

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Compliance

NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN PROCESS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to the *Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plan Process* contained in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19).
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.68 to 19.70 on *Review of the National Ivory Action Plans Process* (see Annex 1 to the present document).

Implementation of Decision 19.68 on *Review of the National Ivory Action Plans Process*

3. In accordance with Decision 19.68, the Secretariat has started the process of contracting a consultant in line with the rules and regulations of the United Nations. The Secretariat is consulting with the Standing Committee through its Chair to undertake the tasks as specified in the terms of reference in that Decision. The Secretariat wishes to express its gratitude to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for providing financial support to implement this Decision.

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) concerning NIAPs

4. There are currently 13 Parties participating in the NIAP process. Four Parties are in Category A (most affected by the illegal trade in ivory): the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Togo and Viet Nam. These Parties require priority attention. Four are in category B (markedly affected by the illegal trade in ivory): Cambodia, Gabon, Malaysia and Mozambique. Finally, five Parties are in Category C (affected by the illegal trade in ivory): Angola, Cameroon, Congo, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Qatar.
5. In accordance with the timeframe set in Step 4, paragraph a) of the *Guidelines*, Parties should submit their reports on progress with NIAP implementation to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of each regular Standing Committee meeting.
6. At the 75th meeting (SC75; Panama City, November 2022), the Secretariat presented document SC75 Doc. 7.4, which, *inter alia*, reviewed progress reports submitted by Parties that did not report to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74; Lyon, March 2022) in accordance with the *Guidelines*. Based on the document and the discussions, the Standing Committee made specific recommendations concerning Angola, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Togo. Following SC75, the Secretariat sent separate letters to these Parties to draw their attention to the specific recommendations directed to them, as well as the deadline to submit new reports on progress made on NIAP implementation, i.e., 7 August 2023 (90 days in advance of SC77).
7. The Secretariat received progress reports from Cambodia, Mozambique and Qatar before the deadline, and reports from Angola, Cameroon and Nigeria after the deadline. Progress reports from these six Parties have been assessed by the Secretariat and are to be considered by the Standing Committee. The Secretariat evaluated these reports in accordance with Step 4, paragraphs c) and d), of the *Guidelines*.
8. The Secretariat draws the attention of the Standing Committee to the fact that the assessment of the NIAP implementation reports is labour intensive and the Conference of the Parties has not provided resources to

conduct this important work. The temporary human resources that had been given the task to support NIAP countries and assess their reports in addition to their other tasks, ended their contract on 31 December 2022 and the Secretariat was not provided with additional external financial resources to conduct this work. The NIAP process requires stable and reliable external resources to consistently maintain the needed engagement with the affected countries. The Secretariat thus undertook the analysis requested in paragraph 10 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19), using core staff that is overstretched trying to implement its core duties with the limited available human and financial resources available.

9. At the time of writing, the Secretariat notes that the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Togo and Viet Nam as Category A Parties; Gabon and Malaysia as Category B Parties; and the Congo and the Lao People's Democratic Republic as Category C Parties, did not submit progress reports in time for the present meeting, as required by Step 4, paragraph a), of the *Guidelines*. The observations of the Secretariat on these Parties are presented below.

Implementation of National Ivory Action Plans by Parties (organized in alphabetical order)

Angola (Category C – in NIAP since 2014)

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY						
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
Angola's assessment (SC70)	40% (19 of 47 actions)	0% (0 of 47 actions)	0% (0 of 47 actions)	30% (14 of 47 actions)	21% (10 of 47 actions)	9% (4 of 47 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC70)	40% (19 of 47 actions)	0% (0 of 47 actions)	6.5% (3 of 47 actions)	32% (15 of 47 actions)	6.5% (3 of 47 actions)	15% (7 of 47 actions)
Angola's assessment (following SC74)	81% (38 of 47 actions)	0% (0 of 47 actions)	0% (0 of 47 actions)	17% (8 of 47 actions)	2% (1 of 47 actions)	0% (0 of 47 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC75)	77% (36 of 47 actions)	0% (0 of 47 actions)	13% (6 of 47 actions)	8% (4 of 47 actions)	0% (0 of 47 actions)	2% (1 of 47 actions)

10. At SC75, the Standing Committee agreed recommendation c) directed to Angola under agenda item 7.4 as recorded in summary record [SC75 SR](#). The Committee agreed an overall rating of 'limited progress', in line with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*; and welcomed the progress made by Angola since SC70 and encouraged the Party to build upon this to fully implement its NIAP.
11. The report submitted by Angola after the 7 August deadline for consideration at the present meeting is available as Annex 2 to the present document. The report contains no new progress made but instead only provides some clarifications concerning the action points which the Secretariat questioned in its assessment of Angola's previous report to SC74 covering the period 2018 to 2020. As explained in the report, the reason for this is that some of the papers are still in draft and are being prepared for approval in the current year.
12. The Secretariat appreciates the clarifications provided but is concerned about the stagnation of NIAP implementation in Angola in the past two years since the previous report covers the period 2018-2020. In its previous report, Angola assessed 81% of the actions as "achieved" with the status of all the remaining actions were assessed as 'partial progress.' In order to explain this lack of progress, Angola mentions the lack of commitment of other relevant government agencies in the implementation of NIAP; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and changes of ministers as obstacles. In the meantime, Angola requests international technical assistance in the training of its technical staff.
13. The Secretariat draws the attention of the Committee to the statement made by Angola highlighting that, despite the achievement of a majority of its NIAP action points, the country is experiencing difficulties with the control of ivory trafficking- The authorities of Angola declared that the challenge is mainly due to

increasing wild elephant populations throughout the country and there is limited government capacity to manage and monitor those populations.

