

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 GUINEA

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 61st meeting (SC61; Geneva, August 2011), the Standing Committee asked the Secretariat to undertake a mission to Guinea (see summary record [SC61 SR](#)). The mission took place in September 2011 and brought to light significant problems in the implementation of the Convention. At its 63rd meeting (SC63; Bangkok, March 2013), the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties recommending a suspension of trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Guinea (see [Notification to the Parties No. 2013/017 of 16 May 2013](#)).
3. At its 69th meeting (SC69; Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee noted the progress made by Guinea and asked the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to conduct a technical mission to Guinea pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention (see summary record [SC69 SR](#)). The technical mission took place in January 2019 and the Secretariat reported its results and conclusions to the Standing Committee at its 71st meeting (SC71; Geneva, August 2019) in document [SC71 Doc. 10.2](#). The Committee adopted recommendations, which were published in [Notification to the Parties No. 2019/075 of 19 December 2019](#). The Standing Committee's recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Guinea was also reissued.
4. Through [Notification to the Parties No. 2021/033 of 26 April 2021](#), the Secretariat announced the result of a decision-making procedure under Rule 20 of the Standing Committee's Rules of Procedure. The Committee had decided to exceptionally allow the export and import of the stock of pre-Convention specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Guinea with a maximum volume of 14,000 m³, subject to the safeguard measures in Note de Service 200051 adopted by Guinea on 16 November 2020 and a set of conditions set out in the Notification, including that 40 per cent of the proceeds from the export would be transferred to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Guinea to be allocated towards the conservation of species of fauna and flora in Guinea.
5. At its 74th meeting (SC74; Lyon, March 2022), the Standing Committee reviewed the implementation of these recommendations regarding exports of pre-Convention specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, national legislation, the management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates, and compliance and enforcement. The Committee noted the coup d'état in Guinea in September 2021 which delayed the export process that was supposed to be completed by April 2022 (according to the Notification of 26 April 2021) and granted Guinea an additional period of six months (until 13 November 2022). The Committee also took note of the inventory of the stockpile of pre-Convention *Pterocarpus erinaceus* made by the Guinean authorities on 7 June 2021, which came to a total volume of 12,882 m³ of exportable wood of the 14,000 m³ originally estimated; the Committee also invited importing Parties to exert due diligence when CITES permits or certificates from Guinea were submitted, if they had reason to believe that the specimens of CITES-listed species may not have been traded in accordance with the decision adopted by the Standing Committee on

21 April 2021. Finally, the Committee adopted the recommendations as contained in the summary record of the meeting (see [SC74 SR](#)).

6. At its 75th meeting (SC75; Panama City, November 2022), the Standing Committee noted the oral report of the Secretariat and the additional information provided by Morocco on behalf of Guinea (see summary record [SC75 SR](#)). The Committee did not agree to lifting the recommendation to suspend trade for commercial purposes with Guinea.
7. At its 77th meeting (SC77; Geneva, November 2023), the Standing Committee reviewed the progress made by Guinea on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, as presented in document [SC77 Doc. 33.9](#) and [SC77 Doc. 33.9 Add](#). The Secretariat provided an updates on: the export of the pre-Convention stockpile of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* authorized by the Standing Committee; a mission undertaken by the Secretariat in October 2023 to collect additional information on the export of the stockpile; and the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee and the implementation of the CITES Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) in Guinea.
8. Through its mission in October 2023, the Secretariat confirmed its concerns about the issuance by the CITES Management Authority (MA) of Guinea of pre-Convention certificates for volumes exceeding the inventoried stockpile, which had been estimated at 12,882 m³ (as mentioned in paragraph 5):
 - a) The National Commission established by the Note of Service 200052 adopted by Guinea to oversee the export of the stockpile, claimed that the original inventory had been wrong, and that the volume was larger than the original estimation, i.e., amounting to 14,000 m³. Following consultations of the Secretariat with the CITES MA of China and the shipping company in charge of transporting the stockpile from Guinea to China, it appeared that over 350 CITES pre-Convention certificates were issued by the CITES MA of Guinea, for a volume of over 20,000 m³ in 2022 and 2023. As the CITES MA of Guinea claimed that many of these permits were declared as invalid, the Secretariat asked for a list of invalidated pre-Convention certificates. These were not received.
 - b) Thanks to photos received from China and with the advice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Secretariat noted that there were differences in the appearance of the logs: some with grey or almost black color, and others with a more reddish color that likely had been logged more recently.
9. Following the Secretariat's reporting to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development of Guinea, including the findings about pre-Convention certificates issued for an excess volume and the significant amount of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* shipped without any valid CITES pre-Convention certificate, swift action was taken by the Minister. Through a Ministerial Decision 2023/000027 issued on Tuesday 17 October 2023, the two members of the CITES MA were suspended with immediate effect, however without being suspended from their positions within the *Direction Nationale des Forêts et de la Faune (DNFF)*, and two other staff members of the DNFF took up their positions as CITES MA.
10. The Secretariat noted that the CAP, and funding from the sale of the pre-Convention stockpile, were expected to contribute to the implementation of some of the proposed recommendations. On the export of a pre-Convention stockpile of *P. erinaceus*, Guinea reported that it had established a committee to oversee the export process to China and that, while this process generally went smoothly, it had encountered some issues related to missing certificates of origin. It further emphasized that no commercial trade had been permitted from the country since 2013, and as such, it had a strict approach to any officials or accomplices involved in unlawful operations. The Standing Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and Guinea and agreed on a revised set of recommendations, contained in summary record [SC77 SR](#). The Standing Committee further requested Guinea to report on progress with the implementation of the Committee's recommendations in time for the present meeting.

