

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES  
AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES



Septuagésima octava reunión del Comité Permanente  
Ginebra (Suiza), 3 – 8 de febrero de 2025

Cumplimiento

Cuestiones de procedimiento

Proceso de los planes de acción nacionales para el marfil

INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA

1. Este documento ha sido preparado por la Secretaría de conformidad con las *Directrices para el proceso de los planes de acción nacionales para el marfil* que figuran en el anexo 3 de la Resolución Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Comercio de especímenes de elefante*.
2. Actualmente hay 13 Partes que participan en el proceso de los planes de acción nacionales para el marfil (PANM). Cuatro Partes se encuentran en la Categoría A (Partes más afectadas por el comercio ilegal de marfil): la República Democrática del Congo, Nigeria, Togo y Viet Nam. Estas Partes requieren atención prioritaria. Cuatro están en la categoría B (Partes afectadas de manera acentuada por el comercio ilegal de marfil): Camboya, Gabón, Malasia y Mozambique. Por último, cinco Partes están en la Categoría C (Partes afectadas por el comercio ilegal de marfil): Angola, Camerún, Congo, la República Democrática Popular Lao y Qatar.
3. De conformidad con el calendario establecido en el paso 4, párrafo a), de las *Directrices*, las Partes arriba mencionadas deberán presentar sus informes sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación de su PANM a la Secretaría 90 días antes de cada reunión ordinaria del Comité Permanente.
4. En la 77ª reunión del Comité Permanente (SC77; Ginebra, noviembre de 2023), la Secretaría presentó el documento [SC77 Doc. 34](#) en el que se examinaban los informes sobre los progresos realizados presentados por las Partes. En el documento se señalaba que siete Partes, a saber, la República Democrática del Congo, Togo y Viet Nam como Partes de la Categoría A, Gabón y Malasia como Partes de la Categoría B, y el Congo y la República Democrática Popular Lao como Partes de la Categoría C, no habían presentado informes sobre los progresos realizados o no lo habían hecho a tiempo para su consideración en la reunión SC77. En el documento también se destacaba que el informe sobre los progresos realizados presentado por Angola no contenía ninguna información nueva que mostrara que se habían realizado progresos. Basándose en el documento y en los debates, el Comité Permanente acordó recomendaciones específicas, entre otras, solicitar a las Partes interesadas que presentaran informes sobre los progresos realizados, incluido un nuevo informe de Angola, dentro de plazos específicos para cada una. El Comité Permanente también pidió a la Secretaría que, si no recibía informes satisfactorios, emitiera una Notificación a las Partes recomendando a todas las Partes que suspendieran las transacciones con fines comerciales de especies incluidas en la CITES con las Partes en cuestión hasta que presentaran un informe sobre los progresos realizados a la Secretaría confirmando que se había avanzado en la implementación del PANM.
5. La Secretaría evaluó los informes de las Partes mencionadas, incluidos los que se presentaron después de la reunión SC77 dentro de los plazos respectivos. Basándose en el examen, la Secretaría llegó a la conclusión de que la mayoría de las Partes habían realizado progresos en la elaboración de sus PANM. Sin embargo, el nuevo informe de Angola sigue sin demostrar avances suficientes. En vista de ello, y de conformidad con la recomendación del Comité Permanente, la Secretaría emitió la Notificación a las Partes

No. 2024/033 el 7 de febrero de 2024 recomendando que las Partes suspendieran las transacciones con fines comerciales de todas las especies incluidas en la CITES con Angola hasta nuevo aviso.

6. Aunque el informe presentado por la República Democrática del Congo mostraba que se habían realizado progresos, su calidad no era suficiente debido a la alteración de la plantilla para la presentación de informes y a los cambios en las acciones. La República Democrática del Congo es la Parte cuya situación ha cambiado de manera más significativa entre todas las Partes pues ha pasado a la Categoría A según el análisis ETIS preparado para la CoP19. Por consiguiente, la Secretaría consideró que Angola y la República Democrática del Congo eran Partes prioritarias en relación con la asistencia para el cumplimiento.
7. Por invitación de Angola y la República Democrática del Congo, la Secretaría llevó a cabo una misión técnica en las dos Partes en abril de 2024 para ayudarles a avanzar en la aplicación del PANM. Durante la misión, la Secretaría examinó los informes sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del PANM con el personal pertinente responsable de la aplicación de los mismos y de la elaboración de informes. Se examinó cada acción y los indicadores e hitos correspondientes a fin de identificar las lagunas y las causas profundas del retraso en la presentación y la mala calidad de los informes. La Secretaría también se reunió con otros organismos pertinentes que participan en la aplicación del PANM, incluidas las autoridades aduaneras, y visitó las existencias de marfil. Para más información sobre las dos misiones, consúltese el anexo 1 del presente documento., así como en el documento SC78 Doc. 33.13.2 sobre *Examen del proceso de los Planes de acción nacionales para el marfil*.
8. Para la presente reunión, las 13 Partes que actualmente están incluidas en el proceso de los PANM presentaron sus informes sobre los progresos realizados a tiempo para su evaluación por parte de la Secretaría. Es la primera vez desde la reunión SC65 (2014) que todas las Partes que participan en el proceso de los PANM presentan sus informes sobre los progresos realizados en una reunión ordinaria del Comité Permanente<sup>1</sup>. La Secretaría atribuye este resultado positivo a una combinación de factores, entre ellos, las recomendaciones de la reunión SC77 sobre medidas para garantizar el cumplimiento del proceso de los PANM en relación con los informes que no mostraban progresos y la implicación de los puntos focales de los PANM recientemente designados en determinadas Partes.
9. La presentación de los informes sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del PANM para la presente reunión también proporciona al Comité Permanente una visión general de la situación de los logros en la aplicación del PANM por todas las Partes que actualmente están incluidas en el proceso. En el cuadro siguiente se resumen las calificaciones de los progresos realizados se resumen. Los porcentajes entre paréntesis indican las evaluaciones de la Secretaría que difieren de la autoevaluación de una Parte. El porcentaje de realización general en la primera columna es la combinación de acciones "realizadas" o "realizadas sustancialmente" para que la Secretaría considere que la Parte cumple los criterios para salir del proceso de los PANM de conformidad con el paso 5 de las *Directrices*; cabe señalar que se requiere un mínimo del 80 % de realización, y todas las acciones restantes del PANM deben ser evaluadas como "en proceso de realización".

|   | Calificaciones de los progresos realizados comunicadas por las Partes que participan en el proceso de los PANM (las cifras entre paréntesis muestran las calificaciones modificadas según la evaluación de la Secretaría de la CITES) |                           |                           |                     |  |             |
|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Parte (% corresponde a las acciones "alcanzadas" + "alcanzadas sustancialmente" según la evaluación de la Secretaría) | Alcanzada   | Alcanzada sustancialmente | En proceso de realización | Progresos parciales | En espera de la realización de otra acción | No iniciada |
| República Democrática del Congo (83%)   | 25%<br>(18%)  | 61%<br>(65%)              | 11%<br>(14%)              | 3%                  | 0%   | 0%          |
| Nigeria (63%)   | 42%<br>(26%)  | 47%<br>(37%)              | 11%<br>(37%)              | 0%                  | 0%   | 0%          |

<sup>1</sup> Las reuniones SC71 y SC75 no eran reuniones ordinarias del Comité Permanente y los informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del PANM examinados en dichas reuniones fueron los que no se habían examinado en las reuniones ordinarias debido a su presentación tardía.

|   | Calificaciones de los progresos realizados comunicadas por las Partes que participan en el proceso de los PANM (las cifras entre paréntesis muestran las calificaciones modificadas según la evaluación de la Secretaría de la CITES) |                           |                           |                     |  |             |
|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Parte (% corresponde a las acciones "alcanzadas" + "alcanzadas sustancialmente" según la evaluación de la Secretaría) | Alcanzada   | Alcanzada sustancialmente | En proceso de realización | Progresos parciales | En espera de la realización de otra acción | No iniciada |
| Togo (14%)  | 14%   | 0%                        | 14%<br>(10%)              | 48%<br>(52%)        | 0%   | 24%         |
| Viet Nam (84%)  | 88%<br>(76%)  | 4%<br>(8%)                | 8%<br>(12%)               | 0%<br>(4%)          | 0%   | 0%          |
| Camboya (92%)   | 46%<br>(38%)  | 54%                       | 0%<br>(8%)                | 0%                  | 0%   | 0%          |
| Gabón (66%)   | 37.5%<br>(22%)  | 44%                       | 15.5%<br>(31%)            | 3%                  | 0%   | 0%          |
| Malasia (91%)   | 91%<br>(82%)  | 9%                        | 0%<br>(9%)                | 0%                  | 0%   | 0%          |
| Mozambique (63%)  | 25%<br>(19%)  | 38%<br>(44%)              | 31%                       | 6%                  | 0%   | 0%          |
| Angola (87%)  | 98%<br>(77%)  | 2%<br>(10%)               | 0%<br>(13%)               | 0%                  | 0%   | 0%          |
| Camerún (59%)   | 48%<br>(39%)  | 16%<br>(20%)              | 32%<br>(34%)              | 2%<br>(5%)          | 0%   | 2%          |
| Congo (19%)   | 19%   | 0%                        | 35%                       | 0%                  | 4%   | 42%         |
| República Democrática Popular Lao (55%)   | 30%<br>(20%)  | 30%<br>(35%)              | 40%<br>(35%)              | 0%<br>(10%)         | 0%   | 0%          |
| Qatar (73%)   | 86%<br>(33%)  | 7%<br>(40%)               | 7%<br>(27%)               | 0%                  | 0%   | 0%          |