14. The ETIS report prepared for CoP19 no longer identifies Angola as a priority Party. While this is a positive development, sustained action and vigilance remain essential, especially considering the situation and the challenges highlighted by Angola. In light of the above, the Standing Committee may wish to consider an overall rating of 'limited progress' for Angola, in line with Step 4, paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*. The Standing Committee may also wish to invite Parties and other potential donors to provide financial support to assist Angola in the implementation of the existing NIAP and its revision to respond to the new arising challenges as appropriate.

Cambodia (Category B – in NIAP since 2014)

	% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
Cambodia's assessment (SC74)	61% (8 of 13 actions)	8% (1 of 13 actions)	23% (3 of 13 actions)	8% (1 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC74)	23% (3 of 13 actions)	8% (1 of 13 actions)	61% (8 of 13 actions)	8% (1 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)
Cambodia's assessment (SC77)	31% (4 of 13 actions)	69% (9 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC77)	23% (3 of 13 actions)	62% (8 of 13 actions)	15% (2 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)

15. At SC74, the Standing Committee adopted recommendations c) and d) under agenda item 28.4 concerning Cambodia as recorded in summary record [SC74 SR](#). The Committee noted the progress made by Cambodia in implementing its NIAP and its request to exit the NIAP process. The Committee agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Cambodia, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*.
16. [Cambodia's NIAP](#) includes 13 priority actions. Cambodia's self-assessment submitted for consideration at the present meeting, available as Annex 3 to the present document, evaluates 4 actions as 'achieved', and 9 as 'substantially achieved'.
17. The Secretariat welcomes the substantial progress made by Cambodia in the implementation of its NIAP as demonstrated by concrete new efforts on every action point. The Secretariat also recognizes the regular submission of reports and information by Cambodia to the CITES Secretariat (action 5.1).
18. Regarding action 2.1 in the NIAP, in its assessment of the progress report that was submitted to SC74, the Secretariat commended the Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRT) as an important undertaking in Cambodia but noted its limitation to domestic level crime in Cambodia. The Secretariat is therefore pleased to see the updated information on how the Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit has worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to track and investigate cross border wildlife trafficking from neighbouring countries. Regarding action 2.3, the Secretariat has not received any information on the provision of equipment to customs and border control agencies to enhance the detection of wildlife crime, as foreseen by this action point. The Secretariat assumes that the package of devices provided by UNODC serves a different purpose. Cambodia may wish to clarify if such equipment has been provided. In the absence of such a clarification, the Secretariat proposes to rate action 2.3 as 'on track'.
19. Regarding action 6.1, Cambodia may wish to clarify if it intends to make a full request to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime for support of the implementation of the toolkit.
20. Overall, Cambodia has shown demonstrable progress with the implementation of its NIAP since SC74 and worked together with the Secretariat and UNODC to obtain additional support. The Committee may wish to agree an overall rating of 'achieved' for Cambodia, in accordance with Step 4 paragraph e) of the

Guidelines and invite the Secretariat to engage with relevant experts to further evaluate progress made by Cambodia so that the Secretariat can make a recommendation whether Cambodia can exit the NIAP process by the next meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78).

Cameroon (Category C – in NIAP since 2014)

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY						
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
Cameroon's self-assessment (SC70)	28% (13 of 47 actions)	42% (20 of 47 actions)	13% (6 of 47 actions)	9% (4 of 47 actions)	2% (1 of 47 actions)	6% (3 of 47 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC70)	25% (12 of 47 actions)	25% (12 of 47 actions)	32% (15 of 47 actions)	9% (4 of 47 actions)	2% (1 of 47 actions)	6% (3 of 47 actions)
Cameroon's self-assessment (following SC74)	39% (17 of 44 actions)	30% (13 of 44 actions)	25% (11 of 44 actions)	4% (2 of 44 actions)	0% (0 of 44 actions)	2% (1 of 44 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC75)	34% (15 of 44 actions)	21% (9 of 44 actions)	36% (16 of 44 actions)	7% (3 of 44 actions)	0% (0 of 44 actions)	2% (1 of 44 actions)
Cameroon's self-assessment (SC77)	48% (21 of 44 actions)	16% (7 of 44 actions)	32% (14 of 44 actions)	2% (1 of 44 actions)	0% (0 of 44 actions)	2% (1 of 44 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC77)	34% (14 of 44 actions)	21% (9 of 44 actions)	36% (17 of 44 actions)	7% (3 of 44 actions)	0% (0 of 44 actions)	2% (1 of 44 actions)

