

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

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER
AFTERNOON

41. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

41.1 Report of the Secretariat SC77 Doc. 41.1

India withdrew in-session document SC77 Com. 1.

Report of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee

The Committee agreed the recommendations in document SC77 Com. 3 as follows:

8. Financial matters SC77 Doc. 8

The Committee:

- a) approved the reports on the costed programme of work for the full year of 2022 and for the period up to 30 September 2023 for the year 2023;
- b) invited the Conference of the Parties to approve that no registration fees are charged to observer organizations for online meetings;
- c) requested the Secretariat to organize the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties meeting as per Resolution Conf. 19.1, paragraph 32 a), if no candidate host country is known by 31st March 2024, and to initiate fund-raising for cost associated with the organization and to propose alternative approaches to funding future CoPs for review; and
- d) noted other information provided in the report.

9. Terms of reference of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee SC77 Doc. 9

The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the following amendment in Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of committees* by deleting current paragraph 2 and to replace with new paragraphs 2 and 3 as follows:

~~2. DIRECTS the Standing Committee to establish a Finance and Budget Subcommittee and specify its terms of reference;~~

~~3. 2. ESTABLISHES the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee as its scientific advisory bodies, which shall report to the Conference of the Parties at its meetings and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with their Terms of Reference as found in Annex 2 of this Resolution;~~

3. *DIRECTS the Standing Committee to establish a Finance and Budget Subcommittee ~~and specify its~~ with the terms of reference as found in Annex 3 to this Resolution;*

10. Administrative matters

10.1 Report of the Secretariat SC77 Doc. 10.1

The Committee appreciated the continued contribution by the host country of the Secretariat.

10.2 Report of the United Nations Environment Programme on administrative matters SC77 Doc. 10.2

The Committee:

- a) requested that the United Nations Environment Programme provide in its report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee information on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties to the CITES and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning secretariat services to and support of the Convention and an update as to implementation of the remaining audit recommendations; and
- b) noted other information provided in the report.

33. Compliance matters

33.3 Application of Article XIII in Bangladesh SC77 Doc. 33.3

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC77 Com. 2 as follows:

The Committee recommended that:

1. *Regarding management of trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds*

- a) Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds with Bangladesh until the Party is in a position to adequately regulate and monitor trade in CITES-listed birds, on which progress could be revisited at SC78, notably through the establishment of a reliable and efficient information system in accordance with Article VIII.6.

To achieve compliance, the Committee recommended that Bangladesh:

- i) establish, preferably an electronic system, resources permitting, to facilitate the issuance of permits and certificates and the verification of the legal acquisition of specimens in trade;
- ii) maintain up-to-date records of traders and establishments, which should facilitate controls, communications, and collaboration;
- iii) liaise and integrate with other permitting/certification systems relating to the breeding of and trade in CITES-listed birds, including health and veterinary documentation, or customs declarations;

2. *Regarding legislation and law enforcement*

- b) Bangladesh strengthen the regulatory framework in relation to management of and trade in birds and marine species, notably by ensuring appropriate measures to enforce the provision of the Convention, prohibit trade in violation of the Convention, and penalize offences related to wildlife crime (Art. VIII.1).

Consideration should be given to:

- i) reviewing “Pet Bird rearing rules, 2020” enacted under the provision of the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation & Security) Act, 2012, notably to bridge the gaps and close the loopholes that may be generated by the distribution of competences between different

divisions, lack of adequate enforcement powers, the No Objection Certificates (NOC) system, lack of adequate penalties for offences related to wildlife crime and the final disposal of confiscated live specimens.

