

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

Regarding Draft Decisions on Sustainable Financing for the Conservation and Management of African Elephants (SC78 Doc. 65.8)

1. This document has been submitted by Benin\* regarding the draft Decisions on Sustainable Financing for the Conservation and Management of African Elephants in Annex 1 of SC78 Doc. 65.8 CITES Dialogue Meeting for African Elephant Range States.
2. This document proposes further clarifications, in addition to those suggested by the Secretariat, to draft Decisions 20.AA to 20.EE on Sustainable Financing for the Conservation and Management of African Elephants in Annex 1 of SC78 Doc. 65.8.
3. The additional clarifications proposed would:
  - i. Enable a Party led process through oversight by the Standing Committee of the convening of the technical workshop proposed in draft Decision 20.AA and development of the terms of reference for hiring the consultant [see 20.AA paragraphs a) and b) in the Annex to this document].
  - ii. Enable all relevant information to be made available to African elephant range States by including experts, Observers and other Parties in the technical workshop, and enhance transparency.
  - iii. Clarify that the “other means” to be considered at the workshop for mobilising the needed resources to support the conservation and management of elephants and management of ivory stockpiles would be non-commercial in nature.
  - iv. Align the purpose of the workshop and mechanisms to be considered with the title of the Decisions: *Sustainable financing for the conservation and management of African elephants*. The wording “conservation and management of African elephants” is also consistent with the language used in the African Elephant Action Plan agreed by all African elephant range States.

Recommendations

4. The Standing Committee is requested to consider the draft Decisions in the Annex to this document with additional clarifications proposed shown in **bold**, followed by clean text.

---

\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

The additional clarifications below (in **bold**) are proposed to the revised draft Decisions 20.AA, 20.CC and 20.DD presented in Annex 1 of SC78 Doc. 65.8. Draft Decisions 20.BB and 20.EE, as revised by the Secretariat, are unchanged. (Note the underlined text that is not in bold below is as proposed by the Secretariat, and proposed amendments to this text are in **bold and strikeout**.)

DRAFT DECISIONS ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCING  
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

*Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the African elephant range States ~~and the Chair of the Standing Committee~~*

20.AA Subject to the availability of external funds, the Secretariat, in consultation with the African elephant range States ~~and the Chair of the Standing Committee~~, shall:

- a) develop the terms of reference and mobilise funding for engaging a consultant to consolidate the background technical information for the purpose of convening a technical workshop [see paragraph b) below];
- b) convene a technical workshop for African elephant range States, **experts, other Parties and Observer organisations**, to consider mechanisms for **mobilising the needed resources to support the conservation and sustainable** management of **African** elephants and **management of** ivory stockpiles, including non-commercial disposal of ivory stockpiles and other **non-commercial** means **for the purpose of mobilising the needed resources to support the conservation and management of elephants**; and
- c) **Submit the draft terms of reference for engaging a consultant and organising the workshop to the 81<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee for its review, and** report the results of the workshop, including any recommendations, to the Standing Committee.

*Directed to African elephant range States*

20.BB African elephant range States are invited to provide the necessary background information needed for the workshop.

*Directed to all Parties*

20.CC All Parties are encouraged to report the status of stockpiles as of December **2024 2025** pursuant to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) to facilitate the development of mechanisms for **the sustainable financing for conservation and** management of **African** elephants and **management of** ivory stockpiles.

*Directed to the Standing Committee*

20.DD The Standing Committee shall:

**a) consider the results of review the draft terms of reference for engaging a consultant and organising** the technical workshop for African elephant range States to consider mechanisms for **the sustainable financing for conservation and management of African elephants and management of ivory stockpiles**;

**b) consider the results of the technical workshop**, including any recommendations, and

**c) propose a way forward to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.**

*Directed to Parties, governmental organizations, intergovernmental, non-governmental donors and other entities*

20.~~DD~~EE Parties, governmental organizations, intergovernmental, non-governmental donors and other entities are invited to provide the necessary financial support to implement Decision 20AA~~undertake the consultancy~~.

CLEAN TEXT

DRAFT DECISIONS ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCING  
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

***Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the African elephant range States and the Standing Committee***

**20.AA** Subject to the availability of external funds, the Secretariat, in consultation with the African elephant range States and the Standing Committee, shall:

- a) develop the terms of reference and mobilise funding for engaging a consultant to consolidate the background technical information for the purpose of convening a technical workshop [see paragraph b) below];
- b) convene a technical workshop for African elephant range States, experts, other Parties and Observer organisations, to consider mechanisms for mobilising the needed resources to support the conservation and management of African elephants and management of ivory stockpiles, including non-commercial disposal of ivory stockpiles and other non-commercial means; and
- c) Submit the draft terms of reference for engaging a consultant and organising the workshop to the 81<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee for its review, and report the results of the workshop, including any recommendations, to the Standing Committee.

***Directed to African elephant range States***

**20.BB** African elephant range States are invited to provide the necessary background information needed for the workshop

***Directed to all Parties***

**20.CC** All Parties are encouraged to report the status of stockpiles as of December 2025 pursuant to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) to facilitate the development of mechanisms for sustainable financing for conservation and management of African elephants and management of ivory stockpiles.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

**20.DD** The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the draft terms of reference for engaging a consultant and organising the technical workshop for African elephant range States to consider mechanisms for sustainable financing for conservation and management of African elephants and management of ivory stockpiles;
- b) consider the results of the technical workshop, including any recommendations, and
- c) propose a way forward to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to Parties, governmental organizations, intergovernmental, non-governmental donors and other entities***

**20.EE** Parties, governmental organizations, intergovernmental, non-governmental donors and other entities are invited to provide the necessary financial support to implement Decision 20AA.