

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 NIGERIA

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 70th meeting (SC70; Sochi, October 2018), the Standing Committee adopted a set of recommendations with respect to Nigeria (see summary record [SC70 SR](#)), including *inter alia* a recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Nigeria. The Committee also recommended that Nigeria take strong enforcement actions against organised criminal networks involved in the illegal transnational trade in pangolin scales and African elephant ivory. At the same meeting, the Committee also recommended that Nigeria report to the Secretariat on progress made on the implementation of its recommendations. During the intersessional work period of the Standing Committee in 2020-2021, Nigeria provided a progress report to the Standing Committee included in document [SC2020 Inf. 6](#).
3. At its 74th (SC74; Lyon, March 2022), 75th (SC75; Panama City, November 2022) and 77th (SC77; Geneva, November 2023) meetings, the Standing Committee reviewed the progress made by Nigeria on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, as presented in documents [SC74 Doc. 28.2.4](#), [SC75 Doc. 7.2.5](#) and [SC77 Doc. 33.11](#), and revised its recommendations accordingly.
4. For SC77, Nigeria had not been able to submit a report on the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations under Article XIII within the deadline due to elections and subsequent change in government in February 2023 (as reported by the Secretariat in document [SC77 Doc.33.11](#)). During SC77, Nigeria provided an oral update on its activities, reiterated its commitment to ensure compliance while acknowledging the scale of the task, welcomed the support provided by the Secretariat as well as the funding and assistance provided by partners, and remained open to suggestions to continue to enhance compliance measures.
5. The Standing Committee agreed on a new set of recommendations, contained in summary record [SC77 SR](#). The Committee further requested Nigeria to report on progress with the implementation of the Committee's recommendations in time for the present meeting.

Progress made since SC77

6. As requested by the Standing Committee, Nigeria submitted a report on the implementation of its recommendations under Article XIII. Nigeria also submitted its CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report (AITR) covering the period from January 2023 to May 2024 as well as the progress report on the implementation of its National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) for consideration at SC78 (see document SC78 Doc. 33.13.1).
7. The Secretariat supported Nigeria's efforts in addressing the Standing Committee's recommendations on the application of Article XIII under the CITES Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP). The CAP workplan

was agreed and signed in 2023, and its implementation was initiated in the middle of 2024 due to some internal issues of administrative nature in the country. The implementation is now progressing and is planned to be concluded by the time of the present meeting. More information on the activities implemented with CAP support are provided in relevant sections below as well as in document SC78 Doc. 23 on *Compliance Assistance Programme*.

8. In the following paragraphs, the Secretariat summarizes the report of Nigeria on the implementation of the recommendations under Article XIII and provides its assessment and recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Regarding management of trade in specimens of Pterocarpus erinaceus, the Standing Committee agreed to:

- a) *maintain the recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species Pterocarpus erinaceus from Nigeria under Article XIII until the following conditions are met:*
 - i) *The Party concerned makes a scientifically based non-detriment finding for trade in the species to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings and based on the outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade process for this species; and*
 - ii) *The Party provides evidence of adequate legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Legal acquisition findings.*

9. Nigeria reported that it had undertaken activities to strengthen the capacity of the Scientific Authority (SA) to produce non-detriment findings (NDFs) supported by the CAP and with a focus on the development of scientifically based NDFs for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. However, given the limited budget of the current CAP workplan for Nigeria, the collection of field data would be undertaken at a later stage with support from the Secretariat and international donors.
10. Nigeria also reported that, through CAP support, progress was made on the preparation of legal acquisition findings (LAF) on timber species, including through the recruitment of a consultant to develop guidance and train the CITES Management Authority (MA). Relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are expected to be integrated into Nigeria's electronic permitting system for the issuance of CITES permits and certificates and the verification of the legal acquisition and traceability of specimens in trade.
11. More information on the implementation of this recommendation, including on the outcomes of the CITES regional workshop on NDFs and LAFs for West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) held in Douala, Cameroon, from 2 to 6 September 2024, is provided in SC78 Doc. 33.2 on *Expedited application of Article XIII for West African rosewood (Pterocarpus erinaceus) for all range States*.

