

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

SUMMARY

TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER
MORNING

21. CITES and forests SC77 Doc. 21

The Committee:

- a) noted the progress made in the implementation of Decisions 19.32 and 19.33 as reported in document SC77 Doc. 21;
- b) agreed to delay exploring options for the implementation of Decision 19.34, paragraph b), until the outcomes of the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests are available;
- c) also agreed to delay implementation of Decision 19.34, paragraphs c) and d), until the outcomes of the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests are available;
- d) invited the Secretariat to incorporate in its report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee the challenges and opportunities associated with any future initiative relating to CITES-listed forest species, with a particular focus on tree species, and to take into account the discussions at PC25, SC74, CoP19 and PC26;
- e) invited China to provide to the Secretariat its suggested additional Resolutions for inclusion in the 'CITES forest compendium: CoP19-CoP20' contained in Annex 1 to document SC77 Doc. 21; and
- f) noted the comments made by Brazil, Senegal and the International Tropical Timber Organization.

25. CITES Tree Species Programme SC77 Doc. 25

The Committee:

- a) noted progress on the implementation of Decisions 19.49 and 19.50 contained in document SC77 Doc. 25, together with document SC77 Doc. 21 on *CITES and forests*;
- b) recommended that the Secretariat consider long-term sustainability options of the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP), including a wider regional and tree-species coverage, subject to the availability of funds;
- c) noted that, while some Members found that there was a potential linkage to a possible future *CITES and forests* programmatic approach, there was no consensus at this point; and
- d) noted the comments made on the floor.

72. Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species SC77 Doc. 72

The Committee noted the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of Decision 19.265 and invited the Secretariat to report to the Plants Committee at its 27th meeting, in accordance with Decision 18.317 (Rev. CoP19).

33. Compliance matters

33.4 Application of Article XIII in Cameroon..... SC77 Doc. 33.4

The Committee agreed on the following recommendations:

Regarding management of trade in specimens of Pericopsis elata

- a) Cameroon should strengthen the CITES Management Authority and Scientific Authorities by building their capacity in the area of forestry and providing them with enough modern means to do their work, including issuing permits, controlling traceability, surveying populations of *Pericopsis elata* and other CITES-listed tree species to make non-detriment findings, setting annual export quotas before authorizing trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, and building administrative and scientific capacity at the national level.

Regarding legislation and law enforcement

- b) Cameroon should strengthen the regulatory framework on forest management, in particular, to address any gaps and loopholes that could result from the multiplicity of logging titles and modes of allocation. Cameroon should also adapt the relevant regulatory provisions to ensure that all CITES-listed timber species are managed sustainably as part of relevant forest management plans.
- c) Cameroon should consider developing and implementing an enforcement strategy and related policies regarding illegal trade in tree species and strengthening its efforts to ensure full compliance with the Convention.
- d) Cameroon should assess relevant authorities' law enforcement capacity, mandates and needs to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species and the fight against transnational organized forest crime. Based on this assessment, Cameroon should build the capacity of enforcement bodies to increase CITES controls on the basis of risk-based management strategies, particularly the control of the *parcs commerciaux* in the ports of Douala and Kribi, and to combat transnational organized forest crime.
- e) Cameroon should establish a national platform for cooperation and coordination between competent enforcement authorities to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized forest crime, in accordance with paragraphs 9 a) and b) and Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*.
- f) Cameroon is invited to encourage companies to use innovative technologies to monitor timber and apply best practices to prevent illegally sourced or illegally traded timber from entering their supply chain.

Regarding issuance of export permits and SIGIF2 information systems

- g) Cameroon should finalize the development of the SIGIF2 as an effective information system (subject to the availability of resources) to facilitate the issuance of CITES permits and certificates and the verification of legal acquisition of specimens in trade for all the modes of allocation of logging titles, while making it more difficult to tamper with CITES permits and certificates after their issuance.
- h) Cameroon should facilitate liaison and integration with other permitting/certification systems relating to the harvest of and trade in CITES-listed species, for example, concession authorizations, phytosanitary documentation, or customs declarations.

