

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



Thirty-second meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 19 – 23 June 2023

Regional Matters

REGIONAL REPORT

AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by the Representative from UGANDA on behalf of the Africa Region. The report covers the period from June 2021 (AC 31) to date.

2. General Information

1. Animals Committee (AC) members: Ms Ngalié Maha (Cameroon) and Dr. Pantaleon M. B. Kasoma (Uganda). Alternate members: Dr Djibril Diouck (Senegal) and Dr James Vedastor Wakibara (Tanzania).

2. The representatives divide themselves as follows: Ms Ngalié Maha coordinates the Francophone Parties while Dr. Kasoma coordinates the Anglophone Parties.

3. Number of Parties in the Region: 53. Non- Parties: 2.

3. Overview of major developments

a) **Review of Significant Trade.**

There are no significant issues to report from the Region.

b) **Periodic Review of Appendices.**

There are no significant issues to report.

c) **Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes**

Only one operation was registered by South Africa to breed *Psittacus erithacus* (African Grey Parrots) in captivity for commercial purposes. CITES Secretariat issued Notification No. 2023/067 on this operation in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15).

No other operations for breeding Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes were registered since AC31.

d) **Non-detriment findings**

As per Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) decision 18.166 that encourages Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to conduct regular surveys, adjust quotas as appropriate, and exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, some member states have taken action. For example, Uganda commissioned a study in NDF for the leopard and a draft report has been submitted to the Scientific Authority for review before it can be finalized and shared with the CITES Secretariat. Botswana started a national leopard survey in February 2023. The survey is currently ongoing. The main aim is to establish the distribution and population status of leopard in Botswana.

**e) Other issues**

Many regional members continue to participate in various Intersessional Working Groups established by the Standing Committee and Animals Committee following CoP19 meeting in Panama. Some of the work of the Working Groups will be discussed at the scheduled Committee meetings.

A number of member states continue to develop species management plans so as to sustainably manage their species populations as part of their national, regional and international biodiversity conservation strategies; based on effective population monitoring, and ensuring coexistence and sustainable utilization. For example, Botswana has developed management and action plans for elephant (2021–2026), leopard (2023–2028) and rhino (2023–2028). The leopard plan still awaits government approval whereas the rhino one is undergoing final stakeholder consultations.

**f) Regional Meetings and Workshops**

A number of workshops on CITES related issues were held both physically or virtually. We note that following the challenges brought about by COVID-19, many countries have now adopted using online platforms to conduct meetings and workshops but there are still a number of challenges with internet connectivity and adaptability. Some of the key meetings held include the following;

- (i) The Joint CITES-CMS Africa Carnivore Initiative (ACI) Meeting of range States was hosted by Uganda and held in Entebbe 1 – 4 May 2023. The meeting brought together representatives of all countries that are range States to one or more of the four species covered by the ACI namely African lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*P. pardus*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), as well as relevant observer organizations. The objective of the meeting was for the range States to discuss the ACI Programme of Work approved by the Standing Committees of CITES and CMS, its implementation and prioritization of activities, conservation issues specific to the species covered by the ACI and operational matters for the future of the ACI. More details about this meeting are expected to be covered in this AC32 meeting under Agenda item 11.
- (ii) Uganda also hosted the CITES Big Cats Task Force meeting in Entebbe 24 – 29 April 2023. The Task Force meeting was convened in accordance with Decision 19.92 of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19, Panama, 2022) on the Big Cats Task Force. The meeting discussed enforcement and implementation issues related to illegal trade in specimens of big cats and exchanged intelligence and other information on the illegal trade in big cats. More information and outcomes of this meeting has been provided as Information document to this Meeting as AC32 Inf.9.
- (iii) Ghana hosted a planning workshop on the conservation of pangolins in West Africa under the Program for Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development in West Africa in Accra from March 29-31, 2023.
- (iv) The African, Caribbean and Pacific High Level Conference on the implementation of the outcomes of CVB COP15 and CITES COP 19 was held at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa between 29 May and 02 June 2023.

### **g) Capacity building**

A variety of members in the region have engaged in capacity building activities. Uganda has continued to organize training workshops for customs, police and wildlife law enforcement officers in preventing wildlife trafficking across the region. These trainings cover topics ranging from CITES, financial and electronic fraud. The trainings have been facilitated by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Cameroun also held some capacity building workshops. These included a training of trainers on the analysis of wildlife crime scenes; and training of MINFOF staff on the management of ivory stocks, other wildlife products and the Stocks Management System in the country.

Across the region, representatives from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Comoros, Mozambique and Malawi participated in the International Conservation Chiefs Academy (ICCA) training and wildlife officials exchange program with United States from 22 May – 02 June 2023. The program brings together leaders of conservation law enforcement agencies from around the world to build collaborative capacity between international conservation law enforcement agencies. The training was facilitated by the US Fish and Wildlife Office of Law Enforcement Bureau and it included a training of wildlife officers from the African countries at the US National Conservation Training Centre in Shepherdstown West Virginia to build adaptive leadership skills. The officers also received training in CITES, wildlife inspections for CITES and Non-CITES Species. Many other African countries have previously benefited from a similar training organized annually by the US Government.

In West Africa, a training of trainers' workshop for CITES Management Authorities, judges and prosecutors of Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire 15-17 February 2023. It focused on the fight against wildlife trafficking for the sub-region as part of the Program for Biodiversity and Low Emission Development in West Africa (WABILED), funded by USAID. Member countries such as Cameroun held various national workshops to empower them to fulfil their obligations under CITES in a better way. For example, a capacity building workshop on the implementation of the AFRICA-TWIX tool for information exchange and sharing and regional collaboration in the fight against illegal wildlife trade in the COMIFAC area; and a training workshop for MINFOF agents and other officials responsible for applying the regulations on the management of ivory stocks.

### **h) Electronic Permitting**

Uganda developed an online electronic CITES permits application and issuance system. The system was virtually launched on 29 July 2021 and became fully operational on 1 January 2022. The e-permitting system can be accessed at the following address; <https://cites.tourism.go.ug>

### **i) Regional and International Cooperation**

Collaboration and cooperation between Parties at regional and international level continued mainly online. It is however still difficult to coordinate and have a comprehensive report as many Parties in the Region still do not respond to email requests for reports. This is a challenge that we will continue to discuss internally within the region. It is even worse now that we are not able to have physical meetings where we would at least reach out to Parties present at the meeting to highlight some work in their countries for inclusion in the report.

The first-ever synchronized and coordinated aerial survey of Africa's largest savanna elephant populations was conducted in the five countries that make up the Kavango Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA). The survey, which was undertaken by the five KAZA partner countries—Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe was launched in August 2022. Support for this initiative came from WWF and other partners. It involved seven aircraft and was completed in October 2022, covering the entire KAZA region—a more than 128-million-acre area about the size of France. The survey is completed and a preliminary report has been produced and the final report is anticipated to be released soon, after approval by member states.