- ii) strengthening the regulatory framework in relation to CITES-listed marine species and the implementation of the shark listings, including strengthening institutional cooperation between the Department of Fisheries, the CITES Management Authority and customs and develop protocols and guidelines for exchange of information, division of tasks, harmonized interpretation of applicable provisions in relevant laws, including the planning of regular meetings and guidance on the final disposal of seized specimens.
- iii) assessing relevant authorities' law enforcement capacity, their mandates and needs to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species and the fight against transnational organized wildlife crime, and, based on the assessment, build capacity among law enforcement agencies to strengthen CITES controls, using risk-based management approaches, in particular container controls at airports and seaports, as well as control of mailed parcels and of air cargo; combat transnational organized wildlife crime by strengthening criminal intelligence, exchange of intelligence, controlled delivery, wildlife crime investigation and prosecution, and financial investigations linked to wildlife crime.
- iv) establishing a national platform for enforcement cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities with the aim to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized wildlife crime, as recommended in paragraphs 9 a) and b) and Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*.
- v) scaling up efforts to conduct analyses of available information to map out organized crime groups active in the country and convene multidisciplinary investigative 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 birds and sharks.

3. *Handling of live animals and disposal of seized live specimens*

- c) Bangladesh take measures to ensure strict implementation of Article VIII.4 of the Convention, taking into account the recommendations and all management options contained in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*, and of Article VIII.3 of the Convention, taking into account the recommendations in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*.

Consideration should be given to:

- i) maintaining an inventory of all seized live specimens of CITES-listed birds and ensuring that disposition of confiscated live specimens follows guidance in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev CoP19), including the management measures of the specimens in the immediate short term (an initial period that may last between several hours to several weeks) and the longer term (which may often be a 'permanent' situation).
- ii) establishing adequate control measures for seized live specimens of CITES-listed birds, including measures to reduce the risk of injury, mortality or theft from the rescue centre, and developing a uniform protocol for the marking, recording, handling and disposal of seized and confiscated live specimens.
- iii) developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy for border controls as recommended by Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev CoP19)

4. Scientific Authority and surveys

- e) Bangladesh take measures to ensure the appropriate implementation of Article III and IV with respect to non-detriment findings, taking into account recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17), giving consideration to strengthening its Scientific Authority by building capacity on wildlife issues, and allocating sufficient resources to undertake population surveys that can be used in the making of the non-detriment findings and in the setting of annual export quotas prior to authorizing exportation of CITES-listed species of fauna and flora, with a particular focus on commercially exploited aquatic species.

The Committee invited Bangladesh to report to the Secretariat on progress made on the implementation of the recommendations agreed, 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and its comments to the Standing Committee.

36. Review of trade in specimens reported as produced in captivity..... SC77 Doc. 36

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC77 Com. 4 as follows:

1. Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* / Benin, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) retain *Centrochelys sulcata* from Benin in the review and maintain its current zero export quota for captive bred specimens (C) of *C. sulcata* until such time as it addresses the concerns of the Animals and Standing Committees; and
 - b) encourage Benin to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 1 March 2024 so that the matter can be considered at the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC33, July 2024, tbc).
2. Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* / Ghana, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) remove *Centrochelys sulcata* from Ghana from the review subject to the publication of a maximum size limit of 15cm straight carapace length with its export quota on the CITES website; and
 - b) remind Ghana of the offer from the United States to provide assistance related to the development and implementation of a unique marking system for the breeding stock at the facilities.
3. Concerning *Varanus exanthematicus* / Ghana, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) retain *Varanus exanthematicus* from Ghana in the review;
 - b) request that Ghana clarify if its 2023 export quotas of 3,000 wild (W) and 9,000 ranched (R) were established based on the rapid assessment carried out by the Scientific Authority and explain the scientific justification for how it has arrived at these figures when it has stated that it has not been able to make an NDF;
 - c) invite Ghana to share its rapid assessment with the Chair of Animals Committee for review.; and
 - d) encourage Ghana to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 1 March 2024 so that the matter can be considered at the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC33, July 2024, tbc).
4. Concerning *Cacatua alba* / Indonesia, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) remove *Cacatua alba* from Indonesia from the review; and
 - b) encourage Indonesia not to accept cases of unnatural high reproductive output in these facilities without further evidence. For example, Indonesia is encouraged to use a genetic parenthood test able to verify parentage claims as part of its future monitoring programme to ensure that wild stock is not being laundered through these facilities, noting that the UK has offered to share its experience with Indonesia in this regard.

5. Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* / Mali, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) retain *Centrochelys sulcata* from Mali in the review-until such time as it addresses the concerns of the Animals and Standing Committees; and
 - b) urge Mali to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 1 March 2024 so that the matter can be considered at the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC33, July 2024, tbc).
6. Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* / Togo, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) retain *Centrochelys sulcata* from Togo in the review until such time as it addresses the concerns of the Animals and Standing Committees; and
 - b) encourage Togo to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 1 March 2024 so that the matter can be considered at the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC33, July 2024, tbc).
7. Concerning *Hippocampus comes* / Viet Nam, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) remove *Hippocampus comes* from Viet Nam from the review;
 - b) remind Viet Nam that, should it wish to resume trade from these or similar facilities with source code W or F, it should make legal acquisition findings (LAFs) and non-detriment findings (NDFs) prior to authorising trade; and
 - c) invite Viet Nam to share its NDF with the Chair of Animals Committee for review prior to resuming trade.
8. Concerning *Vulpes zerda* / Sudan, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) remove *Vulpes zerda* from Sudan from the review; and
 - b) request confirmation from Sudan that specimens of *V. zerda* will not be exported from the breeding facility for commercial purposes until they are satisfied that the breeding stock was established in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*.
9. Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* / Sudan, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) remove *Centrochelys sulcata* from Sudan from the review; and
 - b) request confirmation from Sudan that specimens of *C. sulcata* will not be exported from the breeding facility for commercial purposes until they are satisfied that the breeding stock was established in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*.
10. Concerning *Geochelone elegans* / Jordan, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) remove *Geochelone elegans* from Jordan from the review;
 - b) request confirmation from Jordan that trade in *G. elegans* from the facility will not resume without first informing the Secretariat and Chair of the Standing Committee; and
 - c) request information on the disposal of the stock that was held at the facility.
11. Concerning *Testudo hermanni* / North Macedonia, the Standing Committee agreed to:
 - a) remove *Testudo hermanni* from North Macedonia from the review; and
 - b) request the Secretariat to work with North Macedonia to improve its capacity needs concerning captive breeding.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to consider ways in which the information concerning Parties that are released from the review process under certain conditions can be made easily available in the long term to ensure that conditions are adhered to and can be monitored and bring forward a proposal for accomplishing that task for consideration at the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

34. National ivory action plan process SC77 Doc. 34

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC77 Com. 5 as follows:

Category A Parties

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- a) The Committee:
- i) noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not submit a report on progress with NIAP implementation;
 - ii) noting the exceptional circumstances in the country, requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to request the Democratic Republic of the Congo to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat by 1 April 2024;
 - iii) if there is no satisfactory report by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with the Democratic Republic of the Congo until it submits a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.

Nigeria

- b) The Committee:
- i) noted 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) agreed 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

- c) The Committee:
- i) noted the late submission of the reports on progress with NIAP/NIRAP implementation by Togo and Viet Nam;
 - ii) requested the Secretariat to review and assess the two progress reports;
 - iii) if either of the two reports is not to the satisfaction of the Secretariat, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with the relevant Party until that Party concerned submits a satisfactory progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP/NIRAP implementation

Category B Parties

Cambodia

- d) The Committee:
- i) noted the progress made by Cambodia in implementing its NIAP;

- ii) agreed an overall rating of 'achieved' for Cambodia, in accordance with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines* and invited 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 exit the NIAP process; and
- iii) agreed that it will consider at its 78th meeting whether Cambodia should exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines of the NIAP process*.

Gabon

- e) The Committee:
 - i) noted that Gabon did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation and its commitment to do so; and
 - ii) requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to request Gabon to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77; and
 - iii) if there is no satisfactory report by Gabon, requested the Secretariat to issue a written caution, requesting Gabon to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat and to offer assistance to Gabon.