10. Como muestra el cuadro anterior, los niveles de realización de los PANM varían considerablemente entre las Partes. La calidad de los informes varía aún más, ya que algunas Partes proporcionan descripciones detalladas de las actividades en orden cronológico para justificar las calificaciones asignadas, mientras que otras Partes proporcionan una frase o una oración para cada acción sin indicación del calendario, los indicadores o los hitos a los que corresponde. De conformidad con las *Directrices para el proceso de los PANM*, la Secretaría debe proponer recomendaciones que sean proporcionales a los niveles de consecución de los PANM y a la implicación demostrada por las Partes en sus informes sobre los progresos realizados, para su examen por el Comité Permanente.
11. De conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e) de las *Directrices para el proceso de los PANM*, el requisito mínimo para considerar una salida del proceso de los PANM es que haya un 80 % de las acciones calificadas como "realizadas sustancialmente" o "realizadas" y que las acciones restantes estén calificadas como "en proceso de realización". De conformidad con el paso 5 de las *Directrices*, al evaluar la situación de las Partes para determinar si cumple los requisitos para salir del proceso, la Secretaría consultó a los expertos pertinentes, incluidos los asociados de la Secretaría en el ICCWC, el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, los grupos de especialistas en elefantes de la Comisión de Supervivencia de Especies de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN), TRAFFIC y el Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza (WWF), y tomó en consideración los últimos análisis del ETIS.
12. La evaluación realizada por la Secretaría de los informes presentados por las 13 Partes que participan en el proceso de los PANM, llevada a cabo de conformidad con el paso 5, párrafos b) y c) de las *Directrices*, está disponible en el anexo 1 del presente documento. Se considera que tres Partes que participan en el proceso de los PANM han cumplido los requisitos mínimos de aplicación del PANM para que se considere

su salida del proceso de los PANM, mientras que otras tres Partes que participan en el proceso de los PANM no demostraron suficientes progresos en la aplicación de sus PANM y requieren un mayor seguimiento. La Secretaría resume la evaluación de los progresos realizados por cada una de estas seis Partes y expone las recomendaciones en las secciones siguientes. La evaluación de los informes sobre los progresos realizados en el proceso del PANM por las siete Partes restantes puede consultarse en el anexo 1 del presente documento.

#### Partes que han "realizado" sus PANM

13. Angola: Al haber evaluado la Secretaría más del 80% de las acciones de su PANM como "realizadas sustancialmente" y las restantes como "en proceso de realización", Angola cumple las condiciones para salir del proceso de los PANM. La Secretaría reconoce la importante mejora de la aplicación del PANM y la presentación de informes tras su misión técnica, así como la implicación demostrada por Angola. Angola ha comunicado recientemente a ETIS un total de 724 decomisos de marfil durante el periodo comprendido entre 2018 y 2024, lo que representa unos esfuerzos de aplicación de la ley encomiables. Sin embargo, la prevalencia de grandes cantidades de marfil ilegal no trabajado y trabajado decomisado por Angola en los últimos años, junto con un decomiso a gran escala de marfil en Viet Nam en el que Angola estaba implicada, justifica un seguimiento continuo de la situación en el país. Por estas razones, de conformidad con el paso 5, párrafo b) ii) de las Directrices, la Secretaría recomienda que el Comité Permanente reconozca los progresos realizados por Angola y solicite a este país que continúe la ejecución de cualquier actividad en el marco del PANM que aún no haya sido realizada. Además, se debería alentar a Angola a realizar evaluaciones de riesgo para desarrollar perfiles de riesgo en relación con el comercio ilegal de marfil, a ponerse en contacto con la Organización Mundial de Aduanas para solicitar apoyo si fuera necesario, y a informar sobre los progresos realizados en la reunión SC81.
14. Camboya: El Comité Permanente acordó una calificación general de "realizado" para Camboya en la reunión SC77 e invitó a la Secretaría a colaborar con los expertos pertinentes para seguir evaluando los progresos realizados por Camboya y hacer una recomendación en relación a si cumple las condiciones para salir del proceso PANM. Durante el período abarcado por el informe, Camboya siguió demostrando su implicación en la aplicación de su PANM. La Secretaría colaboró con varias organizaciones y expertos internacionales, entre ellos TRAFFIC, que gestiona los datos del ETIS, para conocer la situación sobre el terreno y los efectos de la aplicación del PANM. Los datos del ETIS muestran que en los últimos años no se han notificado grandes decomisos en Camboya, como los notificados en 2018, y que en los últimos tres años se han notificado menos decomisos que implican a la Parte. Los demás expertos no han expresado preocupación alguna en relación con Camboya. Por consiguiente, la Secretaría considera que Camboya ha realizado su PANM y recomienda su salida del proceso de los PANM.
15. Malasia: El Comité Permanente acordó una calificación general de "realizado" para Malasia en la reunión SC77 y acordó que consideraría en la reunión SC78 si Malasia debería salir del proceso de los PANM. Durante el período abarcado por el informe, Malasia ha seguido llevando a cabo actividades concretas y sujetas a plazos para seguir mejorando diversas acciones de su PANM y ha demostrado sistemáticamente su compromiso constante de combatir el comercio ilegal de marfil, lo que ha dado lugar a importantes decomisos interceptados por este país. Por consiguiente, la Secretaría considera que Malasia ha realizado su PANM y recomienda su salida del proceso de los PANM.

#### Partes que no han demostrado haber realizado progresos suficientes en la aplicación de sus PANM

16. Congo: El informe sobre los progresos realizados presentado por el Congo para su consideración en la presente reunión muestra que ha habido muy pocos avances durante el período abarcado por el informe, con un 42% de acciones (11 acciones) autoevaluadas como "no iniciadas". Sólo hay dos acciones que muestran algún nivel de actividad con una indicación del momento de la acción durante el período abarcado por el informe, pero dicha actividad no fue lo suficientemente significativa como para afectar a las calificaciones. Según TRAFFIC, el Congo no ha transmitido informes al ETIS en más de 20 años. Sin embargo, en los datos enviados por otras Partes al ETIS se implica al Congo, incluidos en grandes decomisos de marfil trabajado; dichos decomisos también representan una nueva ruta comercial en la que el Congo ha estado implicado en los datos del ETIS de los últimos años. En vista de ello, la Secretaría recomienda que se considere la adopción de medidas apropiadas de conformidad con la Resolución Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Procedimientos para el cumplimiento de la CITES* hasta que el Congo presente

un informe sobre los progresos realizados que demuestre que ha habido avances satisfactorios, a fin de garantizar el cumplimiento del proceso de los PANM por parte de este país.

17. Qatar: El informe sobre los progresos realizados por Qatar presentado para su consideración en esta reunión no proporciona ninguna información que indique que ha habido avances durante el período abarcado por el informe, en particular, en relación con las acciones cuya realización está pendiente. En este informe, seis acciones, que representan el 40% de todas las acciones, pasaron de "en proceso de realización" o "realizadas sustancialmente" a "realizadas", a pesar de que la información proporcionada es idéntica a la de los informes de Qatar presentados a la reunión SC74 y SC77. La Secretaría lo señaló a Qatar en sus informes para la reunión SC74 y SC77, y lo volvió a indicar a este país en junio de 2024, cuando recibió una versión preliminar del informe sobre los progresos realizados. En ese momento, la Secretaría también informó a Qatar que la presentación de un informe sobre los progresos realizados que no demuestre que ha habido avances sustanciales puede dar lugar a que el Comité Permanente considere la adopción de medidas. En vista de ello, la Secretaría recomienda que se considere la adopción de medidas apropiadas de conformidad con la Resolución Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Procedimientos para el cumplimiento de la CITES* hasta que Qatar presente un informe sobre los progresos realizados que demuestre que ha habido avances satisfactorios, a fin de garantizar el cumplimiento del proceso de los PANM por parte de este país.
18. Togo: Como Parte de la Categoría A en el proceso de los PANM, se esperaba que Togo completara su PANM para 2023 según el calendario establecido por este país. Hasta la fecha, Togo solo ha realizado el 14% de sus acciones, el porcentaje más bajo de todas las Partes, lo que deja un 24% de acciones "no iniciadas" según su autoevaluación. En la reunión SC75, el Comité Permanente observó el elevado porcentaje de acciones "no iniciadas" e instó a Togo a acelerar la aplicación general de su PANM con la mayor urgencia. La Secretaría reiteró la necesidad urgente de acelerar las acciones en su informe a la reunión SC77, e invitó a Togo a aclarar las razones por las que no ha habido avances y a explicar cualquier obstáculo que impide la aplicación. Hasta la fecha, la Secretaría no ha recibido ninguna explicación. En vista de ello, la Secretaría recomienda que se considere la adopción de medidas apropiadas de conformidad con la Resolución Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Procedimientos para el cumplimiento de la CITES* hasta que Togo presente un informe sobre los progresos realizados que demuestre que ha habido avances satisfactorios, a fin de garantizar el cumplimiento del proceso de los PANM por parte de este país.

#### Consideraciones y sugerencias de cara al futuro

19. El proceso de los PANM es un proceso sujeto a plazos, y cada plan describe las acciones prioritarias que una Parte se compromete a llevar a cabo. La mayoría de los PANM actuales se formularon con un plazo medio de aplicación de dos a tres años. Sin embargo, todos los PANM, con la excepción de uno, han superado sus plazos especificados, a menudo en varios años.
20. Las *Directrices para el proceso de los PANM* establecen, en el paso 4, párrafo f), que cuando una Parte "no ha logrado los objetivos especificados en el PANM dentro del plazo establecido", "la Secretaría y el Comité Permanente, según proceda, deberían considerar las medidas apropiadas, de acuerdo con lo previsto en la Resolución Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18), sobre *Procedimientos para el cumplimiento de la CITES*, a fin de garantizar el cumplimiento del proceso de los PANM". Si se siguiera estrictamente esta disposición, todas las Partes, excepto una cuyo PANM está aún dentro del plazo establecido, deberían haber sido objeto de medidas apropiadas de conformidad con la Resolución Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Procedimientos para el cumplimiento de la CITES*, a menos que hubieran proporcionado razones justificadas para los retrasos. Mientras tanto, como se destacó durante las entrevistas realizadas por el consultor para examinar el proceso de los PANM, algunas Partes han expresado cansancio o una pérdida de impulso, ya que ven el PANM como un proceso interminable. En este sentido, la Secretaría señala que el proceso de los PANM no está concebido como un proceso abierto o interminable, ya que el procedimiento para salir del proceso está claramente definido en el paso 5 de las *Directrices* y que hasta ahora nueve Partes han realizado con éxito sus PANM y, a continuación, han salido del proceso de los PANM.
21. Como se debate en el documento SC78 Doc. 33.13.2 sobre *Examen del proceso de los Planes de acción nacionales para el marfil*, se pueden lograr avances concretos y rápidos cuando las Partes demuestran su implicación, cuando se les proporciona formación y apoyo y cuando se consideran las medidas adecuadas, aunque esto no sea aplicable a todas las acciones. La importante mejora lograda por Angola y la República Democrática del Congo después de la reunión SC77 desde el punto de vista tanto de la calidad de los

informes como de los progresos reales realizados para avanzar en la aplicación del PANM ilustra esta observación. Además, el hecho de que todas las Partes incluidas en el proceso de los PANM presentaran a tiempo sus informes sobre los progresos realizados por primera vez en 10 años subraya lo que se puede conseguir cuando existe un compromiso y una determinación colectivos.