Progress made since SC77

11. The activities in the CAP have been implemented, supporting efforts to address the recommendations of the Standing Committee, including on strengthening of capacities of the Management and Scientific Authorities; establishment of a database for CITES documentation; development of a Protocol for the issuance of Non-Detriment Findings (NDF); establishment of national quotas for certain species in Guinea; regulatory reforms to bring national legislation in compliance with CITES provisions; strengthening of capacities of national enforcement authorities; development of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) Indicator Framework; work to improve the infrastructure for seized and confiscated specimens, etc. More

information on the activities implemented with CAP support is provided in document SC78 Doc. 23 on *Compliance Assistance Programme*.

12. As requested by the Standing Committee, Guinea submitted a brief report on the implementation of the recommendations under Article XIII, which the Secretariat has summarized in the following paragraphs for each recommendation. This is followed by the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretariat for the consideration of the Standing Committee.

Regarding the proceeds from the export of the stockpile of Pterocarpus erinaceus

Guinea should:

- b) *provide to the Secretariat evidence from the Public Treasury of the deposit in the State account of the proceeds obtained from the sale of the Pterocarpus erinaceus stockpile (4 billion Guinean francs, equivalent to USD 478,650) as well as of the transfer of the 40% (equivalent to USD 190,386) to a separate subaccount of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the establishment of a budget for the use of the funds taking into account the Compliance Assistance Project and in close consultation with the Management Authority;*

13. In its report, Guinea provided evidence that revenue from the sale of the *Pterocarpus erinaceus* stockpile of GNF 3,118,877,641 (equivalent to USD 364,688) had been deposited to the Public Treasury State account. At SC77, Guinea had informed the Committee that the proceeds from the sale had been of GNF 4 billion and did not provide further explanation when the Secretariat inquired about the different figure deposited to the Public Treasury State account.
14. Guinea further reported that this amount would be primarily used to cover the costs for the return from China of 422 containers of illegally traded specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, which had created additional expenses that were not originally foreseen. A roadmap had been developed for the return of the specimens, which was approved and signed by the relevant authorities in June 2024. This roadmap included the establishment of a Reception Commission under the coordination of the Court for Economic and Financial Offences (*la Cour de Répression des Infractions Economiques et Financières*); the transfer of the timber to an appropriate site under judicial supervision; the opening of an in-depth investigation; the initiation of the trial of the alleged offenders. The costs for this entire operation were expected to exceed the amount of the proceeds obtained from the sale of the stockpile and any additional costs will be covered from the ordinary account of the Guinean Wood Office on the instructions of the Ministry authorities.
15. Guinea reported that any penalties that would be imposed on the alleged offenders, following their conviction at trial, would be collected and deposited into a separate sub-account of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and a budget for the use of the funds would be established, taking into account the CAP and in close consultation with the CITES MA. However, Guinea reported that, to date, no amount of the proceeds of the sale of the pre-Convention stockpile had been transferred to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development for the conservation of fauna and flora in Guinea as originally required by the Standing Committee as a condition for approving the export of the pre-Convention stockpile. An action plan and budget dedicated to the conservation of wild fauna and flora in Guinea, including the implementation of the Convention amounting to the 40% of the proceeds of the sale of the pre-Convention stockpile, had been prepared by the CITES MA and submitted for consideration by the Ministry.

