

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

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER
AFTERNOON

33. Compliance matters

33.10 Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic SC77 Doc. 33.10

The Committee recommended that Parties suspend trade with the Lao People's Democratic Republic in specimens of all CITES-listed species for commercial purposes until the Lao People's Democratic Republic has substantially achieved the following recommendations:

Regarding national legislation for the implementation of CITES

The Lao People's Democratic Republic should:

- a) revise and enact the Decree for the implementation of CITES;
- b) finalize the ongoing revision of the Wildlife and Aquatic Law to close the gaps in the CITES national legislation for the implementation of the Convention and to ensure that it meets the CITES minimum requirements as set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for implementation of the Convention* and can be placed in Category 1 under the CITES National Legislation Project;

Regarding CITES Authorities

- c) The Lao People's Democratic Republic should continue to address the need for strengthening capacity and training of staff of the CITES Management and Scientific Authority of the Lao People's Democratic Republic with the support of the CITES Secretariat and take measures to improve the collaboration between national CITES authorities *inter alia* by developing a standard operating procedure for the two authorities; finalizing the development of the national CITES permit database; and organizing regular training for the staff of the CITES Scientific Authority;

Regarding law enforcement

The Lao People's Democratic Republic should:

- d) investigate and prosecute cases involving organized or transboundary illegal trade activities, such as those identified by various international partners; and provide to the Secretariat the results (including arrests) of any investigations conducted by competent national authorities and the results of any legal proceedings against alleged perpetrators, in the annual illegal trade report format;

- e) continue to work with the law enforcement agencies from China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, including the context of the Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other relevant networks to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices with the objective of improving the mechanisms for justice and police cooperation on the issues of trade and transiting of illegally acquired wildlife and illegal wildlife tourism; and
- f) report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Toolkit of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), and request support from ICWC to conduct a follow-up implementation of the ICWC indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime, to monitor performance over time and to identify areas for improvement.

Regarding monitoring of wildlife farms and related trade

Based on reporting from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the findings and observations contained in document SC77 Doc. 41.2 on *Asian big cats in captivity*, the Lao People's Democratic Republic should:

- g) complete the full audit of the tigers kept in captivity, including the analyses of the collection of DNA samples and photos to assist with identification of individual specimens;
- h) identify any pure specimens of tigers referable to the mainland Southeast Asian lineage (also known as *Panthera tigris corbetti*) and encourage facilities to engage in coordinated conservation breeding of such animals, if identified;
- i) take measures to limit the number of tigers to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers by:
 - i) restricting the breeding of tigers in captivity (sterilizing, separating male and female specimens), except for specimens of tigers referable to the mainland Southeast Asian lineage (also known as *Panthera tigris corbetti*);
 - ii) not authorizing any further import of tiger live specimens, except for specimens of tigers referable to the mainland Southeast Asian lineage (also known as *Panthera tigris corbetti*) for conservation breeding purposes; and
 - iii) prohibiting the establishment of any new tiger facilities;
- j) implement stringent regulations for tiger husbandry standards to improve care and discourage expansion of captive-breeding facilities;
- k) develop standard operating procedures for inspections and disposal of dead tiger specimens (including destruction of carcasses after verification of the dead individual) and train officials to undertake inspections and monitor the disposal of carcasses;
- l) consider and implement relevant [outcomes of the Big Cat Task Force Meeting](#) with specific reference to section 2: *Strengthen regulation of facilities breeding big cats in captivity to prevent and detect any illegal trade from such facilities and deploy strengthened enforcement measures*;
- m) take measures to reduce the demand for tiger parts and derivatives through the implementation of campaigns and strategies taking into consideration the guidance in [Resolution Conf. 17.4 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#) on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* and the outcomes in section 3 of the [Big Cat Task Force outcomes document](#) (see document SC77 Doc. 41.2);
- n) establish an appropriate advisory committee or mechanism with involvement of the CITES Secretariat and other relevant tiger organizations and partners to provide advice on the transformation of commercial tiger farms; and

- o) inspect the tiger captive-breeding facility that the Secretariat could not visit and report to the Secretariat.