Regarding legislation and law enforcement

- b) *Nigeria should strengthen the regulatory framework in relation to forestry management, including forestry legislation at the State level, to avoid any loopholes that may be generated by the distribution of competences between Federal and State levels.*

12. At SC77, Nigeria explained orally that its Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill, which had passed the first reading in the House of Representatives in early 2023, had not been adopted before the elections, and it therefore needed to be reintroduced in the federal legislature.
13. In its report for the present meeting, Nigeria informed the Secretariat that the new Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill, 2024, was ready for the third reading at the House of Representatives, following collection and harmonization of the observations, suggestions, and inputs made during the Public Hearing. The date of the third reading has not been set yet. Nigeria further reported that the National Forest Policy that was updated in 2020 provides a framework to harmonize Federal and State actions, addressing overlaps and ambiguities between the levels of authority that had historically created loopholes. The revised policy mandates States to develop policies that align with national objectives, supporting a cooperative governance approach that minimizes conflicts of competence. In this respect, Nigeria reported that some

States, i.e., Cross River State and Lagos State, have been revising or drafting new forestry laws that align with federal standards, thus addressing the loopholes referred to in the recommendation.

14. In its report, Nigeria also referred to a newly established National Forestry Trust Fund aiming to support both Federal and State initiatives, allowing for better resource allocation and monitoring across different regions, as well as the implementation of an awareness raising campaign against illegal logging and wildlife trafficking across the country. The operation of the National Forestry Trust Fund helped build the capacity of local and State institutions to effectively manage forests and enforce laws, but further actions would be required considering the size of the country. Finally, Nigeria encouraged community-based forest management, involving local communities in conservation efforts by granting them rights and responsibilities under both Federal and State policies.

c) *Nigeria should continue implementing a strategy to counter corruption linked to illegal wildlife trade 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. The strategy should protect officials responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES from undue pressure, obstruction and threats.*

15. Nigeria reported on the development and implementation of a number of measures to address the Standing Committee's recommendation to counter corruption linked to illegal wildlife trade at all levels, as follows:
 - a) The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) for Nigeria, launched in 2017, promotes accountability, transparency, and integrity across all levels of government, including agencies responsible for wildlife protection, with the aim to tackle the culture of corruption. The Strategy is implemented by the Ministry of Justice as the lead institution, supported by the relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). The Strategy was reinforced with explicit measures to target corruption in wildlife trade enforcement, including enforcement of stricter controls on officials involved in CITES-related duties. Specifically, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice launched an inter-institutional monitoring and evaluation committee on NACS implementation, providing oversight to more than 800 MDAs, and passed the Whistleblower Protection Bill. This has reportedly reduced the impunity of erring officers, including frontline officers, in the environment and wildlife sectors.
 - b) The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission and the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency signed an MoU on 20 September 2024 to tackle corruption in the public sector focusing on increased transparency and accountability to address environmental crime.
 - c) Further to the NACS, which is implemented at federal government level, the Ministry of Environment implemented, at the Minister's request in October 2019, the Corruption Risk Assessment for wildlife and forest entities in Nigeria with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This corruption risk management process was carried out in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), and the National Park Service (NPS).
 - d) The Federal Department of Forestry (FDF) under the Federal Ministry of Environment developed the *Anti-corruption and Ethics Guidelines* in the framework of the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022-2026. The *Guidelines* are complementary to the NACS and were developed pursuant to the findings of the Corruption Risk Assessment and the implementation of Corruption Risk Mitigation Strategies. They were reviewed by the Federal Ministry of Justice, together with a training manual, and are expected to be launched soon.
 - e) Anti-bribery policies have been adopted and enforced within agencies directly involved in combatting wildlife trafficking, including NCS, the National Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS), the Department of Fisheries, NPS, the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria, the Department of Forestry and Wildlife and NESREA. These agencies have implemented internal auditing, surveillance, and whistleblower protection mechanisms to encourage reporting of bribery and corruption, minimizing the risk of interference from corrupt actors. In addition, training and guidelines provided to officials emphasize the strict adherence to anti-bribery policies, with clear sanctions for those found guilty of misconduct.
 - f) Public awareness campaigns have been launched to educate communities and stakeholders about the risks of wildlife trafficking and the importance of reporting corrupt practices with a goal to prevent collusion at the local level, which has historically supported illegal wildlife trade. These efforts included

education of community members, especially those near protected areas, on the role of law enforcement and their encouragement to report any corruption incidents they observe, thus broadening Nigeria's anti-corruption monitoring network.

d) *Nigeria should establish a national platform for enforcement cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized wildlife crime, in line with relevant paragraphs of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement.*