Regarding national legislation

Guinea should:

- c) *adopt legislative measures that meet the minimum requirements of CITES set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on National laws for implementation of the Convention and in accordance with the guidance provided under the National Legislation Project; this should include the issuance of a legally binding instrument on the functions and responsibilities of the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities;*

16. Guinea reported that amendments to the Forestry Code and the Wildlife Protection Code and hunting regulations, as well as certain enabling legislation texts related to the implementation of the Convention (including a new decree on international trade in specimens of species of wild fauna and flora) was validated during a workshop in March 2024 and submitted to the Ministry's cabinet for final corrections. Guinea did not provide an estimated timeline of this process.

17. The Secretariat undertook a legal analysis of the following legal instruments submitted by Guinea and provided its comments to the MA of Guinea in May 2024:
- a draft decree on the possession, export, re-export, import, transport and transit of specimens of species of flora and fauna (CITES decree);
 - a draft Memorandum of Understanding for administrative collaboration for the fight against illegal trade in CITES species;
 - a draft decree on the implementation of the Wildlife Code;
 - a draft decree on the implementation of the Forestry Code; and
 - a draft joint decree on hunting fees and taxes.
18. In its report, Guinea did not provide any response to the legal analysis provided by the CITES Secretariat.

Regarding management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates

Guinea should:

- implement an electronic system for the receipt and management of applications for CITES documents, and for the issuance, filing and monitoring of CITES documents, as well as for the timely submission of an annual report; Guinea must ensure a quick setting up of the new Management Authority and submit new sample signature without delay to the CITES Secretariat and continue to use security paper and security stamps;*

19. Guinea reported that a database for the management of authorized trade in forest and wildlife resources had been developed and the software was put in place under the CAP. The database was expected to facilitate the issuance of trade permits as well as its monitoring and reporting and ensure compliance with applicable regulations. The new head and focal point of the MA of Guinea was communicated to the Secretariat. Guinea also submitted the new sample signatures to the Secretariat.

- develop a protocol for the making of non-detriment findings by the CITES Scientific Authority prior to the issuance of export permits;*

20. In its report, Guinea indicated that the protocol for making non-detriment findings had been developed with support from a consultant and was facilitated through a training workshop on NDFs with the Scientific Authority (SA). It also reported that a dedicated working group was established. However, the endorsement of the protocol was still pending.

- assess the capacity of the CITES Management and Scientific Authority on CITES implementation, including the capacity to make non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, and address any gaps and needs for training and capacity-building, with the relevant technical assistance, including from the CITES Secretariat, if requested and subject to available resources;*

21. Guinea reported that, under the current CAP funding, several capacity-building and training workshops for the MAs and SAs were convened, attended by a total of 106 participants, including 20 women. The following workshops took place:

- 11-12 October 2023: Workshop on the ICCWC Indicator Framework, organized by UNODC;
- 13 October 2023: Training workshop of the Scientific Authority (SA), with the participation of the MA, on the roles and responsibilities of the SA, including introduction to the development of NDFs;
- 1-2 March 2024: Workshop (MA and SA) to agree on the species and the proposed quotas (see below);
- 5-6 March 2024: Workshop to validate the revised legislative texts;
- 21 May 2024: Joint session between the MA and the Ministry of Fisheries to agree on the implementation of CITES for marine specimens;

- 11-12 July 2024: Meeting between customs and the MA to agree on the MoU on strengthened collaboration and the text of the draft MoU;
- 18-19 July 2024: Training workshop of the MA to agree on the standard operating procedures for the MA;
- 4-7 September 2024: Visit of the MA of Guinea to the MA of Côte d'Ivoire for capacity-building and exchange of experiences
- [Dates not provided]: workshop on pre-export inspections.