22. Basándose en estas consideraciones y para acelerar la aplicación de todos los PANM, la Secretaría propone que el Comité Permanente inste a todas las Partes que sigan en el proceso de los PANM después de la reunión SC78, a tomar medidas inmediatas y concretas para acelerar la aplicación con el objetivo de lograr la realización de sus PANM para la próxima reunión ordinaria del Comité Permanente, es decir, para la reunión SC81 en 2026. Las Partes actualmente incluidas en las Categorías A y B que no alcancen los objetivos de sus PANM definidos en el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices* para la reunión SC81, deberían ser objeto de las medidas mencionadas en el paso 4, párrafo f), a menos que haya circunstancias excepcionales que justifiquen esta situación, por ejemplo, porque las medidas pendientes estén relacionadas con la elaboración y adopción de nueva legislación en el marco del Pilar 1 de los PANM. Los PANM de todas las Partes que actualmente están incluidas en las categorías A y B, excepto Togo, fueron concebidos para una aplicación en un plazo de dos años. En este sentido, la Secretaría señala que para cualquier PANM futuro, la Secretaría recomendará un plazo más largo para la aplicación. Por consiguiente, la consecución de los objetivos de sus PANM en los próximos 20 meses debería ser factible para las Partes salvo que intervengan circunstancias excepcionales. Se alienta a todas las Partes a buscar apoyo técnico y financiero para ayudar a acelerar la consecución de los objetivos de sus PANM.

### Recomendaciones

23. Basándose en las consideraciones anteriores y en las evaluaciones de los informes sobre los progresos realizados presentados para su examen en la presente reunión, se invita al Comité Permanente a:
- a) instar a todas las Partes incluidas en el proceso de los PANM a que intensifiquen sus esfuerzos con carácter urgente para alcanzar los objetivos de sus PANM antes de la próxima reunión ordinaria del Comité Permanente, de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*; y
  - b) acordar considerar la aplicación de medidas apropiadas de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo f), de las *Directrices* a las Partes de las Categorías A y B que permanezcan en estas categorías después de la reunión SC78 y no logren alcanzar las metas de su PANM para la siguiente reunión ordinaria del Comité Permanente, a menos que se justifique adecuadamente esta situación.
24. También se invita al Comité Permanente a acordar las siguientes recomendaciones con respecto a cada Parte individual incluida en el proceso de los PANM, agrupadas por categoría:

#### *Partes de la categoría A*

#### **República Democrática del Congo**

- c) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos parciales", de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;
  - ii) acoja con satisfacción los progresos realizados por la República Democrática del Congo desde la reunión SC77 y aliente a la Parte a seguir avanzando para alcanzar los objetivos de su PANM.

#### **Nigeria\*:**

- d) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos parciales", de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;
  - ii) acoja con satisfacción los progresos realizados por Nigeria desde la reunión SC77 y aliente a la Parte a seguir avanzando para alcanzar los objetivos de su PANM.

## Togo

- e) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) tome nota de que el informe sobre los progresos realizados presentado por Togo no demuestra que haya habido suficientes avances;
  - ii) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos limitados", de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;
  - iii) pida a la Secretaría que, de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo f), de las *Directrices para el proceso de los PANM*, emita en su nombre una advertencia por escrito solicitando a Togo que presente a la Secretaría un informe sobre los progresos realizados en el que confirme que ha habido avances satisfactorios en la consecución de los objetivos de su PANM; y
  - iv) inste a Togo a que intensifique sus esfuerzos con un sentido mayor de la urgencia para avanzar en la consecución de los objetivos de su PANM y proporcione suficientes detalles sobre las actividades realizadas para justificar las calificaciones de los progresos realizados en la autoevaluación.

## Viet Nam

- f) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos parciales", de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;
  - ii) felicite a Viet Nam por los progresos realizados en la consecución de los objetivos de su PANRM y le pida que revise y actualice su PANRM y continúe su aplicación.

## Partes de la Categoría B

### Camboya

- g) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acuerde que Camboya salga del proceso de los PANM de conformidad con el paso 5 de las *Directrices*;
  - ii) aliente a Camboya a completar la ejecución de cualquier acción del PANM que aún no esté "realizada"; y
  - iii) pida a la Secretaría que, de conformidad con la Resolución Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Comercio de especímenes de elefante*, continúe supervisando el comercio ilegal de marfil en lo que concierne a Camboya, y que señale a la atención del Comité cualquier cuestión de preocupación que pueda surgir.

### Gabón

- h) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos parciales", de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;
  - ii) acoja con satisfacción los progresos realizados por Gabón desde la reunión SC77 y aliente a la Parte a seguir avanzando para alcanzar los objetivos de su PANM.

## **Malasia**

- i) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acuerde que Malasia salga del proceso de los PANM de conformidad con el paso 5 de las *Directrices*;
  - ii) aliente a Malasia a completar la ejecución de cualquier acción del PANM que aún no esté "realizada"; y
  - iii) pida a la Secretaría que, de conformidad con la Resolución Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Comercio de especímenes de elefante*, continúe supervisando el comercio ilegal de marfil en lo que concierne a Malasia, y que señale a la atención del Comité cualquier cuestión de preocupación que pueda surgir.

## **Mozambique**

- j) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos parciales", de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;
  - ii) acoja con satisfacción los progresos realizados por Mozambique desde la reunión SC77 y aliente a la Parte a seguir avanzando para alcanzar los objetivos de su PANM.

## *Partes de la categoría C*

## **Angola**

- k) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acoja con satisfacción los progresos realizados por Angola desde la reunión SC77 y aliente a la Parte a seguir avanzando para alcanzar los objetivos de su PANM; y
  - ii) aliente a Angola a realizar evaluaciones de riesgo para desarrollar perfiles de riesgo en relación con el comercio ilegal de marfil y a solicitar el apoyo de la Organización Mundial de Aduanas cuando sea necesario.

## **Camerún**

- l) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) tome nota de los limitados progresos realizados por Camerún en la aplicación de su PANM y aliente a la Parte a que redoble sus esfuerzos para avanzar en la aplicación de su PANM y proporcione detalles suficientes sobre las actividades realizadas para justificar las calificaciones de los progresos realizados en la autoevaluación; y
  - ii) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos limitados" para Camerún, de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;

## **Congo**

- m) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) tome nota de que el informe sobre los progresos realizados presentado por el Congo no demuestra que haya habido suficientes avances;
  - ii) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos limitados", de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;



- iii) pida a la Secretaría que, de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo f), de las *Directrices para el proceso de los PANM*, emita en su nombre una advertencia por escrito solicitando al Congo que presente a la Secretaría un informe sobre los progresos realizados en el que confirme que ha habido avances satisfactorios en la consecución de los objetivos de su PANM; y
- iv) inste al Congo a que presente información sobre los decomisos de marfil de elefante al Sistema de Información sobre el Comercio de Elefantes (ETIS) antes de la próxima evaluación.

#### **República Democrática Popular Lao**

- n) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) acoja con satisfacción los progresos realizados por la República Democrática Popular Lao en la consecución de los objetivos de su PANM y aliente a la Parte a redoblar sus esfuerzos para avanzar en la aplicación de su PANM; y
  - ii) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos parciales" para la República Democrática Popular Lao, de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*.

#### **Qatar**

- o) Se invita al Comité Permanente a que:
  - i) tome nota de que el informe sobre los progresos realizados presentado por Qatar no demuestra que haya habido suficientes avances;
  - ii) acuerde una calificación general de "progresos parciales", de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo e), de las *Directrices*;
  - iii) pida a la Secretaría que, de conformidad con el paso 4, párrafo f), de las *Directrices para el proceso de los PANM*, emita en su nombre una advertencia por escrito solicitando a Qatar que presente a la Secretaría un informe sobre los progresos realizados en el que confirme que ha habido avances satisfactorios en la consecución de los objetivos de su PANM; y
  - iv) inste a Qatar a que intensifique sus esfuerzos con un sentido mayor de la urgencia para avanzar en la consecución de los objetivos de su PANM y proporcione suficientes detalles sobre las actividades realizadas para justificar las calificaciones de los progresos realizados de la autoevaluación.

**Implementation of National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs)**

(Parties organized in alphabetical order)

**Angola (Category C – in NIAP since 2014)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS     |                           |                          |                           |                           |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                      | Achieved                  | Substantially achieved   | On track                  | Partial progress          | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced            |
| Angola's assessment (SC70)           | 40%<br>(19 of 47 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)   | 30%<br>(14 of 47 actions) | 21%<br>(10 of 47 actions)            | 9%<br>(4 of 47 actions)  |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC70)      | 40%<br>(19 of 47 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)  | 6.5%<br>(3 of 47 actions) | 32%<br>(15 of 47 actions) | 6.5%<br>(3 of 47 actions)            | 15%<br>(7 of 47 actions) |
| Angola's assessment (following SC74) | 81%<br>(38 of 47 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)   | 17%<br>(8 of 47 actions)  | 2%<br>(1 of 47 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)  |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC75)      | 77%<br>(36 of 47 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)  | 13%<br>(6 of 47 actions)  | 8%<br>(4 of 47 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)              | 2%<br>(1 of 47 actions)  |
| Angola's assessment (SC78)           | 98%<br>(46 of 47 actions) | 2%<br>(1 of 47 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)  |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)      | 77%<br>(36 of 47 actions) | 10%<br>(5 of 47 actions) | 13%<br>(6 of 47 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 47 actions)  |

1. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted a set of recommendations directed to Angola as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)) under agenda item 34 h) as follows:
  - i) noted that the report submitted by Angola does not include new progress made, and therefore expressed serious concern about the stagnation of NIAP implementation in Angola in the past two years;
  - ii) requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, speaking on behalf of the Committee to request Angola to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77;
  - iii) if there is no satisfactory report by Angola, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Angola until it submits a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.
2. Angola submitted a new progress report within the 60 days deadline, i.e. before 9 January 2024. The report contained little detail on each action point and failed to demonstrate substantial progress. Based on the review, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2024/033 on 7 February 2024 to recommend the suspension of trade in all CITES-listed species for commercial purposes with Angola until further notice.

