it was up to individual Parties to decide if they wish to participate in the EPI or not.

The Committee noted the oral report provided by Botswana and the document provided by the proponents of the EPI (Botswana, Ethiopia, Gabon and the United Republic of Tanzania).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Niger), Europe (Hungary), and the Next Host Country (South Africa) and by Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania, IWMC-World Conservation Trust and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

#### 42.6 Preventing the illegal ivory trade under Article VII and through the internet

The Philippines introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.6 (Rev.1) and stressed that more needs to be done to effectively control pre-convention specimens, household effects and internet trade. The Philippines also requested the creation of a working group to formulate recommendations for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17).

In the discussion that followed, speakers expressed diverging views on the document. While speakers noted that the three issues (pre-convention specimens, household effects and illegal internet trade) discussed in document SC65 Doc. 42.6 (Rev. 1) were important, they also noted that they were not new issues and that these issues had already been discussed before by the Conference of Parties or by different working groups. The general view was expressed that there is no clear need to reopen the discussions on these matters. The lack of a mandate for the Standing Committee on these matters was raised, and speakers noted that Parties should as appropriate, implement stricter domestic measures as a means of response. There was limited support for the establishment of a working group to further discuss the proposal.

The Committee noted the oral report provided by the Philippines and requested that Chad and the Philippines develop a proposal for consideration of this matter at the 17th Conference of the Parties.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger), Europe (Norway and Portugal), North America (United States of America) and the Next Host Country (South Africa), and by Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Kenya, the Philippines and WWF.

#### 42.8 Ivory stock in Burundi

Burundi introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.8, seeking from the Standing Committee a solution to the question of how to dispose of the elephant ivory stock in Burundi.

The Secretariat stated that, in accordance with the Convention, the ivory from Appendix-I elephant populations could not be imported for commercial purposes and that, in accordance with the annotation applying to Appendix-II populations, the ivory from these in Burundi shall also be deemed to be from an Appendix-I species. As this could not be changed by the Standing Committee, a solution should rather be sought at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee noted the oral report provided by Burundi and recommended that Burundi consider preparing a proposal for consideration of this matter at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

There were no interventions.

#### 42.9 Reporting on trade in and registration of live Asian elephants

Italy, speaking also on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, introduced document SC65 Doc. 42.9 and expressed their concern that illegal trade in live Asian elephants was an increasing threat. It was further stressed that the implementation of related parts of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) should be reviewed.

In the discussion that followed, many speakers supported the proposal. The need for an effective registration framework for live Asian elephants and increased use of DNA fingerprinting were emphasized, along with the importance of enhancing efforts to cooperate and share information among Asian elephant range States and other relevant Parties. One Asian elephant range State did not support the proposal noting that many range States had little to no illegal trade in live elephants and should not be subject to the proposed review. The speaker suggested that if a review were conducted other relevant Parties implicated in the illegal trade in live Asian elephants should be considered within its scope. One range State questioned the data that were presented in document SC65 Doc. 42.9, and estimates contained within the document, upon which Italy on behalf of the European Union clarified the sources of the data.

At the specific request of China “and other relevant Parties” was included in paragraph 14 of document SC65 Doc. 42.9.

The Committee noted the oral report provided by Italy and agreed that the Secretariat, pending the availability of external resources, would conduct a review of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16), in particular the trade in live elephants, in Asian elephant range States and other relevant Parties and report its findings at SC66.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Uganda), Europe (Hungary and Norway), North America (United States of America) and the Previous Host Country (Thailand), and by China, Italy, the Philippines and IUCN.

#### 43. Rhinoceroses

##### 43.1 Report of the working group

and

##### 43.2 Report of the Secretariat

The Chair of the working group on rhinoceroses (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and the Secretariat introduced documents SC65 Doc 43.1 (Report of the working group) and SC65 Doc 43.2 (Report of the Secretariat) respectively.