g) *in order to prepare for the consideration of a future partial withdrawal of the recommendation to suspend trade, Guinea should submit for approval by the CITES Secretariat a list of species included in CITES Appendix II for which export for commercial purposes could be considered; and initiate the process of collecting data and information related to the approved species in order to develop precautionary voluntary export quotas for consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, respectively, and the Standing Committee, taking into account Article IV of the Convention, Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings, Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Legal acquisition findings and Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on Management of nationally established export quotas;*

22. In response to this recommendation, Guinea produced a report on the species of wild fauna and flora for which Guinea is a range State, along with their conservation status and their potential for being harvested for international trade. The report had been produced under the CAP with the assistance of a local consultant and was shared with the Secretariat. The report was developed based on data collected through existing reports and field surveys, and analyses of this information. It identifies a list of ten species included in CITES Appendix II for which export for commercial purposes could be considered with the proposed voluntary annual national export quotas presented in Table 1 below, if the Standing Committee were to agree to partially withdraw the recommendation to suspend trade. However, the report contained no information on how the quotas will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.

Table1. Proposed list of CITES species and voluntary export quotas that could be considered if the Standing Committee were to partially withdraw the recommendation to suspend trade

N°	Family	Scientific name	Common name	National Annex	CITES App.	Unit	Annual quota
1	Chamaeleonidae	<i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i>	Graceful Chameleon		II	No.	100
2		<i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i>	Senegal Chameleon		II	No.	100
3	Pandionidae	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	II	II	No.	10
4	Strigidae	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	Pearl-spotted Owlet	II	II	No.	30
5	Psittacidae	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	Senegal Parrot	II	II	No.	30
6	Psittaculidae	<i>Agapornis pullarius</i>	Red-faced Lovebird	II	II	No.	10
7	Cercopithecidae	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	Greater spot-nosed guenon	II	II	No.	100
8	Cercopithecidae	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>	Patatas Green monkey	II	II	No.	50
9	Carcharhinidae	<i>Rhizoprionodon acutus</i>	Milk shark	II	II	Ton	20

h) *every six months, submit copies of CITES permits and certificates issued to the CITES Secretariat for information and monitoring;*

23. Guinea reported that no CITES permits and certificates had been issued in 2024.

Regarding compliance and law enforcement

Guinea should:

- i) under the aegis of the Advocate General of the Conakry Court of Appeal (Focal Point for Wildlife Crime of the Ministry of Justice), and in accordance with national law, conduct criminal and financial investigations, through specialized agencies such as INTERPOL's National Central Bureau, the National Financial Information Processing Unit (Cellule Nationale de traitement des Informations Financières - CENTIF), the National Anti-corruption and good governance promotion agency, and the National Wildlife and Forest Crime Brigade; and undertake judicial prosecutions against all individuals and entities involved in alleged offences associated with the recent illicit trafficking of Pterocarpus erinaceus, including the members of the National Commission, irrespective of their position;*
- j) make efforts to also investigate and collect information on the transnational organized syndicates operating in the country so that they can be brought to justice and avoid that only small perpetrators are targeted;*
- k) continue to investigate and prosecute other cases of illegal trade in specimens of CITES listed species and inform the Secretariat of the results of any legal proceedings by submitting the annual illegal trade report in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report;*

24. Guinea provided a table showing the number of offenders that were arrested and the legal proceedings pursued across the country since 2012 with regard to fauna and flora (including non-CITES). Guinea also reported that undercover investigations were carried out which resulted in the arrest of major transnational traffickers in previous years. It further indicated that a cross-border panther skin trafficker operating between Guinea and Mali had been arrested and was being prosecuted, although no further details on this process was provided.
25. The Secretariat notes that the latest Annual Illegal Trade Report (AITR) submitted by Guinea to the Secretariat was for the period January 2019 to March 2020. No AITR has been submitted since.

- l) consider developing and implementing a strategy to counter corruption linked to wildlife crime at all levels, including anti-bribery policies, and intensify efforts to ensure 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 to protect officials responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES from undue pressure, obstruction and threats;*

26. In its report, Guinea stated that the Statute of Magistrates (*le statut de la Magistrature*) allows for combatting corruption in the judicial system as it provides the conditions enabling them to strictly apply the law. Guinea did not provide any further information on how this recommendation has been implemented. The Secretariat notes that this recommendation was agreed only at SC77 and was therefore not part of the activities currently receiving financial support under the CAP.