21. At SC75, the Standing Committee adopted recommendation d) for Cameroon under agenda item 7.4 as recorded in summary record [SC75 SR](#). The Committee agreed an overall rating of 'limited progress', in line with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines* and encouraged Cameroon to intensify its efforts to seek funding for the effective implementation of its NIAP.
22. The [NIAP of Cameroon](#) contains 43 priority actions. In its progress report submitted for consideration at the present meeting, the Party reported on all 43 actions of its NIAP as well as on one additional action (action 4.3.4). Cameroon's self-assessment, available as Annex 4 to the present document, evaluates 21 actions as 'achieved', 7 as 'substantially achieved', 14 as 'on track', 1 as having achieved 'partial progress' and 1 as 'not commenced'.
23. In its report, Cameroon highlights some progress made between May 2022 and July 2023 in advancing in the implementation of its NIAP, which includes: holding of the *ad hoc* intersectoral and NIAP monitoring committee in September 2022; auditing of the storage and management system for ivory and other wildlife products; improved security of ivory storage stores; launch of a project with the African Elephant Protection Initiative (EPIF) to secure stocks of ivory seized in Cameroon; continuity of Higher Military Preparations (Préparations Militaire Supérieures – PMS) in order to give the various eco-guards involved in the conservation of biodiversity the physical and tactical skills necessary for the fight against large-scale poaching; capacity-building of ministerial staff in analyzing wildlife crime scenes with the collaboration of certain development partners; improvement of surveillance and monitoring in protected areas through the effective use of boats, camera traps and drones. Cameroon states that the full implementation of the various activities of Cameroon's NIAP remains strongly correlated to the availability of sufficient financial resources.
24. In its review of the report submitted by Cameroon for consideration at SC75, the Secretariat suggested that the ratings for actions 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 4.1.2, 5.3.1, 6.1.2 be moved from 'substantially achieved' to 'on track' due to the lack of progress. The Secretariat notes that the ratings for these actions are now rated as 'on track' in

the new progress report so no progress has been made in implementing these action points since SC75. Action 5.1.2 is an exception as progress was made in strengthening the security of ivory storage premises.

25. In its reports to both SC75 and SC77, Cameroon raises concerns about the sustainability of the implementation of its NIAP. In its report to SC75, Cameroon indicates that it has observed a drop in the frequency of training for ministerial and customs field staff relating to data collection and filling out ETIS forms (action 5.6.1). Although it is encouraging to see some progress made on this particular action point in its report to SC77, the same cannot be said for several other action points. For action point 5.7.2 on the organization of missions to follow-up disputes in the high-pressure zones, Cameroon continues to draw attention to the fact that, since 2018, the designated team has not been able to carry out field surveys due to lack of financial resources. On action 5.7.4 on tracking effective enforcement of court decisions, it states that insufficient financial resources make it difficult to monitor all disputes simultaneously and regularly. Despite such circumstances, Cameroon still rates both actions 5.7.2 and 5.7.4 as 'substantially achieved'. In this context, the Secretariat also notes that Cameroon has not been able to make significant progress on actions 5.7.3 and 6.1.1 ('not commenced') in its NIAP due to funding constraints.
26. The Secretariat encourages Cameroon to closely check the level of completion of each action point when evaluating its implementation. The indicators set in Cameroon's NIAP often feature number and quantity. For example, for action point 5.2.2 on the acquisition of detection equipment to improve capacity in contraband detection, the indicator is the number of equipment acquired for each control facility, assuming that there are multiple control facilities across the country. Cameroon rates this action as "achieved" after stating that one canine brigade will be deployed at Nsimalen International Airport. The Secretariat suggests that 'on track' will be more appropriate until the multiple control facilities across the country are properly equipped. Likewise, the indicator for action 6.3.2 is the "number of activities undertaken by the phone companies with the aim of raising awareness of the preservation of elephants". This action is rated as 'achieved' in the latest report when the only activity quoted is a public awareness message broadcasted on the International Pangolin Day in 2022. The Secretariat suggests that 'on track' will be more appropriate for this activity.
27. The ETIS report prepared for CoP19 no longer identifies Cameroon as a priority Party. While this is a positive development, sustained action and vigilance remain essential. Cameroon is therefore encouraged to continue implementing its NIAP. The Standing Committee may wish to encourage Cameroon to intensify efforts to seek funding for the effective implementation of these actions. The Standing Committee may also wish to invite Parties and other potential donors to provide financial support to assist Cameroon in the implementation of the existing NIAP and its revision to respond to the new arising challenges as appropriate.
28. Overall, the report of Cameroon demonstrates continued progress with NIAP implementation, and the Standing Committee may wish to consider an overall rating of 'limited progress' for Cameroon, in line with Step 4 of the *Guidelines*.

Congo (Category C – in NIAP since 2014)

29. At SC74, the Standing Committee adopted a full set of recommendations directed to the Congo under agenda item 28.4 as recorded in summary record [SC74 SR](#), as follows:
 - i) noted the limited progress made by the Congo in implementing its NIAP and encouraged the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP;
 - ii) requested the Congo, in its future NIAP implementation progress reports, to report on all progress made in the implementation of each NIAP action since the NIAP was approved in 2015, and to allocate a rating to each NIAP action based on the overall progress made in implementing the action since 2015;
 - iii) requested the Congo if it wishes to revise and update its NIAP found to be adequate in 2015, to do so using the template for NIAP development available on the NIAP webpage and, if applicable, to provide justification for the removal of, or the reduction of the scope of, any actions which have not yet been achieved or substantially achieved in the NIAP originally found to be adequate;
 - iv) encouraged the Congo to commence the implementation of actions 4.1, 5.2 and 6.1 of its NIAP;
 - v) agreed an overall rating of 'limited progress' for the Congo, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*; and

- vi) encouraged Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others to provide, where possible, financial and technical assistance to the Congo to support the implementation of its NIAP.
30. The Congo did not submit a progress report on its NIAP implementation for consideration at the present meeting. The Committee may consider inviting the Congo, if present, to provide an oral update on its progress at the present meeting. It is also worth noting that the Congo has not submitted any report to ETIS since it was included in the NIAP process in 2014.
31. In the absence of any report or oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC77, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to issue a warning, requesting the Congo to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (Category A – in NIAP since 2014)

32. At SC75, the Standing Committee agreed recommendation e) under agenda item 7.4, directed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The recommendation can be found in summary record [SC75 SR](#). The Committee noted that the DRC moved to the category of highest prominence under the NIAP process as a Category A Party. The Committee requested the DRC to enhance efforts to progress the implementation of its NIAP as a matter of priority between SC75 and SC77, and to prioritize the implementation of the actions under pillars C on information related to crimes and E on law enforcement operations. Unless satisfied with timely progress in the implementation of NIAP actions by the DRC, the Committee agreed to make recommendations as appropriate, which may include recommendations in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures*.
33. The Secretariat sent a letter to the DRC in July 2023, reminding it of the recommendations of the Standing Committee at SC75 and the deadline for submitting its NIAP report. The DRC sent a letter to the Secretariat on 30 September 2023, available as Annex 8 to document SC77 Doc. 34, requesting the postponement of the review of its report on NIAP implementation until the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78). The reasons provided by the DRC on its inability to submit a report to the present meeting are: a) insecurity in the east of the country caused by armed groups; b) the restructuring of the CITES Management Authority of the DRC paralyzed its functioning for several months which made it impossible to bring together all those who contribute to the preparation of NIAP progress reports; c) insufficient financial resources which prevented the organization of planned activities and the collection of useful data to prepare the progress report for the year 2023 which coincided with the organization of general elections in the DRC.
34. The Secretariat wishes to reiterate the fact that the DRC made the most significant shift amongst all Parties identified by the ETIS report prepared for CoP19. The DRC's movement to the highest category of prominence in the ETIS analysis prepared for CoP19, and the available information on recent trends demonstrate that there is an urgent need for further action and stepped-up efforts in the DRC. The ETIS report prepared for CoP19 highlights that, from 2018 to 2020, the DRC had the highest volume of illegal ivory trade that was not detected in country (i.e., weight-out), which in total consisted of 31% of the implicated trade volume by weight for the 65 countries included in the ETIS analysis. The report furthermore highlights that the two largest seizures ever recorded in ETIS were exported from DRC in 2019 and constituted over 83% of the 21.5 tonnes of reported seized ivory that implicated the DRC. In this context, the report states that, during the same time, the DRC reportedly seized only 329 kg of ivory in country, and that the DRC itself has not reported to ETIS since 2016. The report notes that the two record-setting seizures had similar reported illegal trade routes going from the DRC transiting through the Congo. In this context, the ETIS report also points to the Organized Crime Index by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, which ranks the DRC with the highest criminality score among 193 countries, attributing high scores to illegal wildlife trade as well as other contraband.
35. The Secretariat encourages the DRC to submit a revised progress report ahead of SC77, using the template for reporting on progress available on the NIAP webpage, and including information on the implementation of actions C.1, C.2, C.3, E.1 and E.2, so that the Standing Committee can consider the Party's progress with NIAP implementation alongside that of the other NIAP Parties. If a progress report is not received from the DRC, the Standing Committee might consider inviting the DRC, if present, to provide an oral update on its progress at the present meeting.
36. The Committee may wish to, in line with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, consider appropriate measures, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*, to ensure compliance with the NIAP Process.

Gabon (Category B – in NIAP since 2014)

37. At SC74, the Standing Committee adopted recommendation h) under agenda item 28.4 concerning Gabon as recorded in summary record [SC74 SR](#). The Committee requested Gabon to take note of the observations of the Secretariat in its assessment regarding actions B.2, C.2 E.4 and E.9 of the NIAP; invited Gabon to elaborate in more detail in its future reports on the activities implemented to achieve these actions; and agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Gabon, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.
38. Gabon did not submit a progress report on its NIAP implementation for consideration at the present meeting. The Committee may consider inviting Gabon, if present, to provide an oral update on its progress at the present meeting. It is also worth noting that Gabon has not submitted any report to ETIS since it was included in the NIAP process in 2014.
39. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to issue a warning, requesting the Gabon to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) (Category C – in NIAP since 2014)

40. At SC74 the Standing Committee adopted recommendation i) under agenda item 28.4 concerning the Lao PDR as recorded in summary record [SC74 SR](#). The Committee noted the revised and updated NIAP of the Lao PDR; and agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress' for the Lao PDR, accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.
41. The Lao DPR did not submit a progress report on its NIAP implementation for consideration at the present meeting. The Committee may consider inviting the Lao PDR, if present, to provide an oral update on its progress at the present meeting.
42. In the absence of any report or an oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC77, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to issue a warning, requesting the Lao PDR to submit its NIAP progress reports to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77.