Regarding trade in live Asian elephants

The Lao People's Democratic Republic should:

- p) take measures to ensure that no live Asian elephants are exported from the Lao People's Democratic Republic until the Lao People's Democratic Republic is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretariat that specimens to be traded with source code C comply with the definition of captive-bred specimens set out in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*; and
- q) take substantive steps to implement Decision 18.226, in particular by developing strategies to manage captive Asian elephant populations, by ensuring that trade is conducted in compliance with Article III for Asian elephants of wild origin and by strengthening its system for registration and marking of Asian elephants held in captivity in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Committee noted that the Secretariat is investigating the issue of legal acquisition of founder stock for captive-breeding facilities for *Macaca fascicularis* in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and that it would report back to the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting and to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

The Committee requested the Lao People's Democratic Republic not to issue export permits for *Dalbergia* spp. until it develops a non-detriment finding indicating that it would be sustainable to resume trade and submits a corresponding export quota.

The Committee requested the Lao People's Democratic Republic to submit a report on the implementation of the above recommendations to the Secretariat 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (5 November 2024) for the Secretariat to take into account in its report on the application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Standing Committee and its report under paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties.

43. Jaguars (*Panthera onca*)..... SC77 Doc. 43

The Committee:

- a) noted the main results and conclusions of the meeting of jaguar range States;
- b) requested the Secretariat to prepare terms of reference for the creation of a modular system for monitoring illegal killing of jaguars, illegal trade in their parts and derivatives and other aspects related to conservation, for consideration by the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee;
- c) requested the CITES Secretariat to prepare terms of reference for the creation of an intergovernmental platform as specified in paragraph 21 of document SC77 Doc. 43, including the option of a joint CITES-CMS jaguar initiative. The terms of reference should be presented to the next meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78);
- d) in line with activity B10 of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021-2025 (Annex 2, SC73 Doc. 13), which establishes that the Secretariats of both Conventions should "collaborate on the conservation of the jaguar, taking into account existing mandates and ongoing efforts and initiatives in the region", recommended that both Secretariats jointly develop, in close consultation with jaguar range States and inviting contributions from the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant organizations, a joint working programme establishing specific priorities for jaguar conservation throughout the region, activities to promote coexistence, and necessary actions for preventing and combating illegal killing and illegal trade of jaguars, their parts and derivatives for consideration by the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee;

- e) recommended that both Secretariats, subject to the availability of external funding, jointly organize a second meeting of jaguar range States to discuss the implementation of the joint working programme for jaguar conservation with the support of relevant partner organizations;
- f) established, within the Standing Committee working group on jaguars, a working subgroup on financial opportunities for the jaguar that should consider the possibility of creating a regional common fund for jaguar conservation; and
- g) requested the CITES Secretariat to follow up on the agreements related to paragraph 11 on the seven joint working areas and the players involved and paragraphs 25 to 27 on criteria/prioritization of landscapes through a Notification to the Parties requiring regular updates to the jaguar questionnaire.

33. Compliance matters

33.12 Malagasy palisanders, rosewoods and ebonies SC77 Doc. 33.12

The Committee noted document SC77 Doc. 33.12, the progress reported by Madagascar and the comments made on the floor.

The Committee invited Madagascar, in consultation with the Secretariat, to reconvene and develop terms of reference of the consultative advisory group that had been established at CoP18 to support Madagascar with the domestic use of its stockpiled wood and with other issues, as appropriate.

63. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

63.1 Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) SC77 Doc. 63.1 (Rev.1)

The Committee:

- a) noted the downward Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) trend in Africa and the lower number of seizures reported under the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and commended the efforts of elephant range States and other Parties and partners, in supporting actions to maintain this positive trend;
- b) encouraged elephant range States to continue to use the Online Database of the programme Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) for MIKE data submission and Parties to use ETIS Online to submit seizure information;
- c) encouraged Parties to participate in the ETIS data validation process, including through response to Notifications to the Parties on this matter;
- d) requested TRAFFIC to include an option in the ETIS forms (Word, Excel and Online) for Parties to indicate if they do not want their ETIS data made available to the members of the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) for global research and analysis;
- e) welcomed the revised African Elephant Action Plan approved by African range States;
- f) invited the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties seeking input on the criteria to be used to identify Parties with a legal domestic ivory market to be included in the analysis called for in Decision 19.99;
- g) invited the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to consider the responses and propose criteria for identifying the Parties to be included in the analysis and prepare research questions and report back to SC78; and
- h) encouraged donors and partners to support African elephant range States to conduct and fund surveys of elephant populations and to encourage Parties to provide funding to the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the revised African Elephant Action Plan.