16. Nigeria reported that stronger coordination was being achieved among law enforcement agencies through the formation of a National Stakeholders Forum on Combating Wildlife Crime in Nigeria (NSF) and the establishment of Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force (WLETF) comprising relevant national agencies and bodies¹. This strengthened interagency cooperation aimed to dismantle corruption networks that enable wildlife trafficking. It has reportedly led to more effective and united investigation of corruption cases linked to illegal wildlife trade, through prevention of isolated or single-agency handling of cases that often face pressure from corrupt networks and facilitation of quicker responses to threats against officials.
 17. Nigeria also reported the implementation of capacity-building activities for relevant law enforcement officials, including on handling complex wildlife trafficking cases, recognizing forged permits, and using wildlife identification techniques. These activities were implemented in cooperation with Born Free USA and other international partners. In March and April 2024, Born Free USA organized a 3-day training for thirty officers at the airports and border exit points of NCS, NAQS, and the Nigeria Maritime Administration Agency in Kano and Lagos States. These actions have reportedly led to increased seizures at the airport and border routes.
 18. With support from the Secretariat through the CAP, Nigeria is organizing a training workshop in December 2024 targeting the MA (FDF) and law enforcement agencies (NCS, NESREA, NAQS JUDICIARY), focused on intelligence gathering, investigation procedures, and prosecution of offenders.
 19. Nigeria also noted that the new Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill pending adoption (see paragraph 13 above) contained revised penalties making wildlife trafficking a serious offense in terms of the definition under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years or a more serious penalty). By increasing fines and prison sentences, Nigeria aimed to deter illegal trade and reduce demand for endangered species. Under the new Bill, Nigeria is expecting to enforce stricter controls over protected species and impose strong deterrent penalties on individuals or organizations found guilty of smuggling endangered wildlife products.
- e) *Nigeria should scale up efforts to map out organized crime groups involved in illegal wildlife trade and operating in the country. Nigeria should convene multidisciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities. These teams will work in close collaboration with local authorities in key identified areas, and initiate intelligence-driven operations and investigations, with a particular focus on pangolins and ivory.*
20. Nigeria provided updates on the activities of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force (WLETF), including training offered to its members and to airport and border posts personnel, in partnership with Born Free USA, as mentioned in paragraph 17 above.
 21. Nigeria indicated that, through enhanced inter-agency collaboration and sharing of intelligence among relevant enforcement agencies, it had managed to take action against a syndicate group trafficking pangolin scales and ivory in Nigeria and the individuals involved in this group were arrested, prosecuted, and convicted. However, Nigeria noted that despite important achievements in this area, there are more organized crime groups involved in illegal wildlife trade operating in the country that require similar action.
 22. Nigeria provided details on its successful investigation and prosecution cases, as shown below:

¹ Department of State Service (DSS), Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), National Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), National Park Services (NPS), National Central Bureau (NCB)-INTERPOL, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), National Judicial Institute (NJI), Federal Ministry of Justice (FMOJ), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Forest Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, (FMAFS), Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC).

- a) In 2022, the NCS seized a total of 1,613 tons of pangolin scales and detained 14 people.
 - b) In May 2023, two individuals (Nigerians) were given a four-year prison sentence for conspiring to possess 839.4 kg of pangolin scales and 145 kg of elephant tusks illegally.
 - c) In June 2023, a clearing agent was sentenced to a six-month prison term for illegally possessing a container full of pangolin scales, elephant ivory, tusks, and bones.
 - d) In July, a Federal High Court in Lagos sentenced four foreigners to six years in prison for trafficking 7.1 tons of pangolin scales and 850kg of ivory.
23. In addition, the Secretariat notes that Nigeria participated in a number of capacity-building activities carried out under the auspices of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to strengthen Parties' capacities to combat wildlife crime and enhance their implementation and enforcement of the Convention. In this framework, Nigeria requested support from ICWC in 2019 to implement the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and the ICWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. The [Analytical Toolkit Report](#) containing 33 recommendations to strengthen Nigeria's wildlife criminal justice system was endorsed by the Federal Government, through its Ministry of Environment, and was launched in September 2024. UNODC will support the implementation of its recommendations. Further details in this regard are included in documents SC78 Doc. 38.2 on ICWC and SC78 Doc. 39.1 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*, as well as in the ICWC annual report for 2023.