In the discussion that followed, speakers from range, transit and destination States for illegal rhinoceros horn trade provided updates on seizures made and action taken to combat poaching and illegal trade. The actions taken by relevant States to date were commended, but concern was expressed that poaching levels were not declining. It was emphasized that continued enhanced effort was required, especially in Mozambique where the situation was of particular concern. Speakers expressed general support for the recommendations presented in both documents, and for the consolidation of these recommendations.

The Committee noted the reports of the working group on rhinoceroses and the Secretariat, and established an in-session working group on rhinoceroses, chaired by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to consolidate the recommendations in the two documents. The working group comprised China, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, the United States of America, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, the European Union, IUCN, International Trade Centre, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Annamiticus, Animal Welfare Institute, Asiacat, Conservation Force, Elephant Action League, Environment Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council, Safari Club International, Safari Club International Foundation, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF and the Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the working group (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) introduced the consolidated recommendations developed for consideration by the Standing Committee, as detailed in document SC65 Com. 3. The Chair of the working group highlighted the importance of sharing information on rhinoceros horn seizures among countries of origin, transit and destination, and noted that the recommendations regarding Mozambique reflected the apparent lack of progress in that country, and included a process to help improve progress through the development of a National Rhino Action Plan for Mozambique.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations outlined in document SC65 Com. 3, which combined and superseded the recommendations included in documents SC65 Doc. 43.1 and SC65 Doc. 43.2, and welcomed the further work to be conducted by the intersessional working group on rhinoceroses through its existing membership.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America), and the Next Host Country (South Africa), and by India, Kenya, Qatar, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (as Chair of the working group on rhinoceroses), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Environmental Investigation Agency, TRAFFIC and WWF.

#### 44. Snake trade and conservation

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 44 and gave an overview of the status of implementation of Decisions 16.102 to 16.108. Switzerland, as Chair of the working group on snake trade and conservation management, reported that the working group had met in the sidelines of the present meeting. It had *inter alia* reviewed the findings and recommendations made by the Animals Committee at its 27th meeting and presented in document SC65 Doc. 44. Several key activities called for in the decisions, such as the conduct of studies, development of guidance and collection of information, had not yet been completed or awaited review by the Animals Committee at its 28th meeting. The working group therefore recommended that the implementation of Decisions 16.102 to 16.108 should be discussed at SC66, taking into consideration all recommendations emanating from the Animals Committee. Concerning Decision 16.107, the working group noted that Indonesia was improving its making of non-detriment findings and was prepared to share its experience and methodology with other range States. The working group also agreed that its Chair would seek information from ICCWC and ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network concerning the implementation of Decision 16.108.

Upon its request, it was confirmed that Japan could join the working group. There was general support for the way forward outlined by the working group, which should continue operating intersessionally, and agreement that snake trade and conservation management would have to be further discussed at SC66.

The Committee noted document SC65 Doc. 44 and the oral reports of the Chair of the working group on snake trade and conservation management and of the Secretariat. The Committee endorsed the recommendations in paragraph 23. e) of the document, acknowledging that the working group would consider the other recommendations in that paragraph intersessionally and report at SC66.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia and Japan), Europe (Hungary), North America (United States of America), the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by China and India.

#### 45. Tortoises and freshwater turtles

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 45, giving an overview of the status of implementation of Decisions 16.109 to 16.124 on tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.), grouping this large number of decisions under broad thematic headings. There had been few responses from Parties to requests in several of these decisions for data or reports. Consequently, the Secretariat expressed concern that this might impede the successful implementation of Decisions 16.117, 16.120 and 16.121, all directed or relevant to the Standing Committee, and heavily dependent on successful reporting by the Parties.