63.2 Financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE and ETIS programmes SC77 Doc. 63.2

The Committee:

- a) noted the Secretariat's plan to redesign the MIKE programme activities to consider the outcomes of the evaluation and reflect the current conservation needs and realities of the African Elephant range States while addressing financial and operational sustainability; and
- b) encouraged the Secretariat to prepare proposals and explore alternative options for support to the MIKE and ETIS programmes for consideration of donors, pursuant to Decision 19.36, paragraph a), and to report on progress at SC78.

51. Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory) SC77 Doc. 51

The Committee:

- a) urged Parties to step up their efforts in line with the provisions of paragraph 7 e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* concerning stockpiles, particularly Parties in the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) process, Parties that have reported seizures and confiscations to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and elephant range States, with a view of submitting the information to the Secretariat every year;
- b) invited regional Members and Alternate regional Members, as part of their regular contact with Parties in their region, to remind Parties of the actions they are urged to take in paragraph 7 e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19);
- c) recommended that Parties submit information on destroyed stockpiles or absence thereof, to the extent possible; and
- d) requested the Secretariat to continue to engage with Burundi to put in place arrangements to conduct a technical mission to Burundi, in accordance with paragraph 29 e) in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*, to verify the current status of the Burundi stockpile, and to report to the Committee on its findings.

34. National ivory action plan process SC77 Doc. 34

The Committee requested Belgium, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to consolidate their suggested edits to the recommendations in paragraph 78 of document SC77 Doc. 34, taking into consideration the comments made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria, and submit an in-session document for consideration later in the meeting.

55. Dialogue meeting for African elephant range States (*Loxodonta africana*).....SC77 Doc. 55 (Rev.1)

The Committee invited African elephant range States to submit consolidated recommendations based on paragraph 6 of document SC77 Doc. 55 (Rev. 1) for consideration later in the meeting, noting that, pursuant to Decision 19.167, the Committee was directed to call a CITES dialogue meeting as per Resolution Conf. 14.5 on *Dialogue meetings*.

74. Taxonomy and nomenclature of African elephants (*Loxodonta spp.*) SC77 Doc. 74

The Committee:

- a) noted the summary of the information provided by the Parties and stakeholders with respect to the effect and implications of a change to the nomenclature of the African elephant;
- b) noted the list of Resolutions, Decisions and other matters analyzed by the Secretariat in paragraphs 18 to 33 of document SC77 Doc. 74 that could be potentially impacted by a taxonomic change and the comments made by Belgium on behalf of the European Union and its Member States;
- c) noted a preference for changing *Loxodonta africana* to *Loxodonta spp.* in Appendix I, as well as comments made on the floor;

- d) agreed to defer any conclusion on the standard nomenclature reference to the Animals Committee for its consideration its 33rd meeting; and
- e) should the Animals Committee agree to recommend a change to nomenclature and to the standard reference at its 33rd meeting, requested the Secretariat to prepare possible proposals for consequential amendments to relevant Resolutions and CITES guidelines and submit them for consideration by the Committee at its 78th meeting.

39. Enforcement

39.1 Enforcement matters SC77 Doc. 39.1

The Committee:

- a) encouraged Parties to actively pursue the implementation of Decision 19.78 and to implement the provisions in paragraph 6 c) to g) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19), where not yet done;
- b) encouraged Parties to draw upon the [CITES directory of laboratories that conduct wildlife forensic testing](#), to facilitate forensic applications being used to the fullest extent possible to combat wildlife crime, where needed; and
- c) noted the comments made by Georgia and other Parties on the floor.