

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

WILDLIFE CRIME AND CITES ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.*

Background

2. At the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee, Benin, Niger and Nigeria submitted document [SC74 Doc 35.3](#), which reported progress towards the development of the West Africa Strategy on Combating Wildlife Crime (WASCWC) and the West Africa Network to Combat Wildlife Crime (WAN).
3. The Standing Committee, in response to the report of the Secretariat on Wildlife Crime Enforcement Support in West and Central Africa ([SC74 Doc 35.2](#)):
 - a) *noted the broad range of activities reported upon and support available to Parties in West and Central Africa;*
 - b) *encouraged Parties in West and Central Africa, as well as organizations and other entities implementing projects in the two subregions, to build upon this through continued exploration of synergies and by leveraging on collective action to strengthen responses to wildlife crime affecting the subregions;*
 - c) *further encouraged Parties in West and Central Africa to further step up efforts to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement by actively pursuing the implementation of the Decisions adopted at CoP18 and implementing the recommendations in Annex 2 of document CoP18 Doc. 34;*
 - d) *welcomed the adoption of the West Africa Strategy on Combating Wildlife Crime (WASCWC) and encouraged Parties in West Africa to actively pursue its rapid and full implementation; and*
 - e) *encouraged Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and interested stakeholders to provide support to the West Africa subregion in its implementation of the WASCWC.*¹
4. Benin, The Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal submitted a letter to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee expressing deep concern about the scale of the extinction crisis, species declines caused by international

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

¹ [SC74 Sum 7](#)

wildlife trade and the risk that wildlife trade poses to human and animal health ([SC74 Inf 19](#)). The letter expresses concern that species declines are increasingly outpacing efforts made by CITES.

5. West African Parties are extremely concerned about the ongoing high levels of wildlife crime taking place across the region, as evidenced by the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report (CoP18 Doc. 34 Annex 4). Illegal logging is causing desertification and threatens the region's ability to adequately adapt to the effects of climate change. Pervasive and escalating illegal trade in wild animals and plants is threatening the long-term survival of many species, several of which are on the brink of extinction. Vital ecosystem services, such as watersheds, are at risk, threatening the health of millions of people. Wildlife crime is also threatening economic security.
6. The extinction crisis is highlighted by massive declines in many species found in West Africa, caused wholly or partly by pervasive illegal trade. Critically Endangered Western chimpanzees, for example, which are estimated to have suffered population declines of 80% over three generations, continue to be illegally poached for bushmeat and live trade². Other Critically Endangered CITES-listed species under threat from international trade in the West African region include, among others: Cross River Gorilla, Northwest African Cheetah, White-backed vulture, Rüppell's vulture, Hooded vulture, White-headed vulture, African Lion (west African subpopulation), Addax, Western Giant Eland, African wedgefish, Largetooth Sawfish, Blackchin Guitarfish, Sea snells, Great hammerhead, Snapper shark, Slender-snouted crocodile.
7. A broad majority of CITES Parties have committed to conserving 30% the planet by 2030³, a commitment widely endorsed by West and Central African Parties. Without bold action on protecting flora and fauna species under threat from wildlife crime in West Africa and elsewhere, this important commitment will be ineffective and not enforceable. The scale of CITES' response to this crisis must expand exponentially.
8. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, Switzerland, 17-28 August 2019), the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP18) adopted the following decisions on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*:

Directed to Parties in West and Central Africa

18.88 *Parties of West and Central Africa should:*

- a) *draw upon the information and recommendations provided in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 and the recommendations in Annex 2 of document CoP18 Doc. 34, to strengthen CITES implementation and address wildlife crime; and*
- b) *identify priority actions that could benefit from support and present these to the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC), donors and the development community, in order to seek support to implement them.*

18.89 *Parties in West and Central Africa identified as affected by illegal trade in wildlife within the region should engage in regional and bilateral activities to share information on their national legislative and regulatory measures to address such illegal trade, exchange experiences and best practices, and identify opportunities for regional and cross-border cooperation and joint actions, including where appropriate the formulation of national or regional action plans as anticipated by paragraph 14 a) ii) and 10 f) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on Compliance and enforcement, taking into consideration the provisions of paragraph 15 q) of the same Resolution.*

