

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-8 February 2025

Compliance

Compliance matters

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

2. At its 77th meeting (SC77; Geneva, November 2023), the Standing Committee reviewed the implementation of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, considering the report submitted by the Secretariat, the information provided by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the comments of its members and observer Parties and organizations, adopted recommendations addressed to the DRC on the following matters:
 - management of trade in *Psittacus erithacus*;
 - illegal trade; and
 - legislation and law enforcement.
3. Since SC77, the Secretariat has supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the implementation of all the Committee's recommendations, including the development of a general implementation plan, and in other issues such as trade in CITES-listed species and the issuance of permits and certificates.
4. In accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted a report on the application of Article XIII to the Secretariat. On the basis of this report and the various discussions held with the Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo since SC77, this document presents the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in implementing the Committee's recommendations, as well as the Secretariat's conclusions and recommendations regarding the application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
5. The Secretariat notes that most of the background information presented in document [SC77 Doc. 33.6](#) remains relevant. Following the conclusion of the procedures initiated at national level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Francophonie sent the Secretariat Note Verbale No. 130.01/0355/JN/2023 dated 22 December 2023 confirming the designation of the new CITES Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Secretariat has therefore updated the national contacts for the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the Convention website. This document therefore focuses on the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in implementing the recommendations of the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting, particularly since the designation of the new Management Authority.

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.*

6. The Democratic Republic of the Congo confirmed in its report that no trade involving the species *Psittacus erithacus* (African grey parrot) has been authorized since the adoption of the trade suspension recommendation, despite the reservation entered by the country following CoP17. An attempt to export around 530 parrots, authorized by a previous Governor of Maniema province, was halted when the Minister of State, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development sent a letter to the Governor of Maniema province reminding him of the ban on all possession, capture, circulation and export of African grey parrots in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The same letter alerted the INTERPOL bureau in Kinshasa to the situation, to ward off any attempt to export specimens. The Governor of Maniema province was replaced, and on 4 June 2024, the new Governor adopted a decree banning the capture, possession and trade of African grey parrots in Maniema, which is one of the species' areas of distribution and home to large populations of African grey parrots.
7. Due to a lack of resources, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not been able to make a scientifically based non-detriment finding (NDF) or develop a management plan for the species *Psittacus erithacus*. However, in the margins of the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee (PC27, AC33; Geneva, July 2024), the CITES authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo contacted the Parrot Breeders' Association of Southern Africa (PASA) to explore the possibility to cooperate and fund population surveys of *Psittacus erithacus* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Management Authority and PASA have agreed to prepare a fact-finding visit to South Africa by the Congolese delegation, which could take place during 2025. The authorities are currently preparing a budget estimate for this mission, which would comprise the CITES Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Scientific Authority and members of the professional association of bird traders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and representatives of PASA.
8. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported that plans are underway to deploy teams of ornithologists in two provinces (Tshopo and Maniema) for a pilot inventory project. The aim is to be able to develop a management plan for the species in the country, followed by NDFs, based on the inventories made. However, the full implementation of this project requires the mobilization of additional funds. The Democratic Republic of the Congo estimates the cost of conducting this pilot project at about USD 52,000 for both sites.

9. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has indicated that specific measures have been implemented through enforcement programmes to combat poaching and illegal trade in African grey parrots, both on a national and international level. These measures include:
 - a) the deployment of operational protection teams throughout the protected area network, and the ongoing training of these teams via training sessions delivered by national instructors from CorPPN, the corps in charge of ensuring the protection of national parks and nature reserves. These teams have been deployed in Garamba National Park, Okapi Wildlife Reserve, Lomami National Park and Bili Uere Hunting Reserve; and
 - b) training of customs inspectors, border police and the *Office Congolais de Contrôle* (national government agency responsible for controlling exports) in the identification of specimens of internationally traded animal species (e.g., reptiles, birds, mammals).
10. On 19 August 2024, the CITES authorities in Türkiye seized 309 African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, concealed in two shipments of red-fronted parrots (*Poicephalus gulielmi*) bound for Iraq and Thailand. When informed of the seizure, the Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo immediately issued a communiqué reporting a case of manifest fraud and a violation of the Convention that could be punished in accordance with the laws of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Subsequently, the Management Authority cooperated closely with the CITES authorities of Türkiye and the World Parrot Trust (WPT) to exchange all relevant information to enable the prosecution of the individuals responsible for this trafficking; and to enable the return of the seized specimens to the DRC for release. The authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo arrested the culprits, some of whom were remanded in custody and are currently under investigation. The identified trafficker was brought before the Public Prosecutor's Office in Kinshasa for the launch of proceedings under Law No. 14/003 of 11 February 2014 on Nature Conservation. The first hearing, which consisted of the identification of the defendants, was held on 4 November 2024, and the investigation and pleadings were held during the month of November. The case is now under deliberation. Parallel investigations with the customs services and the airline are also underway to dismantle the network of traffickers associated with this trafficking. The authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Türkiye also received information from the Management Authority of Thailand concerning this seizure and the details of this export of *Poicephalus gulielmi* to Thailand.
11. The authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Türkiye also cooperated on the return of the seized parrots to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*. The Secretariat has been informed that the Management Authorities of both countries organized the repatriation of the 126 surviving grey parrots, the remainder having died during their placement in Türkiye. The specimens arrived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 27 November 2024 and were taken to the Kinshasa Zoo. The parrots are to be stabilized at the zoo pending their transfer to the Parrot Conservation Centre in Kindu for rehabilitation and reintroduction into Lomami National Park. To prevent any problems, the specimens are being monitored by a veterinarian provided by the World Parrot Trust, which, in addition to monitoring the birds' health, is helping to build local capacity.
12. Finally, to complement these measures and reduce the risk of mortality among seized and confiscated specimens, the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have developed a centre for the recovery of seized specimens, whose mission is to rehabilitate and reintroduce these specimens into the wild. The centre, located in Dingi, Maniema province, has already rehabilitated and released 125 grey parrots, and is currently working on rehabilitating a further 133 specimens from previous seizures.
13. The question of developing a management plan and experimental export quotas has not yet been considered. Currently, the moratorium on the species is still in force, and no exports of *Psittacus erithacus* are authorized. However, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirms its willingness to implement these recommendations and has submitted several funding applications to donors for this purpose.

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;*

14. In its report, the Democratic Republic of the Congo explained that it had stepped up its efforts over the past three years to identify the criminal groups engaged in poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has submitted its annual report on illegal trade for 2024, which reports 44 cases of illegal possession and trafficking of wild animal species from the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulting in seizures. Most seizures involved ivory, pangolins (*Manis* spp.), various primates including great apes, *Psittacus erithacus*, and okapis (*Okapia johnstoni*). Other seizures involved more diverse species, such as antelopes and wild pigs. According to the report, the authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo seized – among other specimens – around 1,460 kilograms of ivory, 5 live chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), around 21 kilograms of pangolin scales and two live specimens (*Phataginus tricuspis*), and 172 African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*).
15. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also reported a number of ongoing proceedings and prosecutions of wildlife offenders:
- a) From October 2022 to June 2023: 6 proceedings were reported in Tshuapa province concerning the hunting, capture and transport of strictly protected species of wild fauna, poaching of animal species, violation of a protected area and introduction of a weapon of war into a protected area. Several arrests were made. In some cases, judgments have been issued. Cases still under investigation are being followed up by the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN, Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation) and its partners.
 - b) July 2023: a trial hearing was held in Beni concerning a case of elephant poaching by soldiers in Maiko National Park, in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu. One of the accused is reported to be on the run, while the other is in custody. The case is still pending before the Bunia Public Prosecutor's Office.
 - c) August 2023: another hearing was held in Butembo for the killing of elephants in Walikale (North Kivu) and Opienge/Bafwasende (Tshopo). No judgment has yet been issued.
 - d) November 2023: the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo supported the organization of hearings into the flagrant killing of an elephant in Maiko National Park in Manguredjipa (North Kivu) and the seizure of ivory in Kindu (Maniema) and Butembo (North Kivu). The defendants, in detention, are reported to have escaped during an attack on the Butembo detention centre by unknown individuals in the first quarter of 2024. The identities of the defendants have been passed on to the specialized services in charge of coordinating law enforcement efforts for investigation.
 - e) December 2023: a shipment of primates sent from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Thailand was seized in Lomé, Togo. Specimens of baboons (*Papio anubis*, Appendix II) and red-tailed guenons (*Cercopithecus ascanius*, Appendix II) were concealed in a shipment containing four other primate species, which were covered by a CITES permit issued by the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Management Authority confirmed that these specimens were not covered by the permit issued and were therefore considered illegal. The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Togo cooperated to enable the return of the 31 primates to Kinshasa, then to Haut Katanga province, where they were placed in the JACK Sanctuary. Twenty-one primates of different species survived and adapted to life at the sanctuary. A programme aimed at reintroduction into the wild is currently under development.
 - f) August 2024: the CITES authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo cooperated with the CITES authorities of Türkiye concerning the seizure of 309 African grey parrots (see paragraph 11 above).
 - g) A shipment of specimens of protected species of primates was seized at Goma Airport (North Kivu) on 21 August 2024 for infringement of Law 14/003 of 11 February 2014 on nature conservation. The seizure involved 14 primates of seven different species: *Lophocebus aterrimus*; *Cercocebus chrisogaster*; *Cercocebuscus agilis*; *Cercopithecus mitis*; *Cercopithecus negletus*; *Cercopithecus ascanius*; *Cercocebus lomamiensis*; and a young bonobo (*Pan paniscus*). The primates were cared for by the ICCN veterinarian and subsequently transferred to the JACK Sanctuary. The Management Authority issued a statement the same day denouncing the violation and took the necessary measures to deal with the situation. The head of the environmental authority in Sankuru province was questioned and the authorities concerned, namely the auxiliary officers of the provincial environmental authority and the manager of the sanctuary of destination, were reminded of the applicable administrative procedures. No deaths were reported.

