

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

SUMMARY

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY
AFTERNOON

47. Legal acquisition findings (Decision 19.131) SC78 Doc. 47

The Committee:

- a) noted the work conducted by the Secretariat in the implementation of Decision 19.130;
- b) encouraged Parties to implement Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) and use the *Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings* when preparing their LAFs;
- c) agreed that Decisions 19.128 to 19.131 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion;
- d) requested Canada, the European Union, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to submit their amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 to document SC78 Doc. 47 to the Secretariat for consideration by the Standing Committee as an in-session document;
- e) noted that the recommendation in paragraph 22 c) of document SC78 Doc. 47 was still pending and would be considered at the same time as the in-session document.

35. Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on
Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity

35.1 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19)..... SC78 Doc. 35.1

The Committee noted the status of implementation of the cases selected for the two iterations of the review under Resolution 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) and the list of 14 current ongoing cases provided in Annexes 1 and 2 to document SC78 Doc. 35.1, respectively.

Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* from Benin, Mali and Togo, the Committee urged Benin, Mali and Togo to provide a response to the Secretariat by 31 July 2025 so that the matter can be considered at SC79, noting that failure to provide a response may potentially result in a recommendation to suspend trade in *Centrochelys sulcata* at SC79.

Concerning *Agalychnis callidryas* from Nicaragua, *Chlamydotis macqueenii* from Kazakhstan, *Dendrobatus auratus* from Nicaragua, *Macaca fascicularis* from the Philippines, *Macaca fascicularis* from Viet Nam, *Oophaga pumilio* from Nicaragua, *Testudo graeca* from Jordan, *Testudo horsfieldii* from Uzbekistan, and *Testudo kleinmanni* from Egypt, the Committee noted that the Animals Committee will consider the additional information provided by the respective countries through the intersessional consultation process provided for in paragraph 2 o) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) and report back to SC79.

Concerning *Testudo horsfieldii* from Uzbekistan, the Committee invited Poland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to submit their questions about source codes to the Secretariat for inclusion in its intersessional consultations process in accordance with Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19).

Concerning *Macaca fascicularis* from Cambodia, the Committee noted that the Animals Committee will consider the additional information provided by Cambodia and the outcomes of the mission to Cambodia to be undertaken, subject to external funding, through the intersessional consultation process provided for in paragraph 2 o) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) and report back to SC79.

Concerning *Testudo kleinmanni* from the Syrian Arab Republic, the Committee agreed to:

- i) retain *Testudo kleinmanni* from the Syrian Arab Republic in the review, until it provides clarification on:
 - A. the identification of the species (*Testudo kleinmanni* or *Testudo graeca*, the latter of which is native to the Syrian Arab Republic);
 - B. the founder stock (information relating to legal acquisition and non-detriment findings, if it is confirmed to be *Testudo kleinmanni*);
 - C. supplementation from the wild, if applicable; and
 - D. annual production and retention rates;
- ii) request the Syrian Arab Republic to register its breeding facilities for *T. kleinmanni* if it intends to export this Appendix-I species for commercial purposes;
- iii) encourage the Syrian Arab Republic to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- iv) encourage the regional representatives for Asia to reach out to the Syrian Arab Republic to respond to the request for information of the Animals Committee.

The Committee agreed to submit the Animals Committee's proposed amendment to paragraph 2 h) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* as outlined in paragraph 11 to CoP20 (also shown below for convenience):

The Secretariat shall also commission, if requested by the Animals Committee, a short review of the species concerned, in consultation with relevant countries and specialists, to compile and summarise known information relating to the breeding biology and captive husbandry, as well as on the conservation status and threats to the species in the respective countries of origin of the founder stock to facilitate an assessment of any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild.

The Committee agreed to submit the draft decision in paragraph 12 of document SC78 Doc. 35.2 to CoP20 (also shown below for convenience):

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to external funding and available Secretariat resources, the Secretariat shall develop, test and maintain a Captive Breeding tracking and management database as an essential tool for the effective implementation and transparency of the process under Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*.

35.2 Review of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) (Decision 19.65) SC78 Doc. 35.2

The Committee agreed with the Animals Committee's conclusion that there is no need to continue with the process of reviewing Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19). and Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) to streamline and align these Resolutions.

The Committee noted the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) to be submitted by the Animals Committee to CoP 20.