Directed to Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa

18.90 *Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa are encouraged to assist their counterparts in West and Central Africa, by implementing measures that will address wildlife crime and support legal trade that is limited to sustainable levels, in particular by:*

² [Pan troglodytes ssp. verus \(Western Chimpanzee\) \(iucnredlist.org\)](#)

³ <https://www.hacformatureandpeople.org/hac-members>

- a) *supporting efforts to determine and ensure sustainable levels of trade through scientific studies that can facilitate the making of robust non-detriment findings;*
- b) *closely scrutinizing consignments of CITES-listed species imported from West and Central Africa and accompanying CITES documents to ensure that illegal species are not laundered into legal trade; and*
- c) *as a priority, raise any concerns about imports with the exporting State, or with the Animals Committee, Plants Committee, Standing Committee, or the Secretariat.*

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

18.91 *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance to Parties in West and Central Africa and mobilize resources to address the matters identified in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.92 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the report from the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.93, paragraph d) and progress made by Parties in West and Central Africa in strengthening CITES implementation and make further recommendations as appropriate; and*
- b) *consider any report from the Plants Committee, in response to the recommendation agreed at its 70th meeting, concerning the inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from all range States in the Review of Significant Trade and make recommendations as required.*

Directed to the Secretariat

18.93 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *draw to the attention of relevant United Nations agencies, the African Union, the Commission of Central African Forests, the Global Environmental Facility, and development agencies, the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 and the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, and the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and encourage these to be taken into consideration in the development of work programmes or activities initiated by these entities in the two subregions;*
- b) *subject to external funding, work with its partners in the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to support Parties in West and Central Africa in addressing illegal trade in wildlife, including addressing the matters identified in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee;*
- c) *subject to the availability of external funds and upon request from Parties, undertake general and targeted capacity-building activities to strengthen the effective implementation of CITES in the two subregions, taking into consideration the contents of information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3;*
- d) *report, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee on the results of the activities conducted in accordance with Decision 18.93 paragraphs a) to c); and*
- e) *the Secretariat shall give priority to the guidelines agreed by West African parties as contained in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3 in the course of the implementation of its capacity-building work.*

Implementation of the Recommendations in Annex 2 of CoP18 Doc 34

9. The proponents are pleased to report on progress made with implementation of CoP18 Doc 34 Annex 2 as follows:

Recommendation 1: National and regional strategies and activities

10. Validation of the West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime (WASCWC) by all ECOWAS Environment Ministers took place on 2 October 2020. This is a significant milestone for the region. The WASCWC recognizes wildlife crime as a serious crime and will form the cornerstone of all regional efforts to combat wildlife crime. The WASCWC is currently being considered for adoption by the ECOWAS Parliament. A verbal progress report will be given to the Conference of the Parties in this regard.
11. A West Africa Network to Combat Wildlife Crime (WAN) will be an implementing mechanism of the WASCWC. The WAN is being established with support from the ECOWAS Commission's Environment Directorate and the USAID *West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development* (WABILED) Project. The first meeting of the WAN is projected to take place later in 2023, and a verbal progress report in this regard will be given to the Conference of the Parties.
12. The WASCWC requires all ECOWAS member States to develop a National Wildlife Crime Strategy (NWCS) and Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force (WLETF). An approved template for a NWCS is included as an Annex to the WASCWC. To date, Nigeria (with support from UNODC) has launched their NWCS. The USAID *West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development* (WABiLED) Project and The Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' (INL) *Enhancing Wildlife Law Enforcement in West Africa* project are supporting the establishment of a NWCS and WLETF in 13 ECOWAS member States. A number of NWCS could be completed in 2022, and a verbal progress report in this regard will be given directly to the Conference of the Parties.
13. A number of capacity building initiatives focused on the implementation of CITES have been carried out with support from the USAID *West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change* (WABICC) project, including:
- Train the Trainer courses on CITES for customs authorities:* Between 2018 and 2020, a total of 88 customs officers and representatives of CITES Authorities from Liberia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Benin, Togo, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Guinea, Mauritania and Cameroon attended Train the Trainer courses.
 - Customs Follow-Up Training:* Customs officers from Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Ghana, Togo and Guinea who participated in the *Trainer* the Trainer courses for customs officers organized follow-up trainings for a total of 99 customs officers in their respective countries.
 - Ongoing development of Wildscan West Africa:* Designed as a tool for customs and border patrol officers, Wildscan is a user-friendly mobile phone *application* developed to aid in the identification of wildlife species and wildlife parts and products being trafficked across borders.
14. In 2022, the WABILED program will organize a series of extended train the trainer workshops for 9 countries in West Africa. These will be open to any government agency that might have a role to play in the detection or investigation of illegal wildlife trade.
15. Significant seizures highlight the enhanced enforcement efforts being made by countries across the West Africa region as highlighted in Table 1:

Table 1

Date	Details
BENIN	
September 2020	The anti-trafficking cell at Cotonou Airport intercepted a shipment labelled as fish food products. This shipment contained 106 shark fins weighing 50kg, which had been shipped from Pointe Noire in Republic of Congo. Species include Shortfin mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>), Common thresher shark (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>), Hammerhead spp (<i>Sphyrna lewini</i> , <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> , <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>) and Silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>).

COTE D'IVOIRE	
October 2020	Customs Services at Abidjan Airport, Cote d'Ivoire, seized 116.4kg of shark fins, which had been shipped from Point Noire in Republic of Congo. Three days later, the Forest Inspection Service at Abidjan Airport intercepted a shipment of shark fins weighing 350kg belonging to the same suspect. Species included at least 10 species of shark, including 4 CITES-listed species: Hammer head sharks (<i>Sphryna</i> spp), Silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>), Shortfin Mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>) and Long-tailed shark (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>).
NIGER	
March 2022	Niger authorities seized 1,700 python skins in the Diffa region of eastern Niger, on the border with Nigeria and Chad. The trafficker, a Chadian national, was arrested. The python skins had been concealed inside cow skins.
NIGERIA	
January 2021	Nigerian Customs at Apapa ports uncovered 4,752kg ivory, 5,329kg pangolin scales, 5kg rhino horns, 103kg skulls of lions or other wild cats and 76 pieces of timber. ⁴

16. Niger, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, Gambia and Liberia have submitted a working document to CoP19, highlighting that CITES Parties do not have the tools they need to closely monitor changes indicating the risk of extinction for species that are or may be affected by international trade, resulting in a regulation gap. To improve the efficiency of the CITES Appendices amendment process, the working document proposes the development of a procedure to inform Parties of all species threatened with extinction and their CITES status, so Parties may assess whether the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) are met.
17. The Proponents recognize and extend their sincere thanks to all those partners and donors that have so far provided financial and technical support, recognizing in particular support from USAID, INL and UNODC. However, the level of support received so far does not adequately reflect the scale of need. A much more significant effort is required by the global community in order to address this global challenge.

Recommendation 2: Legislation

18. Since CoP18, Niger, Nigeria, Guinea, The Gambia, Togo and Benin have adopted legislation aimed at strengthening CITES implementation and enforcement.
19. Between October 2019 and November 2020, the USAID WABiCC program organized four CITES training courses for a total of 87 judges and prosecutors from The Gambia, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.
20. From 2022 - 2023, the USAID WABiLED program, will organize a series of advanced workshops for judges and prosecutors from Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin and Niger. The workshops are aimed at establishing an infrastructure of judges and prosecutors ready to tackle wildlife crime cases across the region. The program will also provide continued support to ECOWAS member States in addressing legislation gaps.

Recommendation 3: Addressing corruption

21. ECOWAS member States have prioritized the fight against corruption as inherent to their national response to wildlife crime. The WASCWC states that: "*Corruption can occur at each level of the illegal trade chain, violating national, regional and international laws. Efforts to combat corruption will therefore be integral to every component of this WASCWC.*" WASCWC Core Objective 3, Action 3 states: "*Update and use the existing systems for fighting corruption, fraud and money laundering to support the fight against wildlife*

⁴ [Tackling Corruption In Illegal Wildlife Trade In Nigeria \(unodc.org\)](https://www.unodc.org/en/wildlife/cases/nigeria)

crime.” Furthermore, the incorporation of Anti-Corruption Units will be key to the establishment of national Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Forces.