Malaysia

- f) The Committee:
 - i) noted that Malaysia submitted a report on progress with NIAP implementation after the deadline;
 - ii) requested the Secretariat to review and assess the progress report and bring any matters of concern to its attention at SC78;
 - iii) urged Malaysia to submit its progress report on NIAP implementation no later than 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee; and
 - iv) agreed that it will consider at its 78th meeting whether Malaysia should exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines of the NIAP process*.

Mozambique

- g) The Committee:
 - i) noted the limited progress made by Mozambique in implementing its NIRAP and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIRAP;
 - ii) agreed 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

- h) The Committee:
 - i) noted 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) requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to request Angola to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77;

- iii) if there is no satisfactory report by Angola, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Angola until it submits a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.
- i) The Committee noted 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

- j) The Committee:
 - i) noted 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) agreed an overall rating of 'limited progress' for Cameroon, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*;
 - iii) encouraged 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

- k) The Committee:
 - i) noted that the Congo did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation;
 - ii) requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to request Congo to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77;
 - iii) if there is no satisfactory report by Congo, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Congo until it submits a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.
- l) The Committee urged the Congo to submit reports to the Elephant Trade Information System as a matter of urgency.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

- m) The Committee:
 - i) noted that the Lao People's Democratic Republic did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation;
 - ii) requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to request Lao PDR to submit their NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77;
 - iii) if there is no satisfactory report by Lao People's Democratic Republic, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Lao PDR until they submit a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.

Qatar

- n) The Committee:

- i) noted the progress made by Qatar in implementing its NIAP and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP;
- ii) agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Qatar, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines of the NIAP process*.

The Committee noted the comments made on the floor.

Report of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC77 Com. 6 as follows:

The Committee requested TRAFFIC, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to publish the automated aggregated elephant specimen seizure data summaries on the public section of the otherwise password secured ETIS Online, while maintaining a link to this information on the CITES website.

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

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC77 Com. 7 as follows:

The Committee:

- a) pursuant to Decision 19.167, called for the CITES dialogue meeting as per Resolution Conf. 14.5 on *Dialogue meetings* for African elephant range States;
- b) welcomed Botswana's offer to host the dialogue meeting, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee and range States;
- c) noted the draft terms of reference found in the Annex to document SC77 Com. 7;
- d) instructed the Secretariat, on the basis of the draft terms of reference, to support the organization of a dialogue meeting in the 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) requested 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, being English and French; and
- f) requested the Secretariat to engage with Africa Union Commission to explore possibility to have a Ministerial segment on the last day of the dialogue meeting.

The Committee noted the comments made on the floor.

33. Compliance matters

33.7 Application of Article XIII in Ecuador SC77 Doc. 33.7

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC77 Com. 8 as follows:

The Committee recommended that:

Regarding management of trade in sharks and rays specimens

- a) Parties suspend trade in specimens of sharks and rays listed on CITES appendix II before COP 19 from Ecuador or with country of origin Ecuador. The recommendation shall take effect 120 days after the closure of SC 77 unless Ecuador takes measures to ensure the appropriate implementation of Article IV with respect to non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, notably through establishing requirements for sustainable levels of trade, including

by determining fishing capacity and bycatch limits, and establishing trade quotas for sharks and rays based on available scientific data.

- b) All importing Parties inform the Secretariat of the volumes of CITES-listed sharks and rays specimens imported from Ecuador or with country of origin Ecuador since the listings in Appendix II came into force.
- c) Ecuador strengthen CITES Scientific Authorities by developing their capacities and providing them with sufficient resources to carry out their work, including a population survey of internationally-traded sharks and rays and other CITES-listed aquatic species for the purpose of making NDFs and establishing annual export quotas before authorizing any trade of specimens of CITES-listed sharks and rays species.