The Committee agreed that Decisions 19.63 to 19.65 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

62. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source (Decision 19.179) SC78 Doc. 62

The Committee:

- a) noted the report of the working group and relevant background documents;
- b) noted the analysis and conclusions from the Animals and Plants Committees as found in document PC27 Doc. 21 / AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1) including those referenced in paragraph 5 of document SC78 Doc. 62; and
- c) agreed to submit to CoP20 new draft decisions found in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 62, as amended by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to replace Decision 19.179 and 19.180.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON REVIEW OF CITES PROVISIONS
RELATED TO TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS NOT OF WILD SOURCE

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and taking into consideration documents SC74 Doc. 56, PC27 Doc. 21 / AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1), SC78 Doc. 62, Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*, Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*, as well as any other Resolutions concerning provisions on trade in specimens of both CITES-listed animals and plants not of wild source, and relevant committee reports, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consult the Chairs of the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees and develop specific terms of reference and a *modus operandi* for a technical workshop on the review of trade in specimens of both CITES-listed animal and plants not of wild source in order to address the following:
 - i) possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) and Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP19), as well as any amendment to other Resolutions concerning provisions on trade in specimens of both CITES-listed animals and plants not of wild source, taking into account findings and suggestions in document SC74 Doc. 56 and any related comments and recommendations from the Standing Committee, Parties, the Secretariat or other stakeholders;
 - ii) review issues and challenges in the application of the Convention for trade in non-wild specimens of both CITES-listed animal and plant species, in particular key elements that may contribute to the uneven application of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5, and consider the scientific advice and guidance from the Animals and Plants Committees in document PC27 Doc. 21 / AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1) and the summary records of the meetings on the need for implementing these Articles differently for either animal specimens from species bred in captivity or plant specimens that are artificially propagated; and
 - iii) develop draft recommendations for addressing these issues and challenges, including draft amendments to existing Resolutions or development of a new Resolution or Decisions to address these issues and challenges, for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- b) share the draft terms of reference and *modus operandi* for the technical workshop by Notification for comments from Parties to be considered by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees before finalization;
- c) prepare workshop documents and organize the technical workshop taking into consideration regional and gender representation; and

de) submit findings and recommendations of this workshop to the Standing Committee for their consideration.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the workshop referred to in Decision 20.AA and submit recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

65. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

65.1 Report on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19)
[Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19); Decision 19.37]..... SC78 Doc. 65.1

The Committee:

- a) noted the downward PIKE trend in Africa and commend the efforts of African elephant range States and other Parties and partners, in supporting actions to maintain this positive trend;
- b) noted the increase in the number and total weight of ivory seizures reported compared to 2022 and urge Parties to maintain their enforcement efforts as well as anti-poaching measures to sustain the positive downward trend observed in previous years;
- c) agreed the proposed changes to the ETIS data collection form as contained in Annex 1 d) to document SC78 Doc. 65.1 and as amended by the Chair of the Standing Committee to include an additional question to Parties to indicate if the trade route information is verified;
- d) noted the funding needs for ETIS as indicated by TRAFFIC and the reduced budget allocated to the MIKE component under the new project funded by the European Union, which will limit the MIKE Programme ability to maintain the same level of support to MIKE sites as in previous years;
- e) noted the new project funded by the European Union that will include a feasibility study and voluntary testing of data collection and reporting methods to monitor illegal killing for other CITES-listed species in Africa; and future funding from the European Union would be contingent on the inclusion of data collection and reporting of multiple species; and
- f) noted the new elected African Elephant Fund Steering Committee, which will serve for the period 2024-2026, with Zimbabwe as Chair and Zambia as Vice-Chair.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ETIS DATA COLLECTION FORMS



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



Please fill in one form for each individual seizure. Completed forms should be returned to etis@traffic.org or info@cites.org

This seizure case will be reviewed and entered to the ETIS database by TRAFFIC. For guidance on the ETIS data collection form please consult the Explanatory Notes available with the latest CITES Notification for ETIS data collection. For any further questions or to request training, please contact TRAFFIC at: etis@traffic.org

Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) Data Collection Form

Please tick with an "x" to indicate if the seizure record should **not** be made available to the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) for global research and analysis (this applies only to this seizure record).