- i) Cameroon should ensure that export permits and re-export certificates are endorsed, with quantity, signature and stamp, by an inspecting official such as a customs official and not by the Management Authority, in the export endorsement block of the document.

The Committee recommended to the Secretariat and the importing countries to keep close communication and strengthen cooperation with Cameroon to better understand the different requirements and expectations regarding the implementation of forest regulations and to fully support the actions undertaken by Cameroon to implement these recommendations. The Committee also requested Cameroon to invite the Secretariat to provide in-country assistance and conduct a second technical assessment and a verification mission with a representative of the Plants Committee and representatives of importing countries, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), to review progress in implementing the recommendations above. Subject to the availability of external funds and human resources to implement this work, the Secretariat will present its conclusions and recommendations at the next meetings of the Standing Committee.

Cameroon should report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78), in order for the Secretariat to convey its report and its comments to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall review progress made by Cameroon and decide if sufficient progress has been made or if compliance measures should be recommended, in accordance with paragraphs 29 or 30 of Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*.

The Committee noted the comments made on the floor.

33.6 Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo SC77 Doc. 33.6

The Committee agreed to update and replace the recommendations adopted at its 75th meeting as follows:

Regarding the management of trade in Psittacus erithacus

- a) The Parties maintain the suspension of trade in specimens of the species *Psittacus erithacus* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo pending compliance with the following recommendations:
 - i) on the basis of the reservation entered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the species *Psittacus erithacus*, this State is considered as a non-Party with respect to trade in this species. However, Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) states that a State not a Party to the Convention for *Psittacus erithacus* should treat that species as if it were included in Appendix II for all purposes, including obligatory documents and controls, and suspend the issuance of export permits for commercial and non-commercial trade in specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* of wild origin until it is in a position to make scientifically based non-detriment findings;
 - ii) the Standing Committee notes again the moratorium announced by the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69; Geneva, November 2017) to suspend trade in *Psittacus erithacus* and its announcement that it will not implement its reservation on the listing of the species in Appendix I, and it invites the Democratic Republic of the Congo to adopt a regulatory act to implement the moratorium;
 - iii) the Democratic Republic of the Congo take steps to implement Decision 17.256 (Rev. CoP19) on *African grey parrots* (*Psittacus erithacus*);
 - iv) the Democratic Republic of the Congo not establish experimental export quotas as part of scientific surveys of the species in the country;
 - v) the Standing Committee also notes the commitment by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to undertake population surveys and develop a management plan for *Psittacus erithacus*.

Regarding illegal trade

- b) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should continue its efforts to conduct analyses of available information to map organized crime groups active in the country and convene multi-disciplinary teams involving all relevant authorities, to work in close collaboration with local authorities in key identified areas, and initiate intelligence-driven operations and investigations, with a particular focus on illegal trade in *Psittacus erithacus* (African grey parrots), *Manis* spp. (pangolins) and elephant ivory.

Regarding legislation and law enforcement

- c) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should strengthen the regulatory framework for the implementation of CITES in the country, aiming at institutional consolidation and the clear division of responsibilities between CITES authorities, so as to build their capacity and avoid any gaps that might result from a duplication of competences between the different institutions concerned.

Regarding reporting to the Secretariat

- d) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78), in order for the Secretariat to convey its report and its comments to the Standing Committee.

The Committee noted the comments made on the floor and the statement of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that will be included in the summary record.

33.3 Application of Article XIII in Bangladesh SC77 Doc. 33.3

The Committee requested the United States of America on behalf of North America and Belgium on behalf of the European Union and its Member States to consolidate their proposed edits to the recommendations in paragraph 47 of document SC77 Doc. 33.3, taking into account the comments made by Bangladesh and New Zealand about the duration of the recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds from or to Bangladesh [paragraph 47 a)] and submit an in-session document for consideration later in the meeting.