

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

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY  
MORNING

65. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

65.4 Domestic ivory markets [Decisions 18.119 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.101] ..... SC78 Doc. 65.4

The Committee:

- a) agreed with the advice provided by the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group and the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup relating to the feasibility of the analysis proposed in Decision 19.99; and
- b) agreed to propose to CoP20 the deletion of Decisions 19.99 to 19.101 on *Ivory seizures and domestic ivory markets* and the renewal of Decisions 18.117 (Rev. CoP19), 18.118 and 18.119 (Rev. CoP19) on *Closure of domestic ivory markets*.

65.5 Exchange of information between the annual illegal trade report and the Elephant Trade Information System:  
Report of the intersessional working group ..... SC78 Doc. 65.5

The Committee:

- a) agreed the proposed amendments to paragraph 27 g) in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* and paragraph 4 in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on *National reports*, presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 65.5, for submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) for consideration;
- b) noted the matters as contained in paragraph 6 of document SC78 Doc. 65.5; and
- c) agreed to submit the following draft decision to CoP20:

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

**20.AA** The Standing Committee shall consider the matters contained in paragraph 6 b) to g) of document SC78 Doc. 65.5 on *Exchange of information between the annual illegal trade report and the Elephant Trade Information System*, and make recommendations as necessary, to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP19) ON *TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS* AND RESOLUTION CONF. 11.17 (REV. COP19) ON *NATIONAL REPORTS*

*NB: Proposed new text is underlined.*

**Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 27. g)**

- g) summaries and aggregates of data provided to MIKE and ETIS, and the analyses of such data, constitute information that will be considered to be in the public domain once they are published on the CITES website, or otherwise publicly distributed. The detailed data on individual seizure cases, elephant mortalities and law enforcement submitted to MIKE or ETIS are owned by the respective data providers, which in most case are the CITES Parties; any such data relating to a CITES Party will be accessible to that Party, the CITES Secretariat, the members of the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group for information and review purposes and the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) for global research and analysis purposes, unless otherwise specified by the reporting Party as provided for in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on *National reports*, and data submitted by the reporting Parties will be shared annually with the CITES Secretariat to supplement the CITES Illegal Trade Database. The detailed data on individual seizure cases, elephant mortalities and law enforcement will not be released to any third party without the consent of the Party concerned; data may also be released to contractors (e.g. statisticians) or other researchers (e.g. MIKE ETIS Subgroup-approved research collaborations) under appropriate nondisclosure agreements;

**Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 4**

AGREES that, unless otherwise specified by the reporting Party, data collected in the annual illegal trade report and included in the database under the responsibility of the CITES Secretariat, should be made available to Parties for research and analysis of wildlife and forest crime as it affects them, and to the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) for ICCWC global research and analysis studies on wildlife and forest crime and any data related to seizures of elephant specimens (as prepared by the Secretariat) to ETIS, on an annual basis to supplement the ETIS database and to support the monitoring the illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens as provided for in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) ;

65.6 Trade in Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) (Decision 19.108)..... SC78 Doc. 65.6

The Committee:

- a) noted the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/076 and invited Parties to draw upon the information provided in these responses to explore opportunities to further strengthen controls, oversight and monitoring of Asian elephants, including those in international trade, and to address illegal trade;
- b) regarding the recommendation in paragraph 33 b) of document SC78 Doc. 65.6, requested India and the United States of America to prepare an in-session document with amended text for recommendation b) and the *List of key elements to be considered regarding registering, marking and tracing systems for captive Asian elephants* in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 65.6;
- c) requested the Secretariat to monitor trade in Asian elephant specimens and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Standing Committee in its reporting as required by paragraph 19 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*;
- d) agreed to submit draft decision 20.AA, as presented in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 65.6 and as amended by the United States of America, to the Conference of the Parties; and
- e) agreed to recommend to CoP20 that Decision 18.226 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a) be renewed and that Decision 19.107 and 19.108 on *Trade in Asian elephants* (*Elephas maximus*) be deleted.

**DRAFT DECISION ON ASIAN ELEPHANTS (ELEPHAS MAXIMUS)**

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.AA** Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) work with its partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and relevant experts to provide training to authorities from Asian elephant range States on the

identification of ivory and other elephant specimens, sample taking from ivory seizures and seizures of other elephant specimens for forensic analysis and associated chain of custody procedures; and

- b) develop a fact sheet to facilitate consistent interpretation of what constitutes an “~~captive-bred~~” Asian elephant bred in captivity in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and relevant Resolutions and make the fact sheet available to Parties to draw upon and use as needed.

65.7 Trade in mammoth ivory (Decision 19.103) ..... SC78 Doc. 65.7

The Committee:

- a) noted the information and research results compiled regarding the trade in mammoth ivory as presented in document SC78 Doc. 65.7;
- b) encouraged Parties exporting and importing mammoth ivory to strictly apply the domestic regulatory measures they have in place for trade in these specimens;
- c) agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that Decisions 19.102 and 19.103 on *Trade in mammoth ivory* have been implemented and can be deleted; and
- d) noted the intervention by the Russian Federation that will be included in the summary record.

65.8 CITES Dialogue Meeting for African elephant range States (Decision 19.167) ..... SC78 Doc. 65.8

The Committee:

- a) welcomed the outcome of the African elephant range State Dialogue meeting as set out in the communiqué of the meeting and included in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 65.8;
- b) invited the African elephant range States to consider the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 65.8 and the discussion at SC78 and to submit the draft decisions for the consideration of the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- c) agreed that Decision 19.167 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion; and
- d) also agreed that Decision 19.168 can be proposed for deletion at CoP20 since the dialogue meeting process will be completed at that time.

84. Taxonomy and nomenclature of African elephants (Loxodonta spp.) (Decision 19.277) ..... SC78 Doc. 84 (Rev. 1)

The Committee:

- a) noted the change to the standard nomenclature reference recommended by the Animals Committee as set out in paragraph 4 of document SC78 Doc. 84 (Rev. 1);
- b) agreed to submit the three options to reflect the nomenclature change in the Appendices, as contained in paragraphs 29 to 32 of document SC78 Doc. 84 (Rev. 1) to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting;
- c) agreed to submit the draft decision on *Data collection and analysis for two species of African elephants* as amended by the United States of America and proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 84 (Rev. 1) to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- d) agreed that Decisions 19.275 to 19.277 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISION ON  
DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS FOR TWO SPECIES OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**20.AA** Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consult the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group to advise whether an analysis of the trends in the proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) based on the two species of African elephants can be provided in the future, in addition to the analysis of the genus-level continental and subregional trends and,
- b) if feasible, carry out the analysis and include the results in its regular report to the Standing Committee ~~in accordance~~ consistent with paragraph 27 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10. 10 (REV. COP19) ON  
*TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS*

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strike through~~.

- 23. URGES Parties to collect samples from large-scale ivory seizures (i.e. a seizure of 500 kg or more) that take place in their territories, preferably within 90 days of the seizure or as soon as allowed under judicial processes, and provide these to forensic and other research institutions capable of reliably determining the origin, species and ~~or~~ age of the ivory samples in support of investigations and prosecutions;
- 24. RECOMMENDS that Parties share with the Secretariat and source countries information on the origin, species and ~~or~~ age of seized ivory specimens arising from forensic analysis of samples to facilitate investigations and prosecutions, and for analysis by MIKE and ETIS in their reporting to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties;

33. Compliance matters

33.13 National ivory action plan process

33.13.1 Report of the Secretariat ..... SC78 Doc. 33.13.1

The Committee:

- a) urged all Parties included in the NIAP process to step up efforts as a matter of urgency to achieve their NIAP goals by the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines* and with Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*; and
- b) agreed to consider application of appropriate measures in accordance with Step 4 paragraph f) of the *Guidelines* on Parties in Categories A and B that remain in these categories after SC78 and fail to achieve their NIAP goals by the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee, unless otherwise well justified.

*Category A Parties*

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

- c) The Committee:
  - i) agreed an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) welcomed the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo since SC77 and encouraged the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals.

**Nigeria**

- d) The Committee:
  - i) agreed an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;

- ii) welcomed the progress made by Nigeria since SC77 and encouraged the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals.