Issuance of permits and information systems

- f) *Nigeria should establish an efficient and secure information system, preferably an electronic system (resources permitting), to facilitate the issuance of permits and certificates, and the verification of all CITES provisions applicable to the specimens to be exported.*
 - g) *Nigeria should facilitate liaison and integration with other permitting/certification systems relating to the harvest of and trade in CITES-listed resources, e.g., timber concession authorizations, phytosanitary/veterinary documentation, or customs declarations.*
24. Nigeria reported progress on the modernization of its centralized system for issuing CITES permits and certificates, by introducing mechanisms to improve the efficiency and security of its information systems. The CAP was supporting work to align the country's permitting process with CITES recommendations for transparency, accountability, and compliance, while efforts are ongoing to establish a fully electronic system, including through the recruitment of a local consultant assigned to undertake a study on the suitability and requirements of establishing an electronic CITES permitting system (eCITES). The CAP is also expected to support strengthening the technical capacities of the MA for issuance of permits and certificates, including the verification of legal acquisition of specimens in trade. Finally, Nigeria plans to integrate the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for LAF into the eCITES system, once established.
25. No updates were provided on recommendation g) related to the liaison and integration of CITES permitting system with other relevant permitting/certification systems, e.g., timber concession authorizations, phytosanitary/veterinary documentation, or customs declarations.

Handling and disposal of seized stockpiles of CITES-listed species

- h) *Nigeria should clearly define the competences of, and the division of labour between, relevant institutions to ensure that adequate control measures are put in place to secure storage facilities for seized stocks of CITES-listed species, including for pangolins and ivory.*
26. Nigeria reported progress in the handling and disposal of seized stockpiles of CITES-listed species, including through the preparation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for seized and confiscated CITES specimens, with support from the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) Foundation. In this context, training was provided to Nigerian officers in NESREA on the use of the SOP (in two phases for Abuja and Lagos officers). During the training, an SOP Manual was provided containing information on the standard way of storing CITES specimens, as well as operational aspects on number of access keys, required officers, sharing of roles, keeping of logbook etc. However, Nigeria also reported that the actual SOP document for Nigeria had not yet been finalized.

27. Nigeria further reported that an inventory of seized and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species had been developed at the NESREA holding facilities in Abuja and Lagos, under the coordination of the CITES Management Authority and other relevant stakeholders. All seized and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species from all enforcement agencies would be expected to be handed over to NESREA in order to be stored in these two holding facilities located in Abuja and Lagos States. The inventory covered all wildlife specimens in the two storerooms and was completed in February 2021, while records were secured in the Stockpile Management System. Furthermore, an audit of the country's system for the storage and management of confiscated wildlife products (ivory) had been undertaken. The agency (NESREA) was making use of established parameters contained in the ETIS form on the chain of custody.
28. Finally, Nigeria reported that it had incinerated a substantial quantity of seized wildlife products, including pangolin scales alongside leopard, python, and crocodile specimens, with the aim to combat wildlife trafficking and protect the nation's biodiversity, as shown below. The incineration had been managed by NESREA with support from the EPI Foundation and UNODC, especially on the provision of the crusher from a construction company, and incinerators from a hospital.
- a) On 16th October 2023, Nigeria incinerated 3,914.08kg of pangolin scales and 110.0 kg of dried skins from leopard, python, and crocodile skins in Abuja.
- b) On 9th January 2024, Nigeria crushed 2,435.15kg of ivory to powder. An elephant sculpture was made from the ground-down ivory powder².

Monitoring progress

- j) *The Secretariat should remain in close contact with Nigeria, monitor the Party's progress in the implementation of recommendations of the Standing Committee, and bring any matters of concern to the attention of the Committee.*
- k) *The Committee requested Nigeria to report on progress made in the implementation of recommendations d) to j) by the document deadline of its 78th meeting, in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and its comments, as well as recommended follow-up measures in case of continued non-compliance, to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee*

29. Pursuant to the Standing Committee's recommendations, the Secretariat has remained in close contact with Nigeria to monitor progress in the implementation of the recommendations and to assist the MA in the establishment and implementation of key activities and priorities, including as part of the support under the CAP.

Discussion and conclusions

30. The Secretariat notes Nigeria's progress with the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations as described above, in particular those related to legislation and law enforcement, as well as the commitment and engagement of the CITES MA in Nigeria.
31. Regarding legislation, the Secretariat considers that there are positive developments, but, in the absence of formal adoption of the Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill, these may not be sufficient to achieve the relevant recommendations. Update on the status of adoption of the Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill, as well as on the results achieved through subsequent implementation would be required for the completion of these recommendations.
32. Regarding law enforcement, the Secretariat acknowledges Nigeria's progress in implementing measures and capacity-building activities aiming to combat corruption linked to illegal wildlife trade and notes the establishment and functioning of the National Stakeholders Forum on Combating Wildlife Crime in Nigeria and Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force for coordination of law enforcement agencies. The Secretariat also notes the increased number of seizures at the airports and border routes, as well as the prosecution of members of wildlife trafficking networks, and encourages Nigeria to continue intensifying its actions in this respect.
33. Regarding permitting systems, the Secretariat notes Nigeria's commitment to enhance transparency and accountability of its system and strengthen national capacities. The Secretariat encourages Nigeria to