Malaysia (Category B – in NIAP since 2013)

43. At SC74, the Standing Committee adopted recommendations j) and k) under agenda item 28.4 concerning Malaysia, as contained in summary record [SC74 SR](#). While commending Malaysia for achieving its NIAP, the Committee encouraged Malaysia to submit a report to the Secretariat, 90 days before the deadline for submission of documents to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77), on any further measures taken and activities implemented to combat illegal ivory trade, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee at SC77; and requested the Secretariat to continue to monitor progress in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18), and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee. The Committee agreed that it will consider at SC77 whether Malaysia should exit the NIAP process, in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines*.
44. The ETIS report for CoP19 ranked Malaysia as the fourth country in terms of the number of seizure-out (500 kg+), and fifth for the total seized weight (weight-out 500 kg). Overall, the country accounted for 6% of the total weight-out trade among the 65 countries or territories included in the analysis. Given these reported illegal trade chains, the ETIS report considers that Malaysia maintains its transit status with illegal trade linking it to African range States as well as Asian consumer States.
45. Malaysia did not submit a progress report on its NIAP implementation for consideration at the present meeting. The Committee may consider inviting Malaysia, if present, to provide an oral update on its progress at the present meeting.
46. In the absence of any report or an oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC77, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to issue a warning,

requesting Malaysia to submit its NIAP progress reports to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77.

Mozambique (Category B – in NIAP since 2014)

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY						
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
Mozambique's assessment (following SC74)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	6% (1 of 16 actions)	50% (8 of 16 actions)	44% (7 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC75)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	56% (9 of 16 actions)	44% (7 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)
Mozambique's assessment (SC77)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	25% (4 of 16 actions)	62.5% (10 of 16 actions)	12.5% (2 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC77)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	6% (2 of 16 actions)	50% (11 of 16 actions)	44% (3 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)	0% (0 of 16 actions)

47. At SC75, the Standing Committee adopted recommendation f) under agenda item 7.4 concerning Mozambique as recorded in summary record [SC75 SR](#). The Committee agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress', in line with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*; and encouraged Mozambique to take note of the information about Vietnamese crime syndicates operating from the country and to further strengthen its engagement with Viet Nam, undertaking joint operations and further strengthening information and intelligence exchange, drawing upon relevant agreements signed with Viet Nam, as appropriate.
48. The NIRAP of Mozambique includes 16 priority actions. Mozambique's self-assessment, available as Annex 5 to document SC77 Doc. 34, evaluates 4 actions as 'substantially achieved', 10 as being 'on track', and 2 as having achieved 'partial progress'.
49. Regarding action 2.4, the Secretariat noted that the action, rated as 'substantially achieved' in part C of the progress report, is rated as 'achieved' in part B. The Secretariat commends the efforts in organizing regular training for officers from different law enforcement agencies and magistrates particularly in 2023 with a total of 396 being trained. However, since there is no indication on progress made against milestone 3, the Secretariat concurs with the rating as 'substantially achieved' in part C and assumes this was the intention.
50. Regarding action 2.6, the Secretariat welcomes the updates that, since the beginning of dehorning from November 2019 to July 2023, there has been no registration of rhino mortality due to poaching in Mozambique; and 29 rhinos were reintroduced in Zinave National Park. However, it did not receive any information on the dehorning of rhinos in the Limpopo National Park. In the absence of such information, the Secretariat believes that a rating of 'on track' would be more appropriate for this action.
51. Having seen no update on strengthening its engagement with Viet Nam, the Standing Committee may once again wish to encourage Mozambique to further strengthen its engagement with Viet Nam, by undertaking joint operations and further enhancing information and intelligence exchange, drawing upon relevant agreements signed with Viet Nam, as appropriate.
52. The Secretariat recommends an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Mozambique, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

Nigeria (Category A – in NIAP since 2014)

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY						
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
Nigeria's assessment (following SC74)	0% (0 of 19 actions)	26% (5 of 19 actions)	64% (12 of 19 actions)	10% (2 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC75)	0% (0 of 19 actions)	10% (2 of 19 actions)	69% (13 of 19 actions)	21% (4 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)
Nigeria's assessment (SC77)	31.5% (6 of 19 actions)	31.5% (6 of 19 actions)	37% (7 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC77)	0% (0 of 19 actions)	47% (7 of 19 actions)	47% (10 of 19 actions)	10% (2 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)