In the following discussion, strong support was expressed for the recommendation by the Secretariat to implement Decisions 16.119, paragraph b), and 16.122, paragraphs a) and b) as a matter of priority, and to call upon Parties to finance these activities. It was also suggested that the decisions concerning tortoises and freshwater turtles would need to be revisited and updated at CoP17 to avoid overlap, and duplications with existing provisions in Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP13) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*. It was agreed that further considerations regarding trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and the implementation of relevant decisions would have to take place at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Committee noted the document and the oral report of the Secretariat, and urged Parties to consider, as a matter of priority, providing resources to the Secretariat for the implementation of Decisions 16.119, paragraph b), and 16.122, paragraphs a) and b).

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of North America (United States of America) and Europe (Portugal).

#### 46. Sharks and rays

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC65 Doc. 46, highlighting the mandate of the Animals Committee in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, and specifically the recommendations that the Committee had formulated at its 27th meeting to address the implementation challenges posed by the inclusion of five taxa of sharks and all species of manta rays (*Manta* spp.) in Appendix II at CoP16. She drew particular attention to recommendations to seek specific

shark-related information from the Parties [in subparagraph 4. n)], and to the requests from the Animals Committee to the Standing Committee concerning identification and traceability of shark products, legal acquisition, introduction from the sea, and the role of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations [in subparagraphs 4. o) and p)]. She suggested that the Standing Committee establish an intersessional working group to examine these matters.

During the ensuing discussion, there was broad support for the creation of an intersessional shark working group. It was recognized that the inclusion of several shark species and manta rays in Appendix II had created certain compliance challenges, which should be addressed in collaboration with FAO and relevant RFMOs. The participants were reminded of the comprehensive capacity-building efforts by Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist countries in complying with CITES obligations concerning trade in CITES-listed sharks and manta rays. These included upcoming regional workshops in Colombia and India, and guidance for making non-detriment findings, being prepared by Japan. It was also pointed out that 10 new parties had signed the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, and that additional shark species were expected to be included in the CMS Appendices at its next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee established an intersessional working group, chaired by Colombia with the mandate indicated in subparagraphs 4. o) and p), and with the following members: Australia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, European Union, CMS Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, IFAW, IUCN, Pew Charitable Trusts, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America), and by China, India, New Zealand, CMS Secretariat, TRAFFIC and WWF.

#### 47. Sturgeons and paddlefish: report of the Animals Committee

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC65 Doc. 47. In her introduction, the Chair expressed regret about the lack of cooperation with the Animals Committee by the Caspian Sea littoral States. The Russian Federation reported that stock assessment information was available and was regularly reported to the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources of the Caspian Sea. A number of concerns were expressed about aspects of the proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) in the Annex to SC65 Doc. 47 and some speakers called for a more careful review of the Resolution. Some delegations did not believe that ovulated sturgeon eggs should be included in the definition of 'caviar', one pointing out that this would bring the CITES definition of caviar into conflict with that in the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. One speaker questioned why exporters were still included in the Secretariat's register of caviar processing plants, including aquaculture operations and repackaging plants when the obligation for their inclusion in the register was removed at CoP16.

The Committee encouraged affected range States to make available to the Animals Committee the information on assessment and monitoring methodologies used for stocks of sturgeons and paddlefish subject to the provisions under "RECOMMENDS further", paragraph a) of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16).

The Committee established an intersessional working group to review Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), taking account of the proposals by Germany in the Annex to document SC65 Doc. 47 and the comments made during the debate, and to report at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee. The membership of the working group was agreed as follows: China, France, Germany (Chair), Italy, Japan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States, International Caviar Importers Association, IWMC–World Conservation Trust and UNEP-WCMC, and a representative of the United States state fish and wildlife agencies.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary), North America (United States of America) and by China and the Russian Federation and the International Caviar Importers Association.

48. Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and Malagasy rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

48.1 Report of the Secretariat

and

48.2 Action plan of Madagascar

The Secretariat introduced document SC65 Doc. 48.1 and provided an oral report of the findings of its recent mission to Madagascar. It highlighted the massive scale of illegal export from Madagascar of timber of species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros*, despite the zero export quota introduced in August 2013, and presented its recommendations to the Committee.