## **Togo**

- e) The Committee:
  - i) noted that the progress report submitted by Togo does not demonstrate sufficient progress made;
  - ii) agreed an overall rating of “limited progress” in line with Step 4, paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*;
  - iii) requested the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, to issue on its behalf a written caution requesting Togo to submit a progress report to the Secretariat confirming how satisfactory progress has been made towards achievement of its NIAP goals; and
  - iv) urged Togo to step up its effort with a sense of greater urgency to advance achievement of its NIAP goals and provide sufficient details on the activities delivered to justify the self-assessment progress ratings.

## **Viet Nam**

- f) The Committee:
  - i) agreed an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) commended Viet Nam for the progress made in achieving the goals of its NIRAP and requested the Party to revise and update its NIRAP and continue its implementation.

## **Category B Parties**

### **Cambodia**

- g) The Committee:
  - i) agreed that Cambodia exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) encouraged Cambodia to complete the implementation of any NIAP actions that have not yet been ‘achieved’; and
  - iii) requested the Secretariat, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, to continue to monitor illegal trade in ivory as it relates to Cambodia, and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.

### **Gabon**

- h) The Committee:
  - i) agreed an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) welcomed the progress made by Gabon since SC77 and encouraged the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals.

### **Malaysia**

- i) The Committee:
  - i) agreed that Malaysia exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) encouraged Malaysia to complete the implementation of any NIAP actions that have not yet been ‘achieved’; and

- iii) requested the Secretariat, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19), to continue to monitor illegal trade in ivory as it relates to Malaysia, and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.

## **Mozambique**

- j) The Committee:
  - i) agreed an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) welcomed the progress made by Mozambique since SC77 and encouraged the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals.

## **Category C Parties**

### **Angola**

- k) The Committee:
  - i) welcomed the progress made by Angola since SC77 and encouraged the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals; and
  - ii) encouraged Angola to conduct risk assessments to develop risk profiles for illegal trade in ivory and reach out to the World Customs Organization for support as needed.

### **Cameroon**

- l) The Committee:
  - i) noted the limited progress made by Cameroon in implementing its NIAP and encouraged the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP and provide sufficient details on the activities delivered to justify the self-assessment progress ratings; and
  - ii) agreed an overall rating of “limited progress” for Cameroon, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;

### **Congo**

- m) The Committee:
  - i) noted that the progress report submitted by the Congo does not demonstrate sufficient progress made;
  - ii) agreed an overall rating of “limited progress” in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - iii) requested the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, to issue a written caution on its behalf requesting the Congo to submit a progress report to the Secretariat confirming how progress has been made towards achievement of its NIAP goals; and
  - iv) urged the Congo to submit information on seizures of elephant ivory to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) in advance of the next assessment.

### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

- n) The Committee:
  - i) welcomed progress made by the Lao People's Democratic Republic in achieving its NIAP goals and encouraged the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP; and
  - ii) agreed an overall rating of “partial progress” for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

## **Qatar**

- o) The Committee:
  - i) noted that the progress report submitted by Qatar does not demonstrate sufficient progress made;
  - ii) agreed an overall rating of “partial progress” in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - iii) requested the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, to issue a written caution on its behalf requesting Qatar to submit a progress report to the Secretariat confirming how progress has been made towards achievement of its NIAP goals; and
  - iv) urged Qatar to step up its effort with a sense of greater urgency to advance implementation of its NIAP and provide sufficient detail of the activities delivered to justify the self-assessment progress ratings.

33.13.2 Review of the National Ivory Action Plans Process  
(*Decisions 19.68 and 19.70*)..... SC78 Doc. 33.13.2

The Committee:

- a) noted document SC78 Doc. 33.13.2, the *Review of the National Ivory Action Plan Process in CITES* in Annexes 2 and 3 to document SC78 Doc. 33.13.2, and the progress made in implementing Decision 19.68;
- b) agreed to submit to CoP20 the draft amendments to Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 33.13.2 as amended by Japan so that the text in Annex 1 aligns with the text in paragraph 25 of document SC78 Doc. 33.13.2;
- c) agreed that Decisions 19.68 to 19.70 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion; and
- d) agreed to submit to CoP20 the following draft decision:

***Directed to the Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat***

**20.AA** The Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, shall consider further the long-term considerations in the *Review of the NIAP process*, contained in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 33.13.2, and submit any recommendations for consideration at CoP21, including if appropriate, further amendments to the *Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plan process*.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX 3 OF RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP19) ON TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS

Text proposed to be deleted is in ~~strike through~~. Proposed new text is underlined.