53. At SC75, the Standing Committee agreed recommendation g) under agenda item 7.4 concerning Nigeria as recorded in summary record [SC75 SR](#). The Committee agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress', in line with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*; noted the concerns regarding the escalation of illegal trade in ivory as it affects Nigeria, as detailed in paragraph 35 of Annex 2 to document SC75 Doc. 7.4; and encouraged Nigeria to urgently progress its NIAP implementation, including through considering the actions in its NIAP when advancing the implementation of the National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022 – 2026.
54. The [NIAP of Nigeria](#) contains 19 priority actions. Nigeria's self-assessment on progress with NIAP implementation, available as Annex 6 to document SC77 Doc. 34, evaluates 6 actions as 'achieved', 6 as 'substantially achieved' and 7 as 'on track'.
55. Regarding action A2 the Secretariat welcomes the progress made in reviewing national wildlife legislation and comparing penalty frameworks with neighbouring countries and other available resources but notes that the activities related to the comparison with other countries are still assessed as on track. Nigeria may wish to clarify if comparison with other countries as well as other available resources has been completed. In the absence of such a clarification, the Secretariat proposes to rate action A2 as 'substantially achieved'.
56. Regarding action B1, the Secretariat noted in its report to SC75 the absence of information on the development of a national protocol for intelligence gathering and investigation procedures, which is foreseen in milestone 2 of the action. In the absence of information in this regard, the Secretariat believes that a rating of 'on track' would be more appropriate for this action.
57. Regarding action B10 on stepping up law enforcement efforts outside protected areas, the Secretariat noted that the reported activities focus on awareness-raising and livelihoods opportunities by creating job and economic empowerment, which are positive steps. However, these activities do not represent classic law enforcement measures. The only example provided as a result of increased patrolling of areas outside protected areas is the seizure of one live specimen and its reintroduction to the wild. Based on the above, the Secretariat proposes to rate action B10 as 'on track'.
58. Regarding action B12, the Secretariat welcomes the deployment of new scanners at Apapa seaport, TinCan Sea port, and Lagos State where major shipments occur. The scanners at Port Harcourt seaport are functioning. However, based on the information provided, the Secretariat notes that the efforts by Nigeria to build capacity among relevant law enforcement agencies operational at ports of entry and exit to strengthen CITES controls are still ongoing and have not yet resulted in putting in place mature risk management practices. In particular, a risk-based management approach for container control has not yet been fully implemented. In light of these considerations, the Secretariat believes that a rating of 'on track' would be more appropriate for this action.

59. Regarding action B13, the Secretariat believes that a rating of 'partial progress' would be more appropriate as most of the milestones for this action have not yet been met. Most notably, no activities are reported concerning milestones 3 to 5.
60. Regarding action C1 on the development of a transboundary wildlife enforcement framework with neighbouring countries which include Benin in the west, Chad, and Cameroon in the east, and Niger in the north, the Secretariat believes that a rating of 'partial progress' would be more appropriate since no cooperation framework agreement has yet been signed with any neighbouring countries. Furthermore, most of the milestones for this action have not yet been met. Most notably, no activities as envisioned in milestones 3 to 5 have been reported so far.
61. Regarding action D1, the Secretariat commends the efforts made by Nigeria to increase awareness and the capacity of judiciary and police on wildlife crime. However, the report has not touched upon all milestones, in particular M5 and M6. With this in mind, the Secretariat suggests a rating of 'on track' for this action.
62. Concerning action E1 on regular reporting to ETIS and to the CITES Standing Committee, the Secretariat recalls that Nigeria, as noted by the Standing Committee in recommendation m) at SC74, did not submit its reports on progress with NIAP implementation in time for SC66, SC67, SC69, SC70 and SC74. The progress report for consideration at SC77 was also submitted after the deadline. Also, as noted in the ETIS report to CoP19, Nigeria has not reported data to ETIS since 2017. A rating of 'achieved' is not justified.
63. The Secretariat recommends an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Nigeria, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

Qatar (Category C – in NIAP since 2017)

	% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
Qatar's assessment (June 2020)	33.3% (5 of 15 actions)	33.3% (5 of 15 actions)	33.3% (5 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (June 2020)	33% (5 of 15 actions)	27% (4 of 15 actions)	40% (6 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)
Qatar's assessment (SC77)	40% (6 of 15 actions)	40% (6 of 15 actions)	20% (3 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC77)	33% (5 of 15 actions)	40% (6 of 15 actions)	27% (4 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)	0% (0 of 15 actions)

64. At SC74, the Standing Committee adopted recommendation n) under agenda item 28.4 concerning Qatar as recorded in summary record [SC74 SR](#). The Committee agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Qatar, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*; and requested Qatar to continue to progress the implementation of its NIAP between SC74 and SC77.
65. The [NIAP of Qatar](#) contains 15 priority actions. Qatar's self-assessment on progress with NIAP implementation submitted for consideration at the present meeting, available as Annex 7 to document SC77 Doc. 34, evaluates 6 actions as 'achieved', 6 as 'substantially achieved' and 2 as 'on track'.
66. In its report, Qatar highlights some progress made since its report to SC74 on the following activities: efforts to improve the efficiency of the enforcement personnel at Hamad International Airport by providing appropriate training on a regular basis to most of the law enforcement officers; monthly follow-up by the CITES Management Authority on the effectiveness of such training in helping the performance of daily tasks; the inclusion of training on CITES and combating wildlife crime in State programmes which also covered other topics such as judicial control and standardized electronic inspection; random inspections carried out by the staff of the Wildlife Protection Department to ensure the performance of the crews that were trained inside the airport (the confiscation of ivory until June 2023 amounting to 769,984 kilograms is considered as an evidence of the impact of such practices); the continuation of cooperation with source countries in exchanging information about ivory; media participation in all training activities and events inside Hamad

International Airport, as a result of which all cases of confiscation are published on social media; and the work on the inventory of ivory maintained on an annual basis despite staff changes.