Regarding legislation and the fight against fraud

- d) Ecuador and Peru strengthen their regulatory frameworks for the management and trade of aquatic species by taking the appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention as provided in Article VIII, including by considering:
 - i) assessing the capacities, mandates and needs of the competent authorities in the fight against illegal trade, in order to strengthen the control of illegal trade in CITES-listed aquatic species and the fight against transnational organized crime related to the illegal trade in sharks, rays and other aquatic species, and, based on this assessment, strengthening the capacities of crime-fighting services in order to increase CITES controls, based on risk management strategies, including controls at border-crossing points, and to combat transnational organized crime involving fisheries.
 - ii) creating a binational platform for cooperation and coordination among the competent authorities involved in the fight against crime, in order to strengthen the monitoring of trade in CITES-listed species and combat transnational organized crime related to the international trade in sharks and rays, as recommended in paragraphs 9 a) and b), and Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement.
 - iii) encouraging companies to use innovative technologies to track and monitor vessels, and to adopt best practices to avoid fishery products obtained from illegal fishing or illegal exploitation or illegally traded catch entering their supply chains.

Regarding trade between Ecuador and Peru

- e) the Secretariat continue to monitor this case and make recommendations to the Standing Committee. It is further recommended that the Secretariat continue to maintain close contact with Ecuador and Peru and to strengthen cooperation on this case and seek an invitation from Peru to provide in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a factfinding mission to understand how CITES authorities are ensuring that shark and rays specimens and specimens of other aquatic species are imported and re-exported in compliance with CITES. Subject to the availability of external funds and human resources to conduct that work, the Secretariat shall present its findings and recommendations to the forthcoming Standing Committee meetings.

Regarding reporting

- f) Ecuador and Peru report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78), to enable the Secretariat to submit its report and input to the Standing Committee.

Adoption of executive summaries

The executive summary of the third session in document SC77 Sum. 3 was adopted.

The executive summary of the fourth session in document SC77 Sum. 4 was adopted and the Committee noted:

- under agenda items 33.8 and 33.1, the request by Mexico to include a recommendation for Parties to consider the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.9 on *Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes*; and
- under agenda item 33.8, the request by the European Union to include the following statement for the record:

The European Union and its Member States have provided detailed information with regard to the system in place in the European Union and compliance with the Convention and expressed the view that the report did not provide sufficient details about how the Secretariat came to the general conclusion in paragraph 87 a) of document SC77 Doc. 33.8.'

The executive summary of the fifth session in document SC77 Sum. 5 was adopted with the following amendments:

- Under agenda item 59, add “the European Union” before “Japan”; and
- Under agenda item 41.2, add at the end of paragraph h): “and directed the Secretariat to report back to SC78.”

The executive summary of the sixth session in document SC77 Sum. 6 was adopted with the following amendments:

- Under agenda item 63.1, revise paragraph e) as follows (new text underlined): “welcomed the revised African Elephant Action Plan as approved in 2022 by the African elephant range States”.

The executive summary of the seventh session in document SC77 Sum. 7 was adopted with the following amendments:

- Under agenda item 39.4, paragraph a), delete “and make any additional suggestions for consideration”;
- Under agenda item 67.1, paragraph b), replace the first instance of “*Carcharhinus longimanus*” by “pelagic sharks”; and
- Under agenda item 33.13.2, the Committee requested the Secretariat to listen to the recording of the seventh session to verify whether the suggestion by India to replace “requested” by “urged” in paragraphs c) and f) had been agreed by the Committee.

Note: After listening to the recording available on the CITES YouTube Channel (time stamp: 2:54), the Secretariat confirmed that the Committee had not agreed to the change requested by India.

The executive summary of the eighth session in document SC77 Sum. 8 was adopted.

75. Any other business *No document*

There was no decision taken by the Committee.

76. Determination of the time and venue of the 78th meeting *No document*

The Committee noted that its 78th meeting would take place from 3 to 8 February 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

77. Closing remarks *No document*

Following the remarks by the Secretary-General, the Chair thanked all participants for their cooperation, the Secretariat and the interpreters, and closed the meeting at 17h.