At the invitation of Angola, the Secretariat conducted a two-day technical mission in April 2024 to assist the Party in its NIAP implementation. During the mission, the Secretariat reviewed the NIAP progress report with relevant staff responsible for NIAP implementation by going through each action point and associated indicators and milestones to identify the gaps. Following the review and clarifications provided, it was evident that some good progress had in fact been made in advancing a number of action points but they had not been properly reflected in the report for various reasons, including gaps in internal communications and misunderstanding of the set objectives of certain actions. The Secretariat took the opportunity to provide the training to the staff in preparing NIAP progress reports using the proper template and used examples from other Parties to explain best practices. During the mission, the Secretariat also met with other relevant agencies involved in NIAP implementation including customs and visited ivory stockpiles. An updated progress report was received from Angola immediately after the mission which showed satisfactory progress made. The recommendation to suspend trade was therefore withdrawn.

3. The [NIAP of Angola](#) includes 47 actions. Angola's self-assessment, available as Annex 2 to the present document, evaluates 46 actions as "achieved" and one as "substantially achieved". According to its self-assessment ratings, Angola fulfils the requirements outlined in Step 5, paragraph a), of the *Guidelines* to exit the NIAP process.
4. Since action B2 on raising awareness of the Criminal Code and environmental legislation is an ongoing process, the Secretariat considers that a rating of "substantially achieved" would be more appropriate than "achieved". The Secretariat wishes to remind Angola that action B3 in its original NIAP is the "Implementation of ICCWC Crime Analytic Toolkit" and not what is described in the progress report. The milestones as indicated in the NIAP for this action have a focus on analysis of the tools and their implementation which are not properly reflected in the report. Without further details, the Secretariat recommends a rating of "substantially achieved" instead of "achieved". For action B4, given the number of examples provided for the publicity of penalties imposed on ivory trafficking, the Secretariat proposes a rating of "on track" instead of "achieved".
5. Regarding action C1 on the development of an action plan on how to involve intelligence services at different levels in the fight against environmental crimes, the report does not elaborate on the steps taken in the design and implementation of the action plan and the evaluation thereof as envisaged in the set milestones. The Secretariat therefore believes that "on track" will be a more accurate reflection of the status of implementation. Similarly, without details on the dates and regularity of the training under action C3, concrete results of the consultation under C4 and details on the exchanges of experiences with SADC countries on criminal investigations under C5, "on track" will be a more appropriate assessment for these action points. On action E4, the Secretariat notes that the objective of this action is to eliminate the sale of ivory and ivory-based crafts across the country, but the report only refers to the closure of the market in Luanda, the capital city of Angola, the Secretariat therefore considers that "substantially achieved" will be more appropriate than "achieved". Regarding actions F1 and F2, due to the lack of details on particularly activities during the reporting period, the Secretariat believes "on track" will be better justified.
6. In relation to action E6, the Secretariat observed the operation of passenger luggage scanning during its technical mission and received confirmation after the mission that AI-aided more accurate and efficient scanners were deployed at ports in Luanda. The Secretariat commends the diligence and professionalism as demonstrated by the customs teams at airport and seaports during its technical mission.
7. In preparing its assessment of Angola's NIAP implementation, the Secretariat consulted with TRAFFIC as the manager and coordinator of ETIS, requesting information on the latest data concerning Angola that is available to ETIS. According to the ETIS analysis, the relatively robust mixture of raw and worked ivory seized in Angola and the nature of the worked ivory seized may indicate Angola serves as a processing hub for ivory products intended for consumption in other countries. While the data still requires verification, the very large seizure of 7 tons in 2023 by authorities in Viet Nam that implicated Angola as the country of origin corroborates the observed patterns and suggests organized crime might be involved due to the magnitude of the illegal consignment of raw ivory. Several additional seizures involving rhino products were reported by the Secretariat in document SC77 Doc. 45, where the Secretariat noted "Angola seems to be emerging as an exit point for illegal rhinoceros horn and ivory consignment from Africa to Asia" (paragraph 60). Therefore, continued monitoring in the country as well as potential bilateral law enforcement collaboration with Viet Nam is warranted to better understand and address illegal ivory trade.
8. The Secretariat encourages Angola to conduct risk assessments to develop risk profiles for illegal trade in ivory and seek support from the World Customs Organization as needed. This can be included in the third pillar of the NIAP on "Intelligence and services for investigation". Angola can also consider conducting an evaluation of the effectiveness in the use of AI-aided scanning by its customs in detecting contraband

including elephant ivory and rhino horn to identify opportunities for improvement including by exchanging experiences with other Parties that have used such technology.

9. The Secretariat considers that the substantial efforts made by Angola to implement its NIAP, the ongoing initiatives and activities, and the progress made to date, deserve full recognition. With the achievement of 87% of the actions in its NIAP and all remaining actions “on track” as assessed by the Secretariat, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee recognize Angola’s achievement of its NIAP. Given the prevalence of large quantities of raw and worked illegal ivory seized by Angola in the past few years coupled with the very large seizure of ivory implicating Angola, the Secretariat considers that it is premature for Angola to exit the NIAP process at present and it will be appropriate to invite Angola to continue to pursue implementation of the activities in its NIAP that have not yet been rated as “Achieved”, and to consider pursuing further measures and activities to combat illegal trade in ivory affecting the country. The Secretariat recommends the Standing Committee agree to welcome the progress made by Angola since SC77 and encourage the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals..

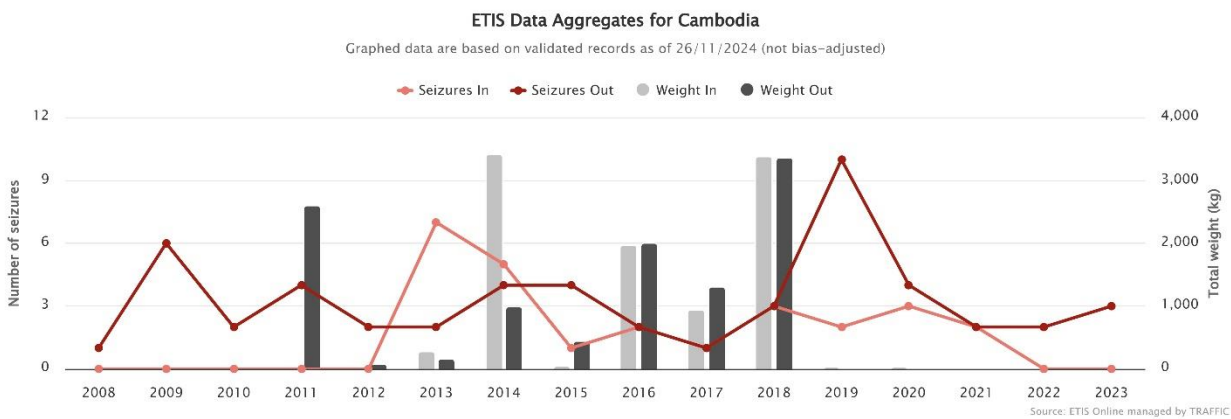
**Cambodia (Category B – in NIAP since 2014)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS |                          |                          |                          |                         |                                      |                         |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                  | Achieved                 | Substantially achieved   | On track                 | Partial progress        | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Cambodia’s assessment (SC74)     | 61%<br>(8 of 13 actions) | 8%<br>(1 of 13 actions)  | 23%<br>(3 of 13 actions) | 8%<br>(1 of 13 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) |
| Secretariat’s assessment (SC74)  | 23%<br>(3 of 13 actions) | 8%<br>(1 of 13 actions)  | 61%<br>(8 of 13 actions) | 8%<br>(1 of 13 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) |
| Cambodia’s assessment (SC77)     | 31%<br>(4 of 13 actions) | 69%<br>(9 of 13 actions) | 0<br>(0 of 13 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) |
| Secretariat’s assessment (SC77)  | 23%<br>(3 of 13 actions) | 62%<br>(8 of 13 actions) | 15%<br>(2 of 13 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) |
| Cambodia’s assessment (SC78)     | 46%<br>(6 of 13 actions) | 54%<br>(7 of 13 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) |
| Secretariat’s assessment (SC78)  | 38%<br>(5 of 13 actions) | 54%<br>(7 of 13 actions) | 8%<br>(1 of 13 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 13 actions) |

10. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted recommendation d) under agenda item 34 concerning Cambodia as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)) and agreed an overall rating of “achieved” for Cambodia, in accordance with Step 4 paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*. The Committee invited the Secretariat to engage with relevant experts to further evaluate progress made by Cambodia so that the Secretariat can make a recommendation on whether Cambodia can exit the NIAP process.
11. During the process of consulting relevant experts to gain deeper understanding of the situation in Cambodia, the Secretariat invited Cambodia to submit a progress report to SC78 in order to ascertain the stability of the situation and the continuation of efforts. In Cambodia’s new progress report, available as Annex 3 to the present document, six actions are evaluated as “achieved”, and seven as “substantially achieved”, out of the total 13 actions under [Cambodia’s NIAP](#).
12. The Secretariat commends Cambodia for the diligence in the continued implementation of its NIAP when the Committee had accepted an overall rating of “achieved” and welcomes the continued progress made, including, under action point 2.5, the signing of the MOUs with relevant ministries of China and Viet Nam to enhance bilateral cooperation.
13. The Secretariat notes that action 2.3.3 (under action 2.3) aims to ensure that the needs for equipment of customs and border controls are met. The report states that “the package of device is installed at the Forestry Administration of Cambodia and agencies in the working group can use equipment for investigation of

confiscated wildlife crime”. This is not sufficient as a confirmation that the equipment needs are indeed met. In the absence of a clarification of this point, the Secretariat proposes to rate the action 2.3 as “on track”.