Madagascar provided additional information on actions being undertaken by its national authorities, and supported the recommendation that Madagascar should present a use-plan by December 2014. The World Bank briefed the Committee on three studies it was carrying out on the legal status of stockpiles, inventories and security and on possible options for stockpile disposal.

Members of the Committee welcomed the progress made by Madagascar, particularly with respect to paragraph 4 of the Action Plan, and expressed concern that a World Bank report alluded to a possible future sale of these timber species stockpiles. Speakers noted that significant work remained to be done and requested that Madagascar report at SC66 on relevant seizures, prosecutions and sanctions adopted.

Concern was also expressed that Madagascar was apparently not considering a comprehensive strategy for dealing with its stockpile and a proposal was made to recommend that Madagascar complete a full inventory; make non-detriment findings for all regions; set a 10-year moratorium; ensure that transit countries provide a full inventory of seized stockpiles, and develop identification techniques. There was general agreement that the consultation with the Committee should continue through a postal procedure in order to speed up the process. Parties were also encouraged to find other ways than amending their national legislation in order to implement the changes to the Appendices agreed at meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Some Parties briefed the Committee on their work to support of the implementation of the Convention for these timber species from Madagascar.

Some observer organizations said that unprecedented rates of illegal logging and illegal trade meant that the management of *Dalbergia* species was now a problem relevant to the international community. They proposed that existing stockpiles be destroyed and commended the seizures made by Sri Lanka and Singapore. The lack of prosecutions was highlighted, as well as the fact that a potential sale could stimulate renewed illegal cutting in Madagascar.

The Committee noted the reports from the Secretariat and Madagascar on progress made on the implementation of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Action Plan annexed to Decision 16.152 on *Malagasy ebonies (Diospyros spp.) and Malagasy rosewoods (Dalbergia spp.)*.

The Committee agreed to:

- a) ask Madagascar to continue working and present a stockpile audit and use plan at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66);
- b) request Madagascar to significantly increase the enforcement actions at a national level and to strengthen their enforcement cooperation at the international level;
- c) request Madagascar to consider as a matter of urgency the offer from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and to deploy a Wildlife Incident Support Team (WIST);
- d) encourage Madagascar to make use of the ICWC Wildlife and forest crime analytic toolkit to assist it in undertaking a national assessment of its current enforcement resources and efforts;

- e) note the preliminary checklist of *Dalbergia* species from Madagascar, presented as information document SC65 Inf. 21 by the Botanical Nomenclature Specialist of the Plants Committee and, encourage Parties to use it as a provisional reference;
- f) encourage Parties to remain vigilant in detecting illegal shipments of CITES-listed timber species coming from Madagascar, taking into account the zero export quota;
- g) encourage Parties that are possible destinations or transit countries for shipments of Malagasy ebonies, palisanders and rosewoods and, that have not yet done so, to incorporate the CoP16 amendments to the Appendices into their national legislation as soon as possible, and to identify any other legislative authority that might be used in the interim to support appropriate law enforcement actions in case of the discovery of shipments without CITES permits;
- h) request that the Secretariat continue its collaborative efforts with the government of Madagascar and organizations that work on elements of the action plan on *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar and that it reports back on its findings to the SC66;
- i) request Madagascar to extend the zero export quota until SC66;
- j) request Madagascar to submit a use plan by 31 December 2014 for consideration of the Committee by postal procedure; and
- k) in the case that Madagascar does not communicate to the Secretariat the extension of the zero export quota by the 10 August 2014 (quota valid until the 11 August), recommend that all Parties suspend trade in specimens of the species *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar, to be reviewed at SC66.

Finally, the Committee agreed that, if Madagascar did not make significant progress in the implementation of the recommendations above before SC66, the Committee may consider compliance measures at that meeting.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (Hungary), North America (United States of America) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by China, Italy (speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, the World Bank Environmental Investigation Agency, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

## CITES Appendices

### 49. Annotations

#### 49.1 Report of the interim working group

The Chair of the interim working group on annotations (United States of America) introduced document SC65 Doc. 49.1.