With regard to sanctuary management, a technical meeting was held and resulted in the adoption of general guidelines for sanctuaries: (1) a formal ban on the transfer or exchange of any specimen from

one site to another without informing ICCN's General Management; (2) a requirement for close monitoring by scientific staff, with periodic reports on the number of individuals of each species undergoing rehabilitation in each sanctuary, to be submitted to ICCN; (3) requirement for sanctuaries to specialize according to the expertise of resource persons, avoiding the presence of multiple species in the same centres; and (4) submission to ICCN of a medium-term strategic plan for the reintroduction of specimens ready for release into the wild.

- h) September 2024: a case is under investigation at the Gombe Public Prosecutor's Office in Kinshasa for illegal trafficking in protected animal species. The person responsible has been arrested.
 - i) September 2024: another case is also under investigation at the Gombe Public Prosecutor's Office for illegal trafficking in pangolin (*Manis* spp.) scales and other protected animal species. The person responsible has been arrested.
16. In addition to these procedures, the Management Authority reported that the Task Force to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains operational. Cooperation between CITES authorities and enforcement authorities was strengthened in the past year and is starting to bear fruit. Specifically, since 2022, over 700 kilos of pangolin (*Manis* spp.) scales have been seized in the DRC thanks to the cooperation between the Public Prosecutor's Office, the criminal police and the legal advisors of the ICCN. This stockpile was stored in the Kisangani Public Prosecutor's Office. In this regard, the Management Authority contacted the CITES Secretariat requesting advice on the various ways of disposing of seized and confiscated specimens. Moreover, all the criminal acts involving CITES-listed species (e.g., *Psittacus erithacus*, *Manis* spp., primates) are systematically referred to the judicial and enforcement authorities.
17. Regarding capacity building, several training workshops have been organized in the various provinces, as follows:
- a) March 2022 (Ituri province): 23 judiciary police officers received training on how to draw reports and investigate wildlife crimes. This training was organized by prosecution authorities of the Ituri Public Prosecutor's Office, with the support of the World Conservation Society (WCS), an operational partner of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.
 - b) May 2022 (Haut Uélé province): 18 eco-guards of Garamba National Park received training as judiciary police officers and took oath of office.
 - c) February 2024: 7 senior officials of ICCN posted in the central headquarters in Kinshasa were sworn in after receiving training as judiciary police officers at the *Institut National de Formation Judiciaire* with the support of the African Wildlife Foundation. This unit supports the Management Authority in the enforcement of laws on nature conservation and the Convention. This strengthening of enforcement authorities contributed to the arrest and referral to the Gombe Public Prosecutor's Office in Kinshasa of a woman who was selling bushmeat. This arrest was also used as an opportunity to raise awareness among other vendors who might be selling strictly protected species.
 - d) The Democratic Republic of the Congo has also benefitted from or participated in several capacity-building activities conducted under the auspices of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). More detailed information on this can be found in SC78 Doc. 38.2 on *ICCWC* and SC78 Doc. 39.2 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*, and in the 2023 annual report of ICCWC.
18. The government authorities operating in the two main points of entry and exit in western Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa N'Djili Airport and Matadi Seaport) were those who detected the highest number of cases of illegal trade. Therefore, the officials of these authorities were particularly targeted for capacity building. They received training and identification tools, specifically regarding ivory, rhino horn and pangolin scales. The training was complemented by the creation of a dedicated line of communication and information exchange that allows the CITES Management Authority to coordinate the issuance of CITES permits and certificates, to confirm the authenticity of documents and to coordinate actions with the enforcement authorities so as to reduce infringements and illegal trade.
19. To monitor the risks of violation of the moratorium on *Psittacus erithacus* and any other cases of illegal trade, the Management Authority appointed new CITES focal points and deployed them in the five parts of the territory where with major conservation areas (i.e., Paysage de Salonga, Paysage Parc Marin des mangroves, Paysage Upemba et Kundelungu and Paysage Lomami. These *paysages* or landscapes are