14. Under action point 2.4.3, the Secretariat encourages Cambodia to make efforts to fulfil all the planned goals, for example, the establishment of a database for all ivory seizures as anticipated since there is no indication in the report if the database is already in place.
15. The Secretariat consulted its ICCWC partners, the IUCN elephant specialist groups (for both African and Asian elephants), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) as well as TRAFFIC for an updated country-specific report for Cambodia. Overall, Cambodia has shown demonstrable progress with the implementation of its NIAP and worked together with the Secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other partners to obtain additional support. ETIS data shows that no large seizures, such as those reported in 2018, are reported for Cambodia in recent years, and it appears that less seizures are reportedly implicating the Party in the last three years.



**Figure 1.** ETIS data aggregates for number of seizures and total seized weight for seizures made in Cambodia (seizures-in) and seizures made elsewhere that implicated Cambodia on the trade chain (seizure-out) based on data updated up to 26 November 2024.

16. Based on its assessment, the Secretariat concludes that Cambodia has achieved 92% of its NIAP and has demonstrated the stability of the situation. In light of the above, since the Standing Committee had agreed an overall rating of “achieved” for Cambodia, and the country has continued to demonstrate its commitment to address illegal ivory trade, Secretariat believes that further activities can be pursued outside the NIAP process and therefore recommends that Cambodia exit the NIAP process in accordance with the provisions of Step 5, paragraphs b) and c), of the *Guidelines*.

**Cameroon (Category C – in NIAP since 2014)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS            |                           |                           |                           |                         |                                      |                         |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | Achieved                  | Substantially achieved    | On track                  | Partial progress        | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Cameroon’s self-assessment (SC70)           | 28%<br>(13 of 47 actions) | 42%<br>(20 of 47 actions) | 13%<br>(6 of 47 actions)  | 9%<br>(4 of 47 actions) | 2%<br>(1 of 47 actions)              | 6%<br>(3 of 47 actions) |
| Secretariat’s assessment (SC70)             | 25%<br>(12 of 47 actions) | 25%<br>(12 of 47 actions) | 32%<br>(15 of 47 actions) | 9%<br>(4 of 47 actions) | 2%<br>(1 of 47 actions)              | 6%<br>(3 of 47 actions) |
| Cameroon’s self-assessment (following SC74) | 39%<br>(17 of 44 actions) | 30%<br>(13 of 44 actions) | 25%<br>(11 of 44 actions) | 4%<br>(2 of 44 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 44 actions)              | 2%<br>(1 of 44 actions) |

|                                   |                           |                                  |                                    |                         |                         |                         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Secretariat's assessment (SC75)   | 34%<br>(15 of 44 actions) | 21%<br>(9 of 44 actions)         | 36%<br>(16 of 44 actions)          | 7%<br>(3 of 44 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 44 actions) | 2%<br>(1 of 44 actions) |
| Cameroon's self-assessment (SC77) | 48%<br>(21 of 44 actions) | 16%<br>(7 of 44 actions)         | 32%<br>(14 of 44 actions)          | 2%<br>(1 of 44 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 44 actions) | 2%<br>(1 of 44 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC77)   | 34%<br>(14 of 44 actions) | 21%<br>(9 of 44 actions)         | 36%<br>(17 of 44 actions)          | 7%<br>(3 of 44 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 44 actions) | 2%<br>(1 of 44 actions) |
| Cameroon's self-assessment (SC78) | 48%<br>(21 of 44 actions) | 16%<br>(7 of 44 actions)<br>Or 6 | 32%<br>(14 of 44 actions) or<br>15 | 2%<br>(1 of 44 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 44 actions) | 2%<br>(1 of 44 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)   | 39%<br>(17 of 44 actions) | 20%<br>(9 of 44 actions)         | 34%<br>(15 of 44 actions)          | 5%<br>(2 of 44 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 44 actions) | 2%<br>(1 of 44 actions) |

17. At SC77, the Standing Committee 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 agreed an overall rating of 'limited progress' for Cameroon, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)) under agenda item 34 j).
18. The [NIAP of Cameroon](#) contains 44 priority actions. In its progress report available as Annex 4 of this document, Cameroon evaluates 21 actions as "achieved", seven as "substantially achieved", 14 as "on track", one with "partial progress" and one as "not commenced".
19. The Secretariat welcomes the progress made by Cameroon in advancing the implementation of its NIAP as highlighted in the report, including the holding of an intersectoral *ad hoc* committee in June 2024 to review and monitor its NIAP implementation; the audit of the storage and management system for seized ivory and other wildlife products; securing ivory storage warehouses; the launch of a project with the African Elephant Protection Initiative to secure stocks of ivory seized in Cameroon. The continuity of Higher Military Preparations in order to provide the various eco-guards involved in the conservation of biodiversity with the physical and tactical skills necessary for the fight against large-scale poaching remains essential. Strengthening the capacities of the staff of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) in the analysis of wildlife crime scenes with the collaboration of certain development partners; and improving surveillance and monitoring in protected areas through the effective use of boats, camera traps and drones are underway.
20. In its review of the report submitted by Cameroon for consideration at SC75, the Secretariat suggested that the ratings for actions 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 4.1.2, 5.3.1, 6.1.2 be moved from "substantially achieved" to "on track" due to the lack of progress. The Secretariat notes that the ratings for these actions were moved to "on track" in Cameroon's report to SC77 and remain so in the new progress report. The Secretariat urges Cameroon to actively follow up on the Secretariat's suggestions with regard to the respective action points and demonstrate progress made, for instance in the use of informants under 3.1.2.
21. The Secretariat commends the efforts made under action 2.1.1 during this reporting period to raise awareness about legislation and regulatory rules on wildlife for authorities responsible for enforcing the law with more than 10 training workshops held. In contrast, considering the number of people trained, which is used as the indicator of action 3.1.1, and lack of information for the reporting period, the Secretariat believes "on track" will be a more accurate reflection of progress made than "achieved". With regard to action 4.3.3, it is disappointing to see that no activities have been reported since 2022. Also, the activities reported so far have all been the cooperation with African countries whereas this action point is about collaboration with destination/transit countries. In view of this, the Secretariat considers that "partial progress" will be a more appropriate rating.
22. Regarding action point 5.4.1, the Secretariat would like to remind Cameroon that the indicator for this action, as set in its NIAP, is the number of seizures rather than the number of operations. Since this information is missing in the report for all past years, the Secretariat recommend a rating of "substantially achieved" given the number of operations rather than "achieved".



23. Although it is encouraging to see progress made by Cameroon in advancing the implementation of some of the action points in its NIAP, often with support of external funding, the same cannot be said for other action points. For example, 5.7.2 on the organization of missions to follow up disputes in the high-pressure zones, Cameroon continues to draw attention to the fact that, since 2018, the designated team has not been able to carry out field surveys due to lack of financial resources. The Secretariat therefore believes “partial progress” will be more appropriate due to the stagnation of the activities. This also corresponds to the same rating given by Cameroon to action 5.7.3 for the same reason.
24. The Secretariat once again invites Cameroon to closely check the level of completion of each action point when evaluating its implementation, particularly the number and quantity that are used as indicators in the NIAP. For example, for action point 5.2.2 on the acquisition of detection equipment to improve capacity in contraband detection, the indicator is the number of equipment acquired for each control facility, assuming that there are multiple control facilities across the country. Cameroon rates this action as “achieved” after stating that one canine brigade is deployed at Yaoundé Nsimalen International Airport. The Secretariat suggests that ‘on track’ will be more appropriate until the multiple other control facilities across the country are properly equipped. Likewise, the indicator for action 6.3.2 is the “number of activities undertaken by the phone companies with the aim of raising awareness of the preservation of elephants”. This action is rated as “achieved” in the latest report when the only activity quoted is a public awareness message broadcasted on the International Pangolin Day in 2022. The Secretariat drew the attention of Cameroon to both of the above issues in its report to SC77.
25. Overall, the report of Cameroon demonstrates continued but limited progress with NIAP implementation, and the Standing Committee may wish to consider an overall rating of ‘limited progress’ for Cameroon, in line with Step 4 of the *Guidelines*. The Standing Committee may also wish to encourage Cameroon to scale up its efforts to accelerate the implementation of its NIAP.

#### **Congo (Category C – in NIAP since 2014)**

| <b>PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS</b> |                          |                          |                           |                            |                                      |                            |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|   | Achieved                 | Substantially achieved   | On track                  | Partial progress           | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced              |
| Congo's assessment (SC74)               | 16%<br>(4 of 26 actions) | 4%<br>(1 of 26 actions)  | 38%<br>(10 of 26 actions) | 19%<br>(5 of 26 actions)   | 4%<br>(1 of 26 actions)              | 19%<br>(5 of 26 actions)   |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC74)         | 19%<br>(5 of 26 actions) | 23%<br>(6 of 26 actions) | 35%<br>(9 of 26 actions)  | 11.5%<br>(3 of 26 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 26 actions)              | 11.5%<br>(3 of 26 actions) |
| Congo's assessment (SC78)               | 19%<br>(5 of 26 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 26 actions)  | 35%<br>(9 of 26 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 26 actions)    | 4%<br>(1 of 26 actions)              | 42%<br>(11 of 26 actions)  |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)         | 19%<br>(5 of 26 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 26 actions)  | 35%<br>(9 of 26 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 26 actions)    | 4%<br>(1 of 26 actions)              | 42%<br>(11 of 26 actions)  |

26. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted a set of recommendations directed to the Congo under agenda item 34 k) as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)), as follows:
- i) noted that the Congo did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation;
  - ii) requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, speaking on behalf of the Committee to request Congo to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77;
  - iii) if there is no satisfactory report by Congo, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Congo until it

submits a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.