#### **Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plan Process**

##### **Step 1: Identification of Parties to participate in the National Ivory Action Plan Process**

- a) The foundation for identifying Parties to participate in the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) Process, is the ~~ETIS~~ report of the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) submitted to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) under this Resolution.

[...]

##### **Step 2: Development of a NIAP**

- a) Upon the request by the Standing Committee, the Party concerned will develop an ‘adequate’ NIAP, ~~which is a NIAP~~ that:
  - 1. Addresses the specific issues (or gaps) identified in Step 1.

2. Is structured along the following five pillars, as required:

- i) Legislation and regulations;
- ii) National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration;
- iii) International and regional enforcement collaboration;
- iv) Outreach, public awareness, ~~and~~ education and targeted demand reduction for illegal wildlife products; and
- v) Reporting.

[...]

### Step 3: Assessment of the adequacy of a NIAP

[...]

- e) If new or emerging elephant poaching or ivory trafficking trends or related matters so require, the Secretariat shall recommend to the Standing Committee that the Party updates its NIAP to incorporate new critical actions needed to respond to such trends or related matters. If agreed by the Standing Committee, the Party shall prepare and submit an updated NIAP to the Secretariat within 60 days following the meeting of the Standing Committee.
- ef) The Secretariat shall assess the adequacy of any revised and updated NIAP received from a Party, in accordance with Step 3, paragraphs a) - c), above.
- fg) The Secretariat shall make any new, revised or updated NIAP accepted as 'adequate' publicly available on the NIAP webpage.

### Step 4: Monitoring of implementation

[...]

- c) The Secretariat will evaluate the reports, based on the self-assessments and in cooperation with experts, if needed, submit the reports to the Standing Committee at each of its regular meetings, make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and also make the reports publicly available on the NIAP webpage as soon as they are received.
- d) The Secretariat will determine where insufficient information was available to conduct an evaluation of progress or actions against set milestones ~~or~~ objectives and indicators to assess both the achievement and impact of the actions taken.
- e) Upon the overall assessment by the Secretariat of a Party's progress report, the Standing Committee should consider the following ratings:
  - 1. *Achieved* – a minimum of 80% of NIAP actions have been assessed as 'achieved' or 'substantially achieved', and any remaining actions have been self-assessed as 'on track' for achievement. The progress report submitted by the Party provides sufficient detail of the activities delivered to justify the allocated progress ratings.

[...]

### Step 5: Completion of a NIAP and exit from NIAP Process

- a) Parties should inform the Secretariat when they have assessed 80% of their NIAP actions as 'achieved' or 'substantially achieved' and all remaining NIAP actions as 'on track'. Subject to acceptance by the Secretariat, such progress ratings are a prerequisite for eligibility to be considered to exit from the process in conjunction with factors as described in paragraphs b) and c).
- b) The Secretariat will evaluate the progress reported by the Party concerned, and consider if sufficient detail is provided on the measures and activities implemented for each action in the NIAP to justify the allocated



self-assessment progress ratings. The Secretariat is encouraged to engage relevant experts or conduct a country mission, to assist in this process, and formulate recommendations with the rationale informing the recommendation for consideration by the Standing Committee on whether:

- i) there is a need for the Party to revise and update the NIAP and continue implementation;
  - ii) any other measures need to be taken; or
  - iii) the Party has 'achieved' its NIAP and can ~~exit~~ the NIAP Process.
- c) In formulating recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee in accordance with Step 5, paragraph b) above, the Secretariat should take into consideration the following elements, when relevant and appropriate, with a view to assess the achievement of the actions and the impact of the actions taken of a NIAP against set milestones and indicators:
- i) the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19);
  - ii) if the ETIS analysis continues to identify the Party as requiring attention;
  - iii) any significant measures implemented or policy developments effected by the Party to address, as applicable, elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory; and
  - iv) any other information that may be available, for example a marked reduction in, as applicable, elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory as it affects the Party, or any continued, new or emerging trends that may be of concern.