

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

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION RELATED TO DOCUMENT SC77 DOC. 55 (Rev. 1)

1. *This document has been submitted by the African elephant range States at the request of the Standing Committee on the basis of the document SC77 Doc. 55 (Rev. 1).*

Amendment suggested to document SC77 Doc.55 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations

6. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) 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;
 - b) welcome Botswana's offer to host the dialogue meeting, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee and range States;
 - c) review the draft terms of reference found in the Annex to the present document and provide inputs;
 - d) instruct the Secretariat, on the basis of the draft terms of reference, to support the organization of a dialogue meeting in the ~~first~~ second half of 2024, in collaboration with Botswana, the Chair of the Standing Committee, and the African regional representatives of the Committee, in accordance with the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.5 on *Dialogue meetings*;
 - e) request the Secretariat to ensure adequate funds are available to support 2 delegates per African elephant range State, as well as other African state Parties subject to funding, as well as to assist Botswana on the overriding costs of hosting the dialogue meeting such as conference facility and provision of interpretation for the two languages of the Convention been English and French;
 - f) Request the Secretariat to engage with Africa Union Commission to explore possibility to have a Ministerial segment on the last day of the dialogue meeting.

Amendment suggested to document SC77 Doc.55 (Rev. 1), Annex

CITES Dialogue meeting on *Trade in live African elephants* (Dec. 19.167) and other issues of African elephant conservation

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate

Decision 19.167 on *Trade in live African elephants* (*Loxodonta africana*): *The Standing Committee shall call a CITES dialogue meeting as per Resolution Conf. 14.5 on Dialogue meetings for African elephant range States to consider a harmonization of the conditions to trade in live African elephants and propose relevant changes to Resolutions to CoP20 as well as relevant changes to annotation 2 (after CoP19, footnote annotation A10), including changes to streamline and simplify the annotation; and recommend other Parties, the CITES Secretariat and technical experts to participate in the meeting in accordance with the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.5 on Dialogue meetings.*

Timing

The meeting is planned to be held in second half of early 2024. The proposed duration of the meeting is 4 days with possible ministerial segment on the fourth day.

Host country

The host country is Botswana, ~~place of the meeting is Kasane~~ and the venue and exact dates for the meeting will be communicated in due course.

Participation

- African elephant range States: Paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure states, “*Each Party that is a range State of an extant population of the species (or group of species) to be discussed shall be entitled to be represented at a dialogue meeting by a representative and an alternate representative, who shall be government officials designated to attend by the Management Authority of the Party that they represent.*”
- Other African Parties subject to availability of funding. ~~During the informal discussion among the African elephant range States, it was suggested that the dialogue include all African Parties.~~
- ~~Other Parties, technical experts, observers: Paragraph 2 and 5 of the Rules of Procedure state, “*Other Parties and organizations (including donors) may be represented by observers only if their attendance is approved by a consensus of the representatives of the range States. ... Following the recommendations of the range States, the Secretariat to invite the IUCN AfESG and UNEP as Secretariat of the AEFSC. May invite intergovernmental organizations and other technical experts to attend the a meeting as technical experts and resource persons.*”~~
- Further, through a consensus of the range States, African Union Commission (AUC) was approved to attend the Dialogue meeting as observer
- The Dialogue meeting will be conducted in both open and closed sessions
- CITES Secretariat: Paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure states, “*The CITES Secretariat shall participate in dialogue meetings in order to advise the Parties and to serve as Secretary and organizer of the meeting.*”

Chair and vice-chairs

According to the Rules of procedure for CITES dialogue meetings (Resolution Conf. 14.5, Annex, paragraph 11), the Chair of the Standing Committee serves as the Chair of the dialogue meeting. Two vice-chairs shall be elected at site from among the participants during the meeting.

Objectives of the meeting

Implement Decision 19.167, i.e.,

- To consider a harmonization of the conditions to trade in live African elephants and
- To propose to CoP20, relevant changes to Resolutions as well as relevant changes to Annotation #2 (after CoP19 footnote annotation A10), including changes to streamline and simplify the annotation and prepare a common document to CoP20 amendment to Resolutions concerning live Africa elephants to CoP20

Address additional salient issues of elephant conservation that will include inter alia:--to strive to reach consensus on some challenging matters: the specific topics would need to be identified and agreed among the African elephant range states before the dialogue.

Potential other pertinent topics

1. Status of African elephant populations and related assessments
2. Implementation of the revised (2nd Edition) of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) approved by the range States in 2022
3. Sustainable financing for the African elephant conservation and management.
 - a) Administration of the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the AEAP
 - b) Access to Funding
 - c) [Non –Commercial] disposal of ivory stockpiles
4. Structure and mechanisms for building regional cohesion and coordination across the range States and in the region
 - a) Regional coordination in meetings of CITES bodies
 - b) Regional coordination in implementation of AEAP

Expected outcomes

- Draft Proposal for the consideration of CoP20 on implementation of Decision 19.167 Consensus on the disposal of ivory stockpile by African elephant Range States
- A Communique from the Dialogue Meeting as official record of the outcome Agreed mechanism for funding African Elephant Action Plan
- Consensus on trade with live African elephant to “Appropriate and Acceptable Destination”