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-67929427>

continue its efforts towards establishing a full eCITES system and stands ready to provide additional support to the relevant authorities. Liaison and integration with other relevant permitting/certification systems, e.g., timber concession authorizations, phytosanitary/veterinary documentation, or customs declarations, should be also pursued, as per the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

34. Regarding handling and disposal of seized stockpiles of CITES-listed specimens, the Secretariat notes the progress made by Nigeria in improving the capacities of its officials and enhancing knowledge through development of inventories of seized and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species. Based on the above, the Secretariat encourages Nigeria to continue maintaining inventories for all seized and confiscated specimens, and proceed with disposal of confiscated specimens in compliance with CITES rules and international standards.
35. In addition to the support of the Secretariat notably through the CAP, the Secretariat acknowledges the cooperation between Parties, the partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), civil society organizations and cooperation agencies providing financial, technical and logistical support to Nigeria and invites them to coordinate their efforts with Nigeria to avoid duplication and align activities to the extent possible with the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee.
36. The Secretariat is of the view that Nigeria has made commendable progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee which are covered by the present document [i.e., excluding the recommendations relating to trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* which are addressed separately, in document SC78 Doc. 33.2 on *Expedited application of Article XIII for West African rosewood (Pterocarpus erinaceus) for all range States*]. Nigeria is also working towards achieving the goals in its revised NIAP (2020) and should continue to report on the implementation of the NIAP in accordance with the guidelines contained in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*. Continued and, where appropriate, strengthened efforts by Nigeria in the coming period, with the support of ICCWC and other relevant partners, may provide sufficient grounds to consider that Nigeria has fully implemented the SC recommendations.

Recommendations

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

Regarding trade in specimens of Pterocarpus erinaceus

- a) The Standing Committee recommends that Parties continue to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Nigeria under Article XIII until the following conditions are met:
 - i) The Party concerned makes a scientifically based non-detriment finding for trade in the species to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* and based on the outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade process for this species; and
 - ii) The Party provides evidence of adequate legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings*.

Regarding legislation and law enforcement

- b) Nigeria should ensure the adoption of the Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill, 2024 and continue to improve the regulatory framework in relation to forestry management, including forestry legislation at the State level, to close any loopholes created by the distribution of competences between Federal and State levels.
- c) Nigeria should continue implementing its national Strategies aiming to counter corruption linked to illegal wildlife trade 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* and reporting on results achieved through implementation. Measures implemented in the framework of these strategies should protect officials responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES from undue pressure, obstruction and threats.

- d) Nigeria should maintain and strengthen inter-agency coordination to control trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized wildlife crime, through the National Stakeholders Forum on Combating Wildlife Crime in Nigeria and the Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force, in line with relevant paragraphs of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*, and report on results achieved through this coordination.
- e) Nigeria should scale up efforts to map out organized crime groups involved in illegal wildlife trade and operating in the country. Nigeria should continue convening multidisciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities to perform intelligence-driven operations and investigations, and report on the activities conducted and results achieved.
- f) Nigeria should continue to report on the implementation of its NIAP, in accordance with the guidelines contained in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.

Regarding issuance of export permits and information systems

- g) Nigeria should scale up efforts towards establishment and functioning of an efficient and secure information system, preferably an electronic system (resources permitting), to facilitate the issuance of permits and certificates, and the verification of all CITES provisions applicable to the specimens to be exported, including with support from the CAP.
- h) Nigeria should facilitate liaison and integration with other permitting/certification systems relating to the harvest of and trade in CITES-listed resources, e.g., timber concession authorizations, phytosanitary/veterinary documentation, or customs declarations.

Handling and disposal of seized stockpiles CITES-listed species

- i) Nigeria should continue to implement adequate control measures to secure storage facilities for seized stocks of CITES-listed species, including for pangolins and ivory, and dispose of confiscated specimens in line with recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*.
38. The Secretariat should remain in close contact with Nigeria, monitor the Party's progress in the implementation of the above recommendations of the Standing Committee, and bring any matters of concern to the attention of the Committee.
 39. The Standing Committee should request Nigeria to report on progress made in the implementation of recommendations a) to i) 90 days before SC81, in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and its comments, as well as recommended follow-up measures, if any, to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee.