

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



Thirty-third meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 12 – 19 July 2024

Regional Matters

REGIONAL REPORT

AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by Ms Maha Ngalie and Dr Panta Kasoma on behalf of the Africa Region.

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.

Whereas, it would appear as if there are not many significant issues to report from the Region; Kenya responded to the request for information and data by the Secretariat for the consideration of AC33 regarding *Carcharhinus longimanus* and *Sphyrna lewini* in accordance with the requirement of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev CoP18) on Review of Significant Trade Process and *Kinyongia boehmei* in accordance with requirements of Res. Conf.17.7 (Rev CoP19) on Review of trade in specimens reported as produced in captivity.

At the request of CITES Secretariat, a document prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) concerning species that have been traded under source codes C, D, F or R in the last 5 years, led to the identification of Morocco as one of those countries required to report on species-country combinations for *Chlamydotis undulata*. Morocco's Management Authority responded on 27 September 2023 with the requested information.

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

No new facility was registered in the Region for breeding species in captivity for commercial purposes since the AC32. However, some members, such as Kenya, continued to undertake regular inspections of facilities licensed for breeding in captivity of CITES listed species for commercial trade, to monitor the operations and ensure compliance with conditions for licensing and meet requirements for national reporting to CITES with respect to permitting trade in CITES listed species.

d) Non-detriment findings

Between 4 and 8 December 2023, Kenya and other Africa regional Parties participated in the Experts Workshop on Non –Detriment Finding Studies organized by the Secretariat in Gigiri, Nairobi. The Workshop Modules provided CITES Parties with an understanding of the principles of making non-detriment findings (NDFs) looking specifically at what a non-detriment finding is, and how the issue of assessing a species' role in its ecosystem can be understood and addressed. The workshop also examined risk, uncertainty, and the use of conditions or precautionary measures on which a positive NDF might be dependent and also considered the making of NDFs in circumstances of low risk, low data, or low capacity ultimately helping to recommend how all these issues might be addressed through adaptive management.

Meanwhile, Uganda had conducted a NDF study for the leopard and a report of the study was shared with the CITES Secretariat. The Secretariat made some comments on the Leopard Study for Uganda and provided further guidance on conducting NDF. Meanwhile, Uganda participated in an online workshop organized by CITES Secretariat 20 – 21 June 2023 for Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to share their experience in conducting NDF for leopard. Botswana is also undertaking a National Leopard Survey which is coming to an end in the first quarter of 2025 in fulfillment of decision 18.166 and the report will be shared with the Animals Committee through CITES Secretariat. Furthermore, Botswana published Non-detriment findings (Addendum) for *Loxodonta africana* (African Elephant) Controlled Hunting in Botswana on the CITES website.

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 and AC32. Some of the work of the Working Groups has been discussed here at AC33.

Members such as Rwanda participated in working groups on Rules of Procedure, Electronic systems and information technologies, and the Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade.

Certain members continued improving the legislative framework in their countries to protect species. For example, Côte d'Ivoire adopted a national strategy to combat wildlife crime and 3 other laws in 2024, including:

- Law 2024-364 of 11 June 2024 on wildlife management.
- Law 2024-365 of 11 June 2024 on the protection of the elephant
- Law 2024-366 of 11 June 2024 on international trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna.

For the DRC, the concern is related to the effective implementation of the reservation made at the time of the transfer of the grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) from Appendix II to Appendix I (Conf.4.25(Rev CoP19)). The country remains committed to conducting studies on this species with a view to developing its management plan. However, this activity is still hampered by a lack of financial resources.

Rwanda participated in different CITES related meetings including the CITES Youth Global Network (CGYN) which took place on 20th to 26th April 2024, in Singapore. The meeting brought together 41 participants from 30 countries worldwide that are parties to CITES.

f) Regional Meetings and Workshops

CITES Secretariat with funding from Conservation Force and Dallas Safari Club Foundation organized an online workshop with Parties with leopard quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) on 20 June 2024 to provide an opportunity for the Parties to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining quotas and to discuss whether guidance to assist Parties in making non-detriment findings (NDFs) are needed.

Eight of the ten Parties with quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) namely Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated in the online workshop.

Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) that participated in the online workshop exchanged information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild through presentations that included information on the following (presentations shared with participating Parties):

- i. **Species specific information – national level** (species biology and life history; species range (distribution and density); population structure, status and trends; conservation status; threats)
- ii. **Information relating to harvest, monitoring and management** [harvest impacts / total offtake impacts (impact on harvest area and population); trade impacts (on harvest area, national population and internationally, legal and illegal trade); population monitoring (programmes and methods); management measures including adaptive management (size/age/sex limits; specified areas; limits on effort / gear; land tenure control/system); quota monitoring, conservation and socio-economic benefits]
- iii. **Lessons learnt; challenges, opportunities** [lessons learnt on making NDF, quota setting processes and monitoring of quotas/hunting and populations / survey methods); challenges and possible actions to address these (possible areas of support / guidance needed); opportunities to collaborate and share information relating to effective practices and methods]

Key observations and recommendations from the Leopard NDF Workshop are contained in the addendum to Document AC33 Doc. 18.

An inter-regional coordination workshop between West and Central Africa in the fight against wildlife crime was organized by Côte d'Ivoire and Born Free USA from July 10 to 14, 2023, with the participation of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, DRC.

g) CITES-listed Species Action Plans

Most member countries that had previously developed Cites-listed species action plans continued to implement them. Others, such as Rwanda initiated and completed the development of action plans for elephants, lions and giraffe. Kenya is developing or has completed action plans for additional species that did not have plans previously such as vultures, pangolins and the Grey Crowned Crane.

Botswana has approved National Leopard Management and Action Plan 2024-34 which is expected to guide leopard conservation over the next decade. That Action Plan is published as AC33 Inf. 22 on the CITES website.

h) Capacity building

Uganda has continued to organize training workshops for customs, police and wildlife law enforcement officers in preventing wildlife trafficking across the region. Similarly, other member countries such as DRC, Botswana, Rwanda, Morocco and Côte d'Ivoire have also undertaken a variety of trainings for their law enforcement and customs officers on aspects such as wildlife crime investigation techniques, financial and electronic fraud, ivory tagging, and identification of CITES-listed species. A variety of organizations such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Born Free- USA, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) have facilitated these trainings.

i) Electronic Permitting

Uganda's online electronic CITES permits application and issuance system launched in 2022 is now fully operational and used by traders, Scientific and Management Authority to ease permit processing. The e-permitting system can be accessed at the following address; <https://cites.tourism.go.ug>.

Other member countries such as Morocco and Rwanda are in the process of developing and adopting an electronic permitting system.

j) Regional and International Cooperation

Rwanda participated in different CITES related meetings including the CITES Youth Global Network (CGYN) which took place on 20th to 26th April 2024, in Singapore. The meeting brought together 41 participants from 30 countries worldwide that are parties to CITES.

Pursuant to Decision 19.167, call for the CITES dialogue meeting as per Resolution Conf. 14.5 on Dialogue meetings for African elephant range States. Botswana offered to host the dialogue meeting in 2024, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee. This meeting is now scheduled for 23-26 September 2024, in Maun, Botswana.

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 national reports. This is a challenge that we will continue to discuss internally within the region.