* Required information

1. **Date of Report to ETIS:** Day_____ Month_____ Year _____

2. **Data Provider's reference code**_____

3. **Source of data*** _____

Other sources _____

4. **Date of seizure*** Day_____ Month_____ Year* _____

5. **Agency(ies) responsible for the seizure*** _____

Other Agency(ies) _____

6. **Location of discovery***
Place _____
City, Province, State _____ Country* _____

7. **Trade route information:**

Is trade route known?* (NOTE: new question relating to trade routes)

Yes No

If Yes, please indicate:

A. **Country(ies) of origin** _____

B. **Country(ies) of export/re-export** _____

C. **Country(ies) of transit** _____

D. **Country of destination/import** _____

Are you able to verify the trade route information for this seizure?¹

8. **Elephant species** (Please tick): African Asian Unknown

9. **Ivory type* and quantity* (At least one, number of pieces or weight, is required)** **NOTE: revised quantity information to better differentiate between types of raw and worked ivory and provide explicit "is this an estimate" question to each section - no. of pieces and weight (previously only one such question so could not differentiate if for pieces or weight)**

A. Raw ivory:

Whole tusk Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(TUS) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Tusks present, but amount unknown

Cut pieces Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(IVP) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Cut pieces present, but amount unknown

Mixed Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(TUS/IVP) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Mixed pieces present, but amount unknown

B. Worked ivory:

Jewellery Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(IJW) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Jewellery present, but amount unknown

Carving Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(IVC) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Carving present, but amount unknown

Piano keys Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(KEY) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Piano keys present, but amount unknown

Further comments on ivory seized _____

Forensic examination (Tick if undertaken)

10. **Non-ivory elephant products* (At least one, number of pieces or weight, is required)**

Elephant hide/skin: Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____

Manufactured hide products: Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____

Description of manufactured hide products _____

Other elephant products: Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____

Description of other elephant products _____

¹ "Verified" trade route information should be supported by official documentation such as bill of lading, shipping manifests, customs declaration forms, and cross-checked with control border authorities..

11. **Details of other contraband seized** _____

12. **Estimated value of seized elephant products in country of seizure** _____

13. **Type of activity(ies) (please tick)**
 Illegal killing Export Transit Import Offer for sale
 Sale Possession Other (Specify) _____

14. **Mode of transport (Please tick)** Air Sea Land Post Other (Specify)

15. **Method of concealment** _____

16. **Method(s) of detection** (Please tick) Routine inspection Targeting
 Investigation X-ray Intelligence Sniffer dog
 Other (Specify) _____

17. **Nationality of suspect(s)** _____

(NOTE: Questions 18– 20 included to facilitate interoperability with AITR)

18. **Law under which charges were brought** _____

19. **Sanction** _____

20. **Disposal of confiscated specimens** _____

21. **Additional comments** _____

Name and position of person completing this form _____

Name of organisation represented _____ **Date** _____

65.2 Implementation of the priority recommendations from the review of the ETIS programme (Decision 19.96) SC78 Doc. 65.2 (Rev. 1)

The Committee:

- a) noted the progress made with the implementation of the priority recommendations of the ETIS review, as well as the challenges identified;
- b) requested the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to consider the protocol for ETIS data validation as contained in Annex 2a to document SC78 Doc. 65.2 (Rev. 1), taking into consideration the comments made in plenary by Standing Committee Members and Parties and the concern raised by TRAFFIC relating to the verification of trade route information of historical data and report back to Standing Committee at the present meeting;

- c) agreed that the network analysis be included as an Annex to the ETIS Report to CoP20, noting that the categorization of the Parties requiring attention in the NIAP process will be based on the cluster analysis; and
- d) agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 19.94 to 19.96 on the *Implementation of the priority recommendations from the review of the ETIS programme* to CoP20.

65.3 ETIS categorization of Parties (Decision 19.98) SC78 Doc. 65.3

The Committee:

- a) requested the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to consider the comments made in plenary by Standing Committee Members and Parties relating to the draft criteria for the categorization of Parties in paragraph 9 a) and b) of document SC78 Doc. 65.3 and make recommendations relating to their adoption of the draft criteria to the Standing Committee at the present meeting; and
- b) agreed that the contextual information in paragraph 10 of document SC78 Doc. 65.3 be used by TRAFFIC as part of the categorization process.