27. The Congo submitted a progress report within the 60 days deadline, i.e. before 9 January 2024. The report showed some progress made by the Congo in advancing its NIAP. In August 2024, the Secretariat wrote to Congo and urged it to submit a new progress report for consideration at SC78 on time and demonstrating sufficient progress.
28. The [NIAP of Congo](#) contains 26 priority actions. In its progress report available as Annex 5 of document SC78 Doc. 33.13.1, the Congo evaluates five actions as “achieved”, nine as “on track”, one with “partial progress” and 11 as “not commenced”.
29. Overall, the Congo’s progress report for consideration at the present meeting shows very little progress made during the reporting period, with 42% (11 actions) of actions self-assessed as “not commenced”. There are only two action points that show some signs of progress with an indication of the time of action during the reporting period. However, since this is insignificant, the Congo did not make any changes to the ratings, therefore they remain as “on track”. One of these is action point 1.1 pertaining to the expedition of the publication of regulations on the new fauna and protected areas law. This, however, still represents a delay of 10 years against the set milestone as indicated in its [NIAP](#) where the first milestone is the “review of regulations in the Council of Ministers” between October 2014 and June 2015. The new progress report states that a workshop took place in 2024 to review and validate the amendments made to the preliminary draft law on wildlife and protected areas. However, the transmission of the document to the General Secretariat of the Government for adoption by the Council of Ministers has not yet happened. Such being the case, the Secretariat recommends a rating of “partial progress” since none of the three milestones has been fulfilled. Action 6.2 is another action point where some activities were reported for this reporting period (2023-2024). This involves the production of some posters on protected species by conservation organizations who have signed partnership agreements with the Congolese Government.
30. In section A of its NIAP, i.e. Synopsis of the implementation, the Congo states that “During the period from 16 November 2023 to 31 October 2024, the Republic of Congo, which did not receive any financial support from technical partners specializing in conservation, was unable to properly carry out the activities planned in its NIAP. The few activities carried out focused mainly on transmitting to the CITES Secretariat the report on government ivory stocks seized and collected, updating the CITES legislative calendar agreed between the Republic of Congo and the CITES Secretariat, as well as reviewing and validating the amendments made to the preliminary draft law on wildlife and protected areas by FAO, within the framework of the SWM Bushmeat project.”
31. The Secretariat has noticed a continued misunderstanding of the method of reporting on the part of the Congo as it has observed and pointed out in the past when assessing the Congo’s progress reports. While each NIAP report should report consolidated progress made by the Party since the start of its implementation, the Congo has consistently only reported progress made in the reporting period. This being said, it is clear that little progress has been made in the reporting period in the new report and this is reflected in the Secretariat’s assessment. The Secretariat will guide the Congo in the preparation of its future progress report to ensure, among other things, that its report demonstrates consolidated progress made since its NIAP was approved in 2015.
32. The Secretariat recognizes the critical role that external technical and financial support plays in NIAP implementation for some Parties. However, the importance of the commitment of the Parties cannot be overstated. For many action points under most NIAPs, the key player is always the government, most notably the focal points for NIAP implementation. By way of example, action 4.2 of the Congo’s NIAP is “reinforcing ties with INTERPOL and the international institutions involved in fight against illegal ivory trade” and this is one of the actions that is self-rated as “not commenced”. Such work typically falls under the mandates of Government agencies and does not necessarily entail technical support from conservation organizations or external funding to maintain ties with INTERPOL and other relevant organizations. Under this action point, the Congo indicates that apart from a meeting organized by UNODC in partnership with the Ministry of Forest Economy in 2019 to validate the recommendations from the assessment mission on wildlife and forest crime, no other activity has been carried for under this action point. It is also worth noting that, according to TRAFFIC, the Congo has not provided a single report to ETIS since 2003. This again is the responsibility of the government agency and the lack of funding and technical support from external sources cannot justify the inaction.
33. In preparing this assessment, the Secretariat consulted with TRAFFIC as the manager and coordinator of ETIS, requesting information on the latest data concerning Congo that is available to ETIS. According to



TRAFFIC, Congo registered as a data provider on ETIS Online in 2023, but the Party has not reported to ETIS in over 20 years. Most data for seizures occurring in the Congo (seizures-in) are obtained from non-Management Authority sources. The Congo is implicated by data submitted by other Parties to ETIS. A large seizure of worked ivory totaling over 600 pieces of worked ivory was seized in Côte d'Ivoire in 2022 and implicated the Congo as the country of origin; the same seizure submitted by Côte d'Ivoire reported Guinea as the country of destination, which represents a new trade route implicating the Congo in the ETIS data from recent years. Therefore, continued monitoring is warranted.

34. In conclusion, the Secretariat considers that the report from the Congo fails to show sufficient progress and commitment in the implementation of its NIAP. The Secretariat recommends an overall rating of “limited progress” for the Congo, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*. In view of the stagnation of progress made by the Congo in achieving its NIAP, the Committee may wish to, in line with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, consider appropriate measures concerning the Congo, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*.

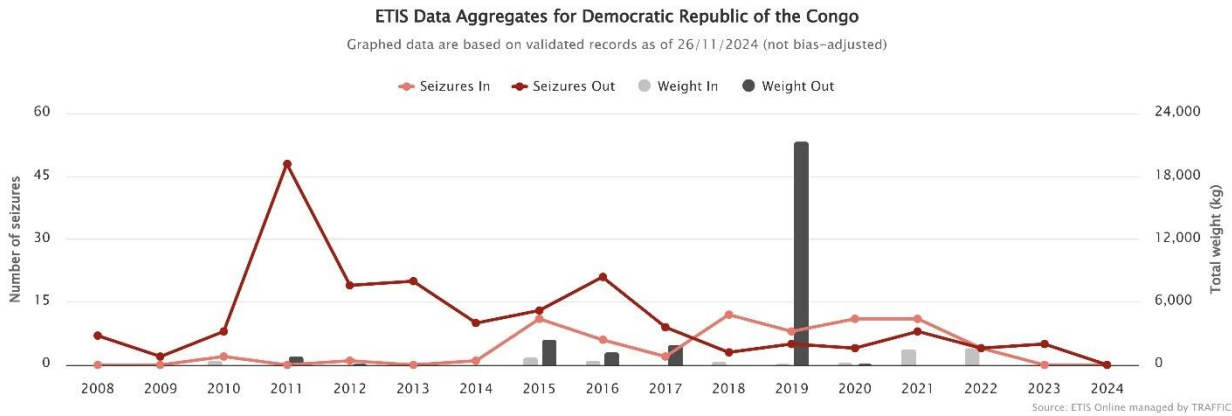
**Democratic Republic of the Congo (Category A – in NIAP since 2014)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS                                      |                          |                           |                           |                          |                                      |                         |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | Achieved                 | Substantially achieved    | On track                  | Partial progress         | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo's self - assessment (SC70)           | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions)  | 29%<br>(6 of 28 actions)  | 39%<br>(11 of 28 actions) | 21%<br>(6 of 28 actions) | 4%<br>(1 of 28 actions)              | 7%<br>(2 of 28 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC70)                                       | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions)  | 21%<br>(6 of 28 actions)  | 47%<br>(13 of 28 actions) | 21%<br>(6 of 28 actions) | 4%<br>(1 of 28 actions)              | 7%<br>(2 of 28 actions) |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo's self - assessment (following SC74) | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions)  | 46%<br>(13 of 28 actions) | 50%<br>(14 of 28 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions)  | 4%<br>(1 of 28 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC75)                                       | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions)  | 46%<br>(13 of 28 actions) | 50%<br>(14 of 28 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions)  | 4%<br>(1 of 28 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions) |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo's self - assessment (SC78)           | 25%<br>(7 of 28 actions) | 61%<br>(17 of 28 actions) | 11%<br>(3 of 28 actions)  | 3%<br>(1 of 28 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)                                       | 18%<br>(5 of 28 actions) | 65%<br>(18 of 28 actions) | 14%<br>(4 of 28 actions)  | 3%<br>(1 of 28 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 28 actions) |

35. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted a set of recommendations directed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo under agenda item 34 a) as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)), as follows:

- i) noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not submit a report on progress with NIAP implementation;
- ii) noting the exceptional circumstances in the country, requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, speaking on behalf of the Committee to request the Democratic Republic of the Congo to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat by 1 April 2024;

- iii) if there is no satisfactory report by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES listed species with the Democratic Republic of the Congo until it submits a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.
36. The Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted a progress report before 1 April 2024 which showed some advancement in implementing its NIAP. However, it was evident that the staff who were tasked with preparing the progress report had little understanding of the requirements in NIAP progress reporting. Changes were made to the reporting template, several action points that were considered as “achieved” were removed from the report, multiple action points were relocated between different pillars, wrong titles of the pillars were used, and the template for progress reporting was significantly altered. In consideration of the challenges faced by the staff in the preparation of NIAP progress report, the personnel change, including with the appointment of a new head of the CITES Management Authority (MA), the movement of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Category A in the ETIS analysis prepared for CoP19, the Secretariat considered the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a priority Party for assistance and conducted a technical assistance mission in conjunction with the mission to Angola. During the mission the Secretariat provided hands-on training to the staff who are assigned to prepare NIAP progress reports, including detailed explanations on the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, Guidance for the development of NIAPs, and the use of template for NIAP progress report, using examples from other Parties as best practices. During the mission the Secretariat also met with relevant agencies involved in NIAP implementation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including customs and visited ivory stockpiles. The progress report received from the Democratic Republic of the Congo after the mission was a major improvement.
37. The [NIAP of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) includes 28 priority actions. The Democratic Republic of the Congo’s self-assessment, available as Annex 6 to the present document, evaluates seven actions as “achieved”, 17 actions as “substantially achieved”, three as “on track”, and one as “partial progress”.
38. The Secretariat encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement action point 1.1 as a priority in order to accelerate the process of amending the Hunting Act of 1982 which is currently in “Partial progress”. As discussed during the technical mission, the slow progress in this action is hindering other activities, including both law enforcement and demand reduction interventions when the legality of hunting, sale, possession and consumption of certain CITES-listed species remains unclear.
39. On action point 1.4, the Secretariat welcomes the active engagement under the framework of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). However, the information provided for the period after 2023 is mostly on the issuance of the Reference Guide and the existence of partnership at the regional level, which lacks details and substance to justify the rating of “Achieved”. The Secretariat considers “Substantially achieved” will be a more accurate assessment. With regards to action 2.1, since recent training events seem to focus on staff of the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) which hosts the CITES MA rather than judicial personnel of the courts, tribunals and those of the public prosecutor’s offices to improve their capacity in the fight against poaching and illegal ivory trafficking as envisaged for this action point, the Secretariat considers that “substantially achieved” will be more appropriate.
40. The Secretariat is of the view that action 2.4 that aims to increase the number of mobile court hearings for trials involving poaching and trafficking in ivory and other elephant specimens should be a recurring activity rather than once-off. Since no new mobile court hearings and the subsequent media coverage were reported in this reporting period, the rating of “substantially achieved” is not justified and “on track” is therefore more appropriate.
41. The Secretariat highly commends the persistent efforts made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in implementing action point 5.3 that aims to dismantle the remaining illegal ivory trade networks and markets, as demonstrated in the detailed descriptions of the operations and outcomes in chronological order since 2018.
42. Since the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the Party that made the most significant shift amongst all Parties by moving to Category A based on the ETIS analysis prepared for CoP19, Secretariat consulted with TRAFFIC as the manager and coordinator of ETIS, requesting information on the latest data for the Democratic Republic of the Congo that is available to ETIS. The figure below shows the trend of the seizures of ivory that implicated the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



**Figure 2.** ETIS data aggregates for number of seizures and total seized weight for seizures made in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (seizures-in) and seizures made elsewhere that implicated the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the trade chain (seizure-out) based on data updated up to 26 November 2024.