- m) establish a formal agreement between the CITES Management Authority and the Customs Service on collaboration, coordination and exchange of information;*

27. Guinea reported that a formal agreement between the MA and Customs Service had been developed, covering aspects of collaboration, coordination and exchange of information. To this end, a consultation and validation workshop with relevant stakeholders had been organized in July 2024, with support under the CAP. The draft formal agreement had been submitted to the competent Authorities for validation and signature; however, no indication has been provided on the expected signature date. Although the formal Agreement had not been signed yet, Guinea indicated that the cooperation and exchange of information between the MA and Customs Service was very efficient, including prompt handover of specimens seized by the Customs Services to the MA.

n) develop a protocol for the management and disposal of seized and confiscated specimens (live and dead), taking into account the provisions of the Convention and the recommendations of Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species;

28. Guinea reported that it had developed a protocol for the management of seized and confiscated specimens. A consultation workshop had been organized with relevant public and private actors and the protocol had been submitted for validation. Guinea did not provide further information on its expected date of endorsement.

o) take action to address the gaps identified through the implementation of the Indicator Framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC);

29. Guinea reported that a strategic document had been prepared and was undergoing an internal validation process. Guinea did not provide any further information on the content, expected finalization date or plan for its implementation.

Regarding reporting on the implementation of these recommendations

p) Guinea shall prepare a report on the implementation of these recommendations, including the budget and the use of the funds mentioned in recommendation b) and any progress in the criminal investigations mentioned in recommendation i) and any other pertinent information. Guinea shall submit the report to the Secretariat 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee so that the Secretariat can in turn submit its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee at that meeting.

30. Guinea submitted a report on the implementation of the Standing Committee recommendations; however, the evidence provided is insufficient for the Secretariat to assess progress.

Discussion and conclusions

31. The Secretariat acknowledges that Guinea has provided evidence of some progress in the implementation of the SC77 recommendations reflected above. The Secretariat also notes that the financial and in-kind contribution provide under CAP were instrumental in the implementation of many of the recommendations where progress has been achieved. However, further work must be carried out and evidence provided by the Party to the Secretariat to demonstrate full implementation of many of the recommendations.
32. Regarding the export of the stockpile of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, the Secretariat notes that information on deposit in the State account of an amount of GNF 3,118,877,641 (equivalent to approx. USD 364,688) has been reported by Guinea representing the earnings of the sale of the pre-Convention stockpile exceptionally approved by the Standing Committee in 2021. The Secretariat understands that the amount of actual proceeds was lower than the originally estimated amount of GNF 4 billion (equivalent to USD 478,650) referred to in the recommendation. The Secretariat also notes that the deposited amount might be used in its entirety, and if needed supplemented through the ordinary account of the Guinean Wood Office, to cover the expenses related to the return of the illegally traded timber by China after China decided not to seize and confiscate it in late 2023/early 2024. Therefore, the Secretariat notes that no funds have been deposited to date in a separate subaccount of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to enhance CITES implementation, although a proposed action plan and budget has been prepared by the CITES MA.
33. Guinea indicated that it was anticipating the collection and deposit of penalties, upon conviction of the alleged offenders at trial, into a separate sub-account of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. However, the Secretariat is of the view that this amount would be insufficient and significantly lower than the 40 per cent of the proceeds of the sale of the pre-Convention stockpile that Guinea was supposed to allocate towards the conservation of species of wild fauna and flora in the country.
34. Regarding national legislation, the Secretariat acknowledges the process undertaken by Guinea to introduce amendments in its legal and regulatory framework, as well as the consultations held at their drafting stage. However, the formal adoption is still pending for reasons that are unknown to the Secretariat. It is critical that the legislative framework be finalized, adopted and enacted as a matter of highest priority.
35. Regarding CITES permits and certificates, the Secretariat notes the progress reported on the establishment of a CITES database, and strengthening of capacities of relevant authorities, including on NDF development.