Recommendation 4: International Cooperation

22. In [SC74 Doc 35.3](#), Nigeria, Benin and Niger expressed concerns that there are currently inadequate measures in place to ensure a whole-of-supply chain response, in which source, transit and consumer countries can collaborate and communicate effectively. Decisions to address this were proposed to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee agreed to submit the Decisions, as amended, to CoP19 (see [SC74 Sum 7](#)).
23. The Proponents are unaware of any significant efforts by consumer States to implement Decision 18.90, which is a cause for significant concern. It is vital that consumer States communicate with source and transit countries and, where appropriate, provide support to source countries for scientific studies and the creation of Non-Detriment Findings. The proponents consider Decision 18.90 not to have been implemented for West Africa and recommends that this decision be expanded and modified to incorporate a reporting provision within the Decision (see Annex 2).

Recommendation 5: Stakeholder Engagement

24. Several countries have established stakeholder forums that ensure engagement and awareness raising among relevant companies and organizations, such as airlines and transport companies. In Nigeria, for example, the Stakeholder Forum includes representatives from 20 different organizations, including non-governmental organizations and airlines. Similar working groups have been developed in Liberia and in Guinea.
25. Awareness-raising training, aimed at equipping airline and scanning staff with the knowledge to recognize signs of wildlife trafficking, took place in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana in November and December 2020 respectively. A total of 39 airport staff received this training through support from USAID. The USAID WABiCC program also supported the development of targeted posters focused on priority species found in illegal trade which were distributed across the subregion in Portuguese, French and English to educate the public.

*Recommendation 6: Controlling Trade in Specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus**

26. [SC74 Doc 35.1.2](#), submitted by Senegal, details unsustainable levels of trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. In response to the exceptional circumstances of pervasive illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, the CITES Standing Committee opened an expedited Article XIII compliance procedure for the species (see [SC74 Sum 13 Rev 1](#)). The Secretariat subsequently issued [Notification 2022/21](#) to all range States.
27. In May 2022 West African Parties adopted a 'Joint Statement to CITES on Illegal Trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in West Africa.' This statement included commitments to prioritize combatting illegal logging, and the launched of a regional process to establish an ECOWAS Timber Crime Task Force under the WAN, with the objective of urgently addressing the illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*.
28. Recommendations in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 explicitly indicated that importing countries had a crucial role to play in supporting range countries by “*limiting imports to sustainable levels*” and noted that “*Broad surveys of the prevalence of this species in the relevant countries, in addition to externally supported non-detriment findings, would be extremely helpful.*” At the time of writing, West African Parties are not aware of any initiative led by importing countries to ensure that imports are limited to sustainable levels, or of any sustainable investments made to support range countries with broad scale population surveys. The fact that these recommendations have not been implemented is of significant concern to West African range States of the species. Recommendations made in the present document intend to facilitate the implementation of these recommendations of crucial importance to the region.

Promoting New Mechanisms for Addressing Wildlife Crime in West Africa

29. As demonstrated above, the West African region has taken significant steps in implementing Decisions 18.88 and 18.89. However, given the massive scale of the crisis, and as recognized by CoP18 Doc 34, the West African region does not have the capacity or resources to fully implement these Decisions, and the implementation of CITES remains a challenge.

30. To support enhanced CITES enforcement efforts globally in response to the species extinction crisis, the establishment of a CITES Enforcement Fund is proposed. The Enforcement Fund will be piloted in West Africa with a special focus on addressing issues linked to the illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, with a view to rollout to other regions at CoP20. For West Africa, the CITES Enforcement Fund will focus on procuring resources for the following:
- a) Support enforcement priorities identified by the WAN;
 - b) Support for population surveys and NDFs, and for review of legal acquisition findings procedures, to ensure trade is sustainable and compliant with CITES;
 - c) Enable the development and distribution of enforcement resources to all West African countries, including identification guides.
31. To support enhanced efforts to combat illegal timber trade in West Africa, and recognizing in particular the regional and global impacts of illegal and unsustainable logging of tree species such as *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in the West African region, the Proponents are recommending a number of additional measures as follows:
- a) The creation of a West Africa CITES Timber Response Working Group, devoted to strengthening the protection of threatened tree species targeted for international trade in West Africa.
 - b) The development of a mechanism for all Parties to report timber seizures from West Africa in real time to the relevant exporting country, to enable swift response by the WAN.
 - c) The launch of a Heads of State meeting on illegal timber trade to be chaired by the African Union.