43. According to TRAFFIC, after the large volume of illegal trade reportedly implicating the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019, it is encouraging to see more seizures made in country by the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities and an overall reduced reported volume of raw ivory trade by weight. However, large illegal consignments of one or more tons are still noted. Additionally, more seizures of worked ivory were noted, including the largest ever recorded for the Democratic Republic of the Congo based on number of items (847 pieces), as well as a large worked ivory seizure of 60.7 kg intercepted by Ethiopian officials en route to China. The increase in worked ivory seizures may indicate a shift towards in-country ivory processing before ivory is illegally exported. Additional information gathered from the TRAFFIC networks indicates continued concerns of ivory stocks “leaking” back into the illegal market due to weak enforcement. In summary, the Party has shown steps towards better stockpile management to control leakage of ivory into illegal trade, but more can be done in terms of reporting to ETIS and general enforcement, and continued monitoring of progress is suggested given the worked ivory seizures noted above.
44. The Secretariat commends the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the diligence and commitment shown by the new leadership of the CITES MA in improving both the reporting and the overall implementation of NIAP. The new report represents a major improvement both in terms of the quality of reporting and the actual progress made in achievement of its NIAP goals. The Secretariat encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to keep the momentum and further scale up the implementation of NIAP. With 11 staff that work full time on CITES and with determination, the team has potential to do more and achieve more. Based on its mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Secretariat believes that more can be done to enhance interagency collaboration especially with the enforcement agencies, including customs. Priority should also be given to tighten the management of ivory stockpiles.
45. The Secretariat recommends an overall rating of “partial progress” for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

**Gabon (Category B – in NIAP since 2014)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS |                          |                            |                           |                            |                                      |                         |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                  | Achieved                 | Substantially achieved     | On track                  | Partial progress           | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Gabon's assessment (SC74)        | 22%<br>(7 of 32 actions) | 28%<br>(9 of 32 actions)   | 44%<br>(14 of 32 actions) | 6%<br>(2 of 32 actions)    | 0%<br>(0 of 32 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 32 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC74)  | 19%<br>(6 of 32 actions) | 12.5%<br>(4 of 32 actions) | 56%<br>(18 of 32 actions) | 12.5%<br>(4 of 32 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 32 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 32 actions) |

|                                 |                             |                           |                            |                         |                         |                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gabon's assessment (SC78)       | 37.5%<br>(12 of 32 actions) | 44%<br>(14 of 32 actions) | 15.5%<br>(5 of 32 actions) | 3%<br>(1 of 32 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 32 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 32 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78) | 22%<br>(7 of 32 actions)    | 44%<br>(14 of 32 actions) | 31%<br>(10 of 32 actions)  | 3%<br>(1 of 32 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 32 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 32 actions) |

46. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted a set of recommendations directed to the Gabon under agenda item 34 e) as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)), as follows:
- i) noted that Gabon did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation and its commitment to do so;
  - ii) requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, speaking on behalf of the Committee to request Gabon to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77; and
  - iii) if there is no satisfactory report by Gabon, requested the Secretariat to issue a written caution, requesting Gabon to submit its NIAP progress report to the Secretariat and to offer assistance to Gabon.
47. Gabon submitted a progress report within the 60 days deadline, i.e. before 9 January 2024. The report showed some progress made by Gabon in advancing its NIAP.
48. The [NIAP of Gabon](#) contains 32 priority actions. Gabon submitted a progress report on its NIAP implementation in time for consideration at the present meeting. Gabon's self-assessment on progress made so far, available in Annex 7 to the present document, evaluates 12 actions as "achieved", 14 as "substantially achieved", five as "on track" and 1 as "partial progress". The Secretariat notes that this report covers the period from December 2022 to December 2023, therefore missing major part of the reporting period. The Secretariat therefore considers this report as incomplete. Although the report refers to activities in 2024 a few times in Section C, it does affect the completeness and the quality of the report, as well as the assessment and ratings particularly on actions that are of a recurring nature and therefore continuation of efforts should be demonstrated.
49. Under action A2, the report states that "Pending the future adoption of a specific law on the implementation of CITES, the provisions on ivory trafficking are well integrated into the Wildlife and Protected Areas management section of the forest code, the revision of which is in the process of being finalized." While giving full recognition of what has been achieved to incorporate CITES provisions into national legislation, the Secretariat considers that a rating of "substantially achieved" will be more appropriate than "achieved" for this action. Similarly, since several actions aiming for the harmonization of the definition in the legal sector for human-elephant conflicts are still underway, "substantially achieved" is more appropriate for action A3.
50. The Secretariat is of the view that the activity under action B2 that aims to ensure the monitoring of legal proceedings (legal experts, lawyers, etc.) should be on an ongoing basis as recurring activities. The same is true for actions B3 and B4, for which no information for the current year (2024) is provided, and in the case of action B4, there is no indication of the time of the activities. In view of this, the Secretariat proposes the rating of "on track" for these actions. Under action C3, the Secretariat does not consider information exchange through social networks and the Africa TWIX as equivalent of an "information exchange system at the local level". This was noted in the Secretariat's assessment of Gabon's progress report to SC73. In the absence of a formal and secure information exchange system, the Secretariat still believes that the action should be rated as "on track". Regarding action D1, the Secretariat continues to believe that a rating of "partial progress" would be more appropriate, given that it appears that, so far, no intergovernmental protocols to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory have been signed with Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo or Equatorial Guinea.
51. Regarding action E1, the Secretariat welcomes the continuation of the use of SMART software to store mission information and notes that the indicator of this action is the number of trained agents but such information is lacking in the report. Also, according to the information provided, coordination between administrations has not yet reached a satisfactory level. The Secretariat therefore believes that a rating of "on track" would be more appropriate for this action. Regarding action E2, the Secretariat observes limited

advancement since the reporting to SC74. Gabon may wish to clarify what were the results of these working sessions and if any of these results have been implemented in forest concessions. In the absence of such a clarification, the Secretariat proposes to rate this action as “on track”.

52. Regarding action E4, the Secretariat, in its assessments of Gabon’s progress reports prepared for SC69, SC70 and SC74, highlighted that the reported activities do not address the action stated in the NIAP, and that it believes that a rating of “partial progress” might be more appropriate than that of “substantially achieved”. In Gabon’s present report, the same information as provided in its reports prepared for SC69, SC70, SC74 and SC77 is repeated. The Secretariat invites Gabon to check the originally set milestones and explain if all steps have been taken in order to justify the rating, including the consultation with the Ministry of Defence to identify all high priority areas, assignment of armed forces to remaining parks and the effective presence of the armed forces in cross-border parks. In the absence of further information, the Secretariat continues to conclude that a rating of “partial progress” for this action may be more appropriate. The Secretariat notes that one milestone under action E9 is the burning of ivory stockpiles but the present and past reports do not contain any update on this. Unless a clarification is provided, the Secretariat considers the rating of “achieved” premature.
53. Regarding action F5, the Secretariat does not consider the communications on human-wildlife conflict has fully served the purpose of the organization of an information seminar for parliamentarians in support of NIAP implementation and therefore proposes that “on track” will be more appropriate rating.
54. For future progress reports, the Secretariat suggests that Gabon present all progress made on each action point in chronological order from the start of the implementation of its NIAP and with sufficient details. In other words, all progress made since it started to implement its NIAP should be maintained in the report while highlighting progress made in the report, and when relevant, the time of action (date, month and year) should be indicated. The lack of details and the reuse of information provided earlier could suggest that no action has been taken in the reporting period.
55. The Secretariat recommends an overall rating of “partial progress” for Gabon, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

**Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) (Category C – in NIAP since 2014)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS |                          |                          |                           |                          |                                      |                         |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                  | Achieved                 | Substantially achieved   | On track                  | Partial progress         | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Lao PDR’s assessment (SC74)      | 25%<br>(5 of 20 actions) | 45%<br>(9 of 20 actions) | 30%<br>(6 of 20 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions) |
| Secretariat’s assessment (SC74)  | 20%<br>(4 of 20 actions) | 20%<br>(4 of 20 actions) | 50%<br>(10 of 20 actions) | 10%<br>(2 of 20 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions) |
| Lao PDR’s assessment (SC78)      | 30%<br>(6 of 20 actions) | 30%<br>(6 of 20 actions) | 40%<br>(8 of 20 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions) |
| Secretariat’s assessment (SC78)  | 20%<br>(4 of 20 actions) | 35%<br>(7 of 20 actions) | 35%<br>(7 of 20 actions)  | 10%<br>(2 of 20 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 20 actions) |

56. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted a set of recommendations directed to the Congo under agenda item 34 m) as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)), as follows:
  - i) noted that the Lao People’s Democratic Republic did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation;
  - ii) requested the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines* of the NIAP process, speaking on behalf of the Committee to request the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to submit their NIAP progress report to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC77;