36. In line with the recommendations of the Standing Committee, Guinea prepared and submitted a list of Appendix-II species for which export for commercial purposes could be considered, as well as a proposal for national export quotas. The document submitted also contained information on the process of data collection and analysis. This exercise appears to have been beneficial for the Authorities as a capacity-building and training activity.
37. Regarding compliance and law enforcement, Guinea has not submitted its AITR and that the information provided with regard to the judicial proceedings related to the illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed species is insufficient. In addition, Guinea has not provided any detailed information on the legal proceedings taken against the persons involved in the illegal timber trade described in addendum [SC77 Doc. 33.9 Add.](#)
38. The Secretariat notes that the report submitted by Guinea shows that implementation of many recommendations of the Standing Committee have been progressed at a technical level, including with support from the Secretariat. However, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee should not consider a withdrawal, partial or full, of the recommendation to suspend trade until the national legislation meets the CITES minimum requirements under the CITES National Legislation Project and a more comprehensive report with evidence on progress in achievement of all the recommendations is provided. The Secretariat would advise that Guinea focus on developing a strategy to counter corruption linked to wildlife crime as this appears to be critical in the country. It would also be important to strive for a swifter decision-making process at national level to improve the effectiveness of the country to respond to the recommendations of the Standing Committee and achieve long-term compliance with the Convention.

Recommendations

39. In light of the above, the Secretariat proposes that the Standing Committee revise and update its recommendations adopted at SC77 as follows:

Regarding the recommendation to suspend trade

- a) The Committee recommends that Parties continue to suspend all trade in CITES-listed species with Guinea for commercial purposes until the following recommendations have been met to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee:

Regarding the proceeds from the export of the stockpile of Pterocarpus erinaceus

Guinea should:

- b) provide to the Secretariat evidence of the transfer of the 40% of the proceeds obtained from the sale of the *Pterocarpus erinaceus* pre-Convention stockpile or any income from legal proceedings (i.e. an amount equivalent to at least USD 144,716) to a separate subaccount of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the establishment of a budget for the use of the funds in support of CITES implementation and conservations of fauna and flora in Guinea;

Regarding national legislation

Guinea should:

- c) as a matter of priority adopt and ensure the application of the revised legislative measures that meet the minimum requirements of CITES set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for implementation of the Convention* and in accordance with the guidance provided under the National Legislation Project; this should include the issuance of a legally binding instrument on the functions and responsibilities of the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities;

Regarding management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates

Guinea should:

- d) validate the protocol for the making of non-detriment findings by the CITES Scientific Authority prior to the issuance of export permits;

Regarding compliance and law enforcement

Guinea should:

- e) under the aegis of the Advocate General of the Conakry Court of Appeal (Focal Point for Wildlife Crime of the Ministry of Justice), and in accordance with national law, continue to conduct criminal and financial investigations, through specialized agencies such as INTERPOL's National Central Bureau, the National Financial Information Processing Unit (*Cellule Nationale de traitement des Informations Financières*), the National Anti-corruption and good governance promotion agency, and the National Wildlife and Forest Crime Brigade; and undertake judicial prosecutions against all individuals and entities involved in alleged offences associated with the illicit trafficking of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, including the members of the National Commission, irrespective of their position;
 - f) continue its efforts to investigate and collect information on the transnational organized syndicates operating in the country so that they can be brought to justice and avoid that only small perpetrators are targeted;
 - g) continue to investigate and prosecute other cases of illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed species and inform the Secretariat of the results of any legal proceedings by submitting the annual illegal trade report in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*;
 - h) consider developing and implementing a strategy to counter corruption linked to wildlife crime at all levels, including anti-bribery policies, and intensify efforts to ensure 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 to protect officials responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES from undue pressure, obstruction and threats;
 - i) validate and implement the formal agreement between the CITES Management Authority and the Customs Service on collaboration, coordination and exchange of information;
 - j) validate and implement the developed protocol for the management and disposal of seized and confiscated specimens (live and dead), taking into account the provisions of the Convention and the recommendations of Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*;
 - k) continue taking action to address the gaps identified through the implementation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) Indicator Framework.
40. The Standing Committee is further invited to request that Guinea prepare a comprehensive report on the implementation of these recommendations, including the budget and the use of the funds mentioned in recommendation b) and any progress in the criminal investigations mentioned in recommendations e) to g) and any other pertinent information and evidence needed to confirm implementation by the Secretariat. Guinea shall submit the report to the Secretariat 90 days before the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee so that the Secretariat can in turn submit its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee at that meeting.