zones that contain not only protected areas. The deployment of focal points has the main objective of monitoring the actions of criminals who operate outside these areas and might not be detected by eco-guards or forest rangers. These focal points are in charge of recording and reporting cases of crimes discovered and of apprehension of suspects.

20. Finally, the Democratic Republic of the Congo highlighted that the software for the management of CITES permits known as CMIS has been suspended because of the difficulties linked to the change in the designation of the focal points of the CITES Management Authority for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Management Authority has temporarily gone back to using a paper-based system in which CITES permits are filled out manually. However, a new system provisionally known as CITES Tracking and Reliability Management System (CTRMS) is being designed and a trial phase with its corresponding practical training was launched in November 2024. The system is expected to become operational before the end of 2024, provided that the necessary funds can be mobilized. Meanwhile, measures have been taken to reduce the risk of fraud and/or forgery of CITES documents: awareness raising of traders of animal and plant species, ongoing communication with the main Management Authorities of importing countries, recording and monitoring of trade via Excel spreadsheets and monitoring of the use of quotas on the basis of exports made and through the reports recorded in a database that is already operational.

Regarding legislation and 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.*

21. In its report, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reiterated its commitment to strengthening its regulatory framework for the implementation of the Convention by launching capacity-building activities and drafting regulatory and administrative texts for the implementation of CITES. Several initiatives can be mentioned, for example:

- a) The workshop for the analysis and review of the memorandum of understanding on administrative collaboration in the fight against illegal wildlife trade between the CITES Management Authority and its auxiliary bodies: the *Direction Générale des Douanes et Accises* (Customs Authority) and the *Office Congolais de Contrôle*. This workshop focused on the update of the memorandum to strengthen cooperation between the institutions and their communication and information-sharing mechanism;
- b) The drafting of a draft ministerial decree on the procedure for marking and labelling, recording and storing ivory specimens, pangolin scales and other wildlife products, as well as field activities conducted to ensure the traceability of these products and a better governance and transparency in the management of the stockpiles concerned; and
- c) Decree No.137 of 7 February 2024 by the Minister of Justice on the creation of the interagency unit for collaboration and cooperation in investigations and prosecutions linked to money laundering and the financing of terrorism (*Unité interservices de collaboration et de coopération en matière d'enquêtes et des poursuites liées au blanchiment des capitaux et financement du terrorisme*).

Discussion and conclusions

22. After eight years of application of Article XIII, the Secretariat wishes to congratulate the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and particularly the new focal points of the Management Authority, for the efforts made in the implementing all the recommendations addressed to the DRC on the various processes under way (i.e., Review of Significant Trade¹, National Ivory Action Plans² and Article XIII). The Secretariat notes the efforts of the Management Authority to develop a work plan for implementing the Standing Committee's recommendations and to review the outstanding recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade. The Secretariat also wishes to thank the Parties, partners and donors for the technical and financial support provided to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the implementation of the

¹ See document SC78 Doc. 34.1 on the Review of Significant Trade. *The Democratic Republic of the Congo is concerned by Poicephalus gulielmi and Poicephalus fuscicollis*.