67. Regarding action C1, the Secretariat notes that Qatar provided the same information in its report for SC73, yet the rating of this action has changed from 'on track' to 'substantially achieved'. In the absence of further information, the Secretariat proposes that the rating of 'on track' remain in place. Qatar is encouraged to report whether the specific plan as envisaged under C1 has been implemented. Regarding actions E.2 and E.3, the Secretariat encourages Qatar to continue submitting its inventory of government-held ivory stock and significant privately held ivory stocks, and annual illegal trade reports to the Secretariat.
68. Overall, on the basis of the reporting provided by Qatar for the present meeting, the Secretariat commends Qatar for the efforts made in implementing its NIAP since 2020. Although some excellent work has been done, there is no room for complacency and Qatar is encouraged to step up efforts to progress the implementation of the actions in its NIAP and remain vigilant and continue to pursue activities as anticipated.
69. The Committee may wish to consider an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Qatar, in line with Step 4, paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*.

Togo (Category A – in NIAP since 2017)

70. The Standing Committee considered the progress report of Togo at SC75 and adopted recommendation h) under agenda item 7.4, contained in summary record [SC75 SR](#). The Committee agreed an overall rating of 'limited progress', in line with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*; noted that seven out of the 21 actions in Togo's NIAP are rated as 'not commenced'; and encouraged Togo to move ahead with the overall implementation of its NIAP with a sense of greater urgency.
71. Togo did not submit a progress report on its NIAP implementation for consideration at the present meeting. The Committee may consider inviting Togo, if present, to provide an oral update on its progress at the present meeting.
72. The ETIS reports prepared for CoP18 and CoP19 no longer identify Togo as a priority Party. While this is a positive development, sustained action and vigilance remain essential. Togo is therefore encouraged to complete the implementation of its NIAP with a greater sense of urgency.
73. In the absence of any report or an oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC77, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to issue a warning, requesting Togo to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77.

Viet Nam (Category A – in NIAP since 2013)

74. In its recommendation p) under agenda item 28.4 in summary record [SC74 SR](#), the Standing Committee noted the progress made by Viet Nam in implementing its NIRAP and its request to exit the NIAP process; agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Viet Nam, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*; requested Viet Nam to continue to progress the implementation of its NIRAP between SC74 and SC77; encouraged Viet Nam to continue to implement activities specifically targeting key locations known to be associated with illegal wildlife trade, both at its borders and in domestic markets; and encouraged Viet Nam to build upon the findings made through the survey conducted in accordance with action 2.5 in the NIRAP, regarding illegal online wildlife trade, and to respond to the findings of the survey through the implementation of appropriate measures and activities
75. Viet Nam did not submit a report on progress with its NIRAP implementation for the present meeting. The Committee may consider inviting Viet Nam, if present, to provide an oral update on its progress at the present meeting.
76. Viet Nam has been a Category A Party participating in the NIAP process since 2013. The ETIS report for CoP19 shows that Viet Nam had the weight-out from 2018 – 2020 accounting for 11% of the volume of illegal ivory trade, which included the largest seizure ever recorded in ETIS (9.1 tonnes). The Party also ranked the highest in the number of large-scale raw ivory seizures made in country and the total weight seized in country from small (< 500 kg) and large (500 kg+) seizures. Collectively, Viet Nam accounted

for 34% of the volume by weight of the seizure-in trade. Despite some efforts to intercept illegal ivory trade activity within country, Viet Nam was still implicated in many seizures made elsewhere and therefore had an estimated LE ratio of 0.29 implying a low overall enforcement effort. In view of the situation, the Secretariat believes that it is imperative that Viet Nam steps up its efforts in implementing its NIRAP.

77. In the absence of any report or an oral update on progress with NIRAP implementation to SC77, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, to issue a warning on behalf of the Committee, requesting Viet Nam to submit its NIRAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77.

Recommendations

78. The Standing Committee is invited to agree on the following recommendations with respect to the following Parties grouped by category:

Category A Parties

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- a) The Standing Committee is invited to:
- i) note that the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not submit a report on progress with NIAP implementation;
 - ii) consider any progress report submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo ahead of SC77, and any oral update at the present meeting and make any further recommendations as appropriate; and
 - iii) recall that, unless satisfied with timely progress in the implementation of NIAP actions by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Committee had agreed at SC75 to make recommendations as appropriate at the present meeting, which might include recommendations in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures*.
- b) The Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat, on behalf of the Committee and in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures*, to issue a Notification to the Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in all CITES-listed species with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, until the Democratic Republic of the Congo complies with the provisions of Step 4, paragraphs a) and b), of the *Guidelines*.

Nigeria

- c) The Standing Committee is invited to:
- i) note the limited progress made by Nigeria in implementing its NIAP and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP;
 - ii) agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Nigeria, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines* in accordance with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*.