Recommendations

32. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
- a) recognize the urgency with which wildlife crime needs to be addressed in West Africa and the scale of the resources required to address this global challenge;
 - b) adopt the new decisions contained in Annex 1 of this document; and
 - c) adopt the amendment of Decision 18.90 proposed in Annex 2 of this document.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON
WILDLIFE CRIME AND CITES ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT
IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

CITES Enforcement Fund

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat, working in collaboration with the Plants Committee chair as appropriate, shall:

- a) develop a proposal for the establishment and administration of a CITES Enforcement Fund. This Fund will be piloted to provide support for the West Africa subregion with a special focus on addressing issues linked to the illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, and with a view to rollout to other regions at CoP20. The CITES Enforcement Fund will be a centralized fund for partners, organizations and donors. For the West African sub-region, the Fund will support:
 - WAN enforcement operations;
 - Population surveys and issuance of Non-Detriment Findings and legal acquisition findings ;
 - Development, translation and distribution of identification resources for enforcement authorities
- b) submit the proposal and recommendations to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.BB The Standing Committee shall:

- a) no later than its 78th meeting, review the recommendations made by the Plants Committee chair and the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.AA
- b) finalize recommendations on the mechanism for establishing and administering a CITES Enforcement Fund to be piloted in West Africa.
- c) make recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on setting up the Fund and on the rollout of the Fund to other regions.

Enforcement of timber listings and combatting timber crime

Directed to Parties

19.CC All Parties that seize timber which has been exported from West Africa, shall report the seizure to the exporting country and the Secretariat, no later than 10 days after the date of seizure. Reports should include any relevant intelligence information to support enforcement operations as appropriate.

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.DD The Plants Committee shall:

- a) set up a West Africa Timber Response Working Group mandated to:
 - i) identify West Africa Tree species at risk from illegal logging and international trade receiving inadequate CITES protection;
 - ii) support the development of West African tree species listing proposals as appropriate;

- iii) support West African Parties with the development of targeted funding proposals and the procurement of funds to support enforcement of CITES tree listings and the issuance of Non-Detriment Findings;
 - iv) make recommendations on the implementation of targeted demand-reduction campaigns working in close collaboration with countries importing timber from West Africa.
- b) make recommendations on issues of priority importance to address for the Head of States meeting facilitated by the CITES Secretariat under Decision 19.EE.
 - c) report on progress and recommendations to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.EE The Secretariat shall :

- a) seek external funding for and facilitate the organization of a Head of States meeting on illegal timber trade chaired by the African Union.
- b) support the work of the West Africa Timber Response Working Group by providing technical and interpretation/translation support as required.
- c) report on progress and recommendations to the Standing Committee for further action as appropriate

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.FF The Standing Committee shall, no later than its 78th meeting, review the recommendations made by the Plants Committee and the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.AA and 19.CC to 19.EE and make recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for further action as appropriate.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DECISION 18.90 ON
WILDLIFE CRIME ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT
IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Added text shown underlined and deleted text shown in ~~strike through~~.

Directed to Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa

18.90 *Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa are encouraged to assist their counterparts in West and Central Africa, by implementing measures that will address wildlife crime and support legal trade that is limited to sustainable levels, in particular by:*

- a) *supporting efforts to determine and ensure sustainable levels of trade through scientific studies that can facilitate the making of robust non-detriment findings;*
- b) *undertaking due diligence as outlined in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) and closely scrutinizing consignments of CITES-listed species imported from West and Central Africa and accompanying CITES documents to ensure that illegal species are not laundered into legal trade; and*
- c) *as a priority, raise any concerns about imports with the exporting State, or with the Animals Committee, Plants Committee, Standing Committee, or the Secretariat.*

Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa are encouraged to report on implementation of this Decision to the 77th and 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding.

Implementation of draft Decisions presented in Annex 1 will have workload implications for the Secretariat and Committees as follows:

- Work time in the development of a West Africa Timber Response Working Group. This should be included as a core part of the Secretariat's work and accommodated within its regular work programme.
- Work time in the development of a Proposal for the establishment of a CITES Enforcement Fund. This will require additional funding.
- Work time to seek external funding for and facilitate the organization of a Head of States meeting. This will require additional funding.

The amendment to Decision 18.90 presented in Annex 2 will not have workload implications for the Secretariat.