² See document SC78 Doc. 33.13.1 on the National ivory action plan process.

recommendations and for its cooperation with the Secretariat sharing information and tangible evidence in cases of presumed irregularities.

23. Although the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not been to make any progress in the making of NDFs, population surveys and a management plan for *Psittacus erithacus*, it has taken all the necessary steps to extend the moratorium on trade in the species and the ban on its exports. The Secretariat notes that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is working on the preparation of the first population surveys of the species and encourages the country to implement this long-standing recommendation, including by seeking the necessary support from partners, which may make it possible to fulfil the actions required in Decision 17.256 (Rev. CoP19).
24. Regarding illegal trade, despite the remaining difficulties linked to illegal trade and various cases of wildlife trafficking, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has strengthened the capacity of CITES and enforcement authorities and has implemented numerous actions aimed at ensuring the effective application of the Convention and the seizure of illegal specimens. The Secretariat also notes that the Management Authority has taken all the necessary measures to ensure prompt communication and action regarding reports of illegal trade and seizures of specimens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In fact, it continues to make numerous efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade, particularly of elephants, pangolins, primates and parrots. Moreover, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has taken significant steps to ensure the development of a new electronic system for the issuance of CITES permits and certificates after use of CMIS system was discontinued and to manage the situation as well as possible in the interim. Considering the persistence of cases of wildlife trafficking, the Secretariat encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue building the capacity of its CITES authorities and enforcement authorities. It also encourages the DRC to designate one or several enforcement focal points. Finally, the Secretariat notes that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not reported its ivory stockpiles since 2017, as provided for by Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*. Yet, there seem to be ivory stockpiles in the country indeed. Therefore, such stockpiles should be reported in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19).
25. Finally, similar encouragements can be made regarding legislation. In fact, although the legislation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is already included in Category 1 of the National Legislation Project, the country should keep reinforcing its regulatory framework for the implementation of CITES to strengthen the institutional base of the Management Authority and the Scientific Authority, but also to strengthen the capacity of the Congolese authorities to fight illegal trade and wildlife trafficking. In this context, the Secretariat notes that the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to implement its Ivory Action Plan and must keep reporting on its implementation, in accordance with the guidelines included in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*. To support the action of the CITES authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Secretariat recommends upholding the recommendations made by the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting, noting that once the recommendations on the management of trade in *Psittacus erithacus* have been implemented or the Democratic Republic of the Congo has withdrawn its reservation for this species, the Secretariat considers that the Democratic Republic of the Congo should exit the process.

Recommendations

26. The Secretariat proposes that the Standing Committee renew the recommendations adopted at SC77, with certain modifications considering the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Regarding the management of trade in Psittacus erithacus

- a) The Parties maintain the recommendation to suspend 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 a species included in Appendix I (*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 continue 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*); in this context, the Standing Committee takes note of the commitment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to undertake population surveys and develop a management plan for *Psittacus erithacus* and encourages the country to continue its efforts launched in this regard; and
- iv) the Democratic Republic of the Congo not establish experimental export quotas as part of scientific surveys of the species in the country.

Regarding illegal trade and enforcement

- b) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should continue its efforts to collect all the relevant data on illegal trade and on the action of the criminal groups operating in the country, to develop a register to collect all these data, and to continue to work in close collaboration with all the authorities concerned, including at the local level in the areas identified as most important, so as to conduct operations and investigations based on the intelligence obtained, focusing particularly on the trafficking of *Psittacus erithacus* (African grey parrots), *Manis* spp. (pangolins), great apes and other species of primates, and elephant ivory;
 - c) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should consider developing and launching a strategy to fight corruption linked to wildlife crime at all levels, including anti-corruption policies, and step up efforts to ensure the full implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*. The strategy should include recommendations aimed at protecting officials in charge of the implementation of CITES from undue pressures, obstructions and threats;
 - d) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should continue to report on the implementation of its National Ivory Action Plan, in accordance with the guidelines in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.
27. The Democratic Republic of the Congo should report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC81), in order for the Secretariat to consider it in its report to the Standing Committee on the application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.