Togo and Viet Nam

- d) The Standing Committee is invited to:
- i) note that Togo and Viet Nam did not submit reports on progress with NIAP/NIRAP implementation; and
 - ii) consider any progress reports submitted by these Parties ahead of SC77, and any oral update provided by these Parties at the present meeting and make any further recommendations as appropriate.

- e) The Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, to issue a warning on behalf of the Committee, requesting the Parties concerned to submit their NIAP/NIRAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77.
- f) if there is no satisfactory response by Togo or Viet Nam, the Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Togo and/or Viet Nam until the Party concerned submits a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.

Category B Parties

Cambodia

- f) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note the progress made by Cambodia in implementing its NIAP;
 - ii) agree an overall rating of 'achieved' for Cambodia, in accordance with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines* and invite the Secretariat to engage with relevant experts to further evaluate progress made by Cambodia so that the Secretariat can make a recommendation on whether Cambodia can exist the NIAP process.

Gabon

- g) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note that Gabon did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation; and
 - ii) consider any progress reports submitted by Gabon ahead of SC77, and any oral update at the present meeting and make any further recommendations as appropriate; and
 - iii) urge Gabon to submit reports to the Elephant Trade Information System as a matter of urgency.
- h) In accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* and with paragraph 29 c) of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, the Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat, on behalf of the Committee, to issue a written caution, requesting Gabon to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat and to offer assistance to Gabon.

Malaysia

- i) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note that Malaysia did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation; and
 - ii) consider any progress reports submitted by Malaysia ahead of SC77, and any oral update at the present meeting and make any further recommendations as appropriate.
- j) In accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* and with paragraph 29 c) of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, the Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat, on behalf of the Committee, to issue a written caution, requesting Malaysia to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat and to offer assistance to Malaysia.

Mozambique

- k) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note the limited progress made by Mozambique in implementing its NIAP and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP;

- ii) agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Mozambique, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines* in accordance with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*.

Category C Parties

Angola

- l) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note that the report submitted by Angola does not include new progress made, and therefore express serious concern about the stagnation of NIAP implementation in Angola in the past two years;
 - ii) consider any progress reports submitted by Angola ahead of SC77, and any oral update provided at the present meeting and make any further recommendations as appropriate.
- m) In accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* and with paragraph 29 c) of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, the Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat, on behalf of the Committee, to issue a written caution, requesting Angola to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat and to offer assistance to Angola.
- n) The Standing Committee is invited to note the request of Angola for technical assistance in training, and encourage Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others to provide, where possible, financial and technical assistance to Angola to support the implementation of its NIAP.

Cameroon

- o) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note the limited progress made by Cameroon in implementing its NIAP and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP;
 - ii) agree an overall rating of 'limited progress' for Cameroon, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*; and
 - iii) encourage Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others to provide, where possible, financial and technical assistance to Cameroon to support the implementation of its NIAP.

Congo

- p) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note that the Congo did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation;
 - ii) consider any progress report submitted by the Congo ahead of SC77, and any oral update provided at the present meeting, and make any further recommendations as appropriate;
 - iii) urge the Congo to submit reports to the Elephant Trade Information System as a matter of urgency.
- q) In accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* and with paragraph 29 c) of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, the Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat, on behalf of the Committee, to issue a written caution, requesting the Congo to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat and to offer assistance to the Congo.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

- r) The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i) note that the Lao People's Democratic Republic did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation; and
 - ii) consider any progress reports submitted by the Lao People's Democratic Republic ahead of SC77, and any oral update provided at the present meeting, and make any further recommendations as appropriate.
- s) In accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* and with paragraph 29 c) of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, the Standing Committee is invited to request the Secretariat, on behalf of the Committee, to issue a written caution, requesting the Lao People's Democratic Republic to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat and to offer assistance to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Qatar

- t) The Standing Committee is invited to:
- i) note the progress made by Qatar in implementing its NIAP and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP;
 - ii) agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Qatar, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines of the NIAP process*.

COP19 DECISIONS ON REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLANS PROCESS

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee through its Chair

19.68 *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Standing Committee through its Chair:*

- a) *contract a consultant to conduct a review of the National Ivory Action Plan Process and the associated Guidelines in accordance with the following terms of reference:*
 - i) *review current updating practices of NIAPs and propose options to ensure that NIAPs remain up to date when circumstances on the ground have changed;*
 - ii) *provide a better understanding of the reasons behind the lack of reporting or late reporting and consider ways to facilitate timely reporting;*
 - iii) *consider the relationship between the NIAP process and other Article XIII processes in case there are Parties subject to both processes in parallel, and provide insights thereon;*
 - iv) *review the different reporting requirements and advise in particular whether and how the NIAP process could benefit from strengthened annual illegal trade reports under Resolution Conf.11.17 (Rev. CoP19) to avoid duplication of efforts of reporting Parties; and*
 - v) *analyze the different tools under ICCWC and advise whether and how they could be used for enhancing the NIAP process; and*
- b) *provide the Standing Committee with a report on the results of the review.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.69 *The Secretariat shall undertake any additional tasks directed to it by the Standing Committee under Decision 19.70, paragraph a).*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.70 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *review the report called for in Decision 19.68; and*
- b) *prepare a report, along with its recommendations for updating the NIAP Process, for consideration for the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.*