There was support for the recommendations contained in the document and the importance of the work on annotations was noted. A number of Standing Committee members, observer Parties and observer organizations expressed a wish to participate in the working group to be re-established. It was suggested that it was premature to decide where to place the definitions of terms used in the annotations, as more thought was needed on the matter.

The Committee noted the document and oral report of the chair of the interim working group on annotations and agreed to re-establish the working group with the mandate provided under Decision 16.162 and the following additional tasks: to consider the results of the timber trade study called for in Decision 15.35 and, in particular, to consider whether current annotations regarding tree species adequately cover the types of specimens primarily exported from source countries; to assess the advantages and disadvantages of potential changes to those annotations; and, if appropriate to prepare draft amendments to the annotations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Committee also agreed that the working group would be co-chaired by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the



United States of America and that its members would be: Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland; Ms Caceres as a representative of the Animals Committee, and Ms Rivera (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Mr Sajeve (Europe), Mr Leach (Oceania), Mr Luke (Africa) and Ms Al-Salem (Asia) as representatives of the Plants Committee; and the European Union, the American Herbal Products Association, the Centre for International Environmental Law, Humane Society International, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Lewis and Clark College, and TRAFFIC.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America).

#### 49.2 Annotations for tree species included in Appendices II and III

The Secretariat reported that the timber trade study envisaged under Decision 15.35 had been initiated in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), through the joint development of terms of reference and the contracting of a consultant. It was reported that the study was being funded through the ITTO-CITES programme. The study was scheduled to be completed in time for consideration at upcoming meetings of relevant CITES bodies.

It was suggested that relevant information be sought quickly from Parties through a Notification.

The Committee noted the oral progress report of the Secretariat, as supplemented by the representative of ITTO, and also noted the continuing collaboration between the CITES Secretariat and ITTO on this and other matters under the ITTO-CITES programme.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America) and by ITTO.

### **Regional matters**

#### 50. Reports of regional representatives

50.1 Africa

50.2 Asia

50.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean

50.4 Europe

50.5 North America

and

50.6 Oceania

The Committee noted all of the reports received from regional representatives, in documents SC65 Doc. 50.1, SC65 Doc. 50.2, SC65 Doc. 50.3, SC65 Doc. 50.4, SC65 Doc. 50.5 and SC65 Doc. 50.6.

There were no interventions.

### **Concluding items**

#### 51. Any other business

At the request of Canada, as Chair of the working group on purpose-of-transaction codes, the Committee noted that the working group had been re-established at the 64th meeting (Bangkok, March 2013), in order to initiate implementation of Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP16). The Committee confirmed the membership of the working group as follows: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada (Chair), China, Costa Rica, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa and the United States; and Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, Animal

Exhibitors Alliance, Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, Lewis and Clark College, and Safari Club International.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by Canada.

52. Determination of the time and venue of the 66th meeting

The Committee noted that a reservation had been made to hold the 66th meeting at the International Conference Centre of Geneva, from 31 August to 4 September 2015, and requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of holding the meeting later in the year.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by Mexico.

53. Closing remarks

The representative of UNEP read a statement on behalf of the Executive Director.

The Secretary-General reported that this was the last CITES meeting for three members of the Secretariat staff who would retire from the United Nations in December: Ms Alice Abalos, Team leader, Administrative Services; Ms Maritza Campos, Meetings and Conference Assistant; and Mr Jonathan Barzdo, Chief of Governing Bodies and Meeting Services. The Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation of their long service for the CITES Secretariat and the Parties and presented to them CITES gold pins in recognition of their contributions.

Following remarks by members of the Committee, observers representing Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the Secretary-General, the Chair thanked all participants for their cooperation and thanked the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and the interpreters for their work, and closed the meeting at 17h18.