- iii) if there is no satisfactory report by Lao People's Democratic Republic, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with the Lao People's Democratic Republic until they submit a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.
57. The Lao People's Democratic Republic submitted a progress report within the 60 days deadline, i.e. before 9 January 2024. The report showed some progress made by the Party in advancing its NIAP.
58. The [NIAP of Lao PDR](#) contains 20 priority actions. The Lao People's Democratic Republic submitted a progress report available in Annex 8. The self-assessment on progress made so far evaluates six actions as "achieved", six as "substantially achieved", and eight as "on track".
59. The Secretariat welcomes the steady progress made by the Lao People's Democratic Republic in NIAP implementation. Progress can be seen in almost every action point which is highly commendable, although the level of achievement varies. The Secretariat also commends the Lao People's Democratic Republic for its diligence and commitment in continued effort to advance NIAP implementation even when the action is considered "achieved". By way of example, under action point 1.1 which is considered "achieved", the Lao People's Democratic Republic states that it will continue to work with its development partners and supporting organizations to address CITES gaps and inadequacies that may still exist in its Law on Wild Animals, including relevant regulations that need to be developed under the Law on Wild Animals and related laws.
60. Regarding Action 1.3, the Secretariat invites the Lao People's Democratic Republic to clarify if the agreements signed with the Police Department of Combating Natural Resources and Environmental Crime (DCNEC) and the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor (OSPP) have served the purpose of a "strategic action plan to improve the institutional roles" of these authorities the investigation and prosecution of ivory-related crime. Milestone 2 of the NIAP anticipates that a decision on Strategic Action Plan should be developed and adopted. In the absence of a clarification, the Secretariat recommends a rating of "on track" instead of "substantially achieved".
61. With regard to action 3.2, the Secretariat welcomes the active engagement of the Lao People's Democratic Republic with neighbouring countries to strengthen cooperation in combating ivory trafficking and other wildlife crime as demonstrated by the number of activities. The Secretariat notes that, while the action anticipates enhancing the interaction with relevant Asian and African countries, the cooperation is limited to two neighbouring countries and there is no indication of cooperation with African countries. Also, the Secretariat would like to remind the Lao People's Democratic Republic that given the specific objective of this action, it is important to demonstrate result and impact of the cooperation since the list of meetings attended does not suffice. The indicator set for this action is "information and best practices are made available and used to improve ivory investigation and enforcement, and engagement in support of investigation is increased". The report should contain information on how information and best practices have been shared and used in support of enforcement efforts. Similarly, under action 4.1 on raising awareness and conducting wildlife crime prevention at key airports, border checkpoints, and market areas, the Secretariat welcomes the various activities that have taken place. However, there is no specific mention in the report of any activities at key airports, border checkpoints, and market areas. The Secretariat therefore considers that "substantially achieved" will be more appropriate rating than "achieved" for these two action points. Under action point 3.3, the Secretariat encourages the Lao People's Democratic Republic to make active use of ICCWC tools.
62. Concerning action 4.2, the indicator for achievement is that education materials for use in public and education programmes are readily available and used, but there is no indication that this is done. On action 4.3 on the cooperation with airlines and freight forwarders in airports and key border areas, it appears the work is still in a planning phase as no actual activity seems to have taken place. In view of this, the Secretariat believes "partial progress" will be a more accurate reflection of the situation for both actions.
63. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee consider an overall rating of "partial progress" for Lao PDR, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

**Malaysia (Category B – in NIAP since 2013)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS |                           |                         |                          |                         |                                      |                         |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                  | Achieved                  | Substantially achieved  | On track                 | Partial progress        | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Malaysia's assessment (SC74)     | 82%<br>(9 of 11 actions)  | 9%<br>(1 of 11 actions) | 9%<br>(1 of 11 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC74)  | 73%<br>(8 of 11 actions)  | 9%<br>(1 of 11 actions) | 18%<br>(2 of 11 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions) |
| Malaysia's assessment (SC78)     | 91%<br>(10 of 11 actions) | 9%<br>(1 of 11 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)  | 82%<br>(9 of 11 actions)  | 9%<br>(1 of 11 actions) | 9%<br>(1 of 11 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 11 actions) |

64. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted a set of recommendations directed to the Malaysia under agenda item 34 f) as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)), as follows:
- i) noted that Malaysia submitted a report on progress with NIAP implementation after the deadline;
  - ii) requested the Secretariat to review and assess the progress report and bring any matters of concern to its attention at SC78;
  - iii) urged Malaysia to submit its progress report on NIAP implementation no later than 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee; and
  - iv) agreed that it will consider at its 78th meeting whether Malaysia should exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines of the NIAP process*.
65. The Secretariat reviewed Malaysia's NIAP which was submitted late for consideration at SC77 and concluded that good progress had been made.
66. The [NIAP of Malaysia](#) contains 11 priority actions. In its progress report submitted for consideration at the present meeting, available in Annex 9, Malaysia evaluates ten actions as "achieved", one as "substantially achieved".
67. At SC74, the Standing Committee commended Malaysia for achieving its NIAP and agreed at SC77 to consider the exit at SC78. The Secretariat commends the continued efforts made by Malaysia in implementing its NIAP by undertaking concrete and time-bound activities to further enhance various action points which were already considered as "achieved". Under action point 2.3, the Secretariat congratulates Malaysia for successful law enforcement activities conducted under Operasi Bersepadu Khazanah (OBK) resulting in a high number of arrests of offenders and wildlife seizures. The Secretariat also commends Malaysia for the regular submission of reports for all ivory seizures to ETIS.
68. The Secretariat welcomes the steady progress made in advancing action point 2.4 on the development of country-specific national level risk profiles and indicators, particularly with regard to ivory tracking, which was previously rated "on track". Whilst the action point aims to develop national risk profiles and indicators for detecting and preventing illegal trade of ivory and other wildlife products, Malaysia indicates that such profiles and indicators will be updated as needed. Furthermore, a Best Practice Workshop to Remove the Risk of Wildlife Smuggling from Malaysia's Postal Services was held on 9 August 2023 in collaboration with regulators, enforcement agencies, courier service providers and non-governmental organizations to improve enforcement of the interdiction of wildlife products trafficked through international mail in Malaysia. Such a

proactive and result-oriented approach can be considered a best practice in implementing NIAPs for all Parties concerned.

69. Under action point 3.2, Malaysia does not elaborate on actions taken to achieve milestones 2 and 3, namely the preparation and adoption of a protocol of wildlife DNA sampling, and the collection and sharing of information of DNA analysis of high-profile wildlife with other related Parties. Due to the lack of such details, the Secretariat proposes a rating of “on track”.
70. In preparing this assessment, the Secretariat consulted with TRAFFIC as the manager and coordinator of ETIS, requesting information on the latest data concerning Malaysia that is available to ETIS. According to TRAFFIC, Malaysia has been reporting to ETIS since 2011. In July 2022, the Party made a seizure of 4.2 tons of raw ivory, where it was reportedly one of the countries of transit for an illegal ivory consignment exported from Mozambique. While the large illegal consignment can be of concern, the fact that the Malaysian authorities intercepted the illegal activity is encouraging. No other seizures implicate the Malaysia in the ETIS data since 2020.
71. Based on its assessment, the Secretariat concludes that Malaysia has achieved 92% of its NIAP and has demonstrated the stability of the situation. At SC77, in 2023, the Committee already agreed that Malaysia had substantially achieved implementation of its NIAP. Since then, Malaysia has consistently demonstrated its continued commitment to respond to and address illegal ivory trade, implementing a variety of additional measures and activities. The Secretariat believes that further activities can be pursued outside the NIAP process and therefore recommends that Malaysia exit the NIAP process in accordance with the provisions of Step 5, paragraphs b) and c), of the *Guidelines*.

**Mozambique (Category B – in NIAP since 2014)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS         |                          |                          |                             |                            |                                      |                         |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|  | Achieved                 | Substantially achieved   | On track                    | Partial progress           | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Mozambique's assessment (following SC74) | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)  | 6%<br>(1 of 16 actions)  | 50%<br>(8 of 16 actions)    | 44%<br>(7 of 16 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC75)          | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)  | 56%<br>(9 of 16 actions)    | 44%<br>(7 of 16 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions) |
| Mozambique's assessment (SC77)           | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)  | 25%<br>(4 of 16 actions) | 62.5%<br>(10 of 16 actions) | 12.5%<br>(2 of 16 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC77)          | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)  | 6%<br>(2 of 16 actions)  | 50%<br>(11 of 16 actions)   | 44%<br>(3 of 16 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions) |
| Mozambique's assessment (SC78)           | 25%<br>(4 of 16 actions) | 38%<br>(6 of 16 actions) | 31%<br>(5 of 16 actions)    | 6%<br>(1 of 16 actions)    | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)          | 19%<br>(3 of 16 actions) | 44%<br>(7 of 16 actions) | 31%<br>(5 of 16 actions)    | 6%<br>(1 of 16 actions)    | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 16 actions) |

72. At SC77, the Standing Committee noted the limited progress made by Mozambique in implementing its NIAP and encouraged the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP and agreed an overall rating of “partial progress” for Mozambique, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*, as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)) under agenda item 34 g).



73. The [NIRAP of Mozambique](#) includes 16 priority actions. Mozambique's self-assessment, available as Annex 10 to the present document, evaluates four actions as "achieved", six actions as "substantially achieved", five as being "on track", and one as having achieved "partial progress".
74. The Secretariat notes that the capacity to deal with wildlife crimes and law enforcement with respect to illegal trade in rhino, ivory and other wildlife products and derivatives has been strengthened in the country through engagement and training of magistrates (Public Prosecutors and Judges), Law Enforcement Officers and other relevant stakeholders, including members of local communities. It is also important to highlight that additional customs officers and rangers for protected areas and national agency for environmental quality control (AQUA) have been recruited to increase the operation capacity in law enforcement activities. The Secretariat also notes that the implementation of NIRAP in Mozambique has benefited from the support of over a dozen international organizations.
75. The Secretariat appreciates the effort of Mozambique in reporting progress on each set milestone. In addition to such details, the Secretariat suggests that clear reference be made to the set indicators as well when evaluating the achievement of each action. For example, since the indicator for action point 1.1. is "at least a 10% rise in the wildlife crime prosecution rate", the report should indicate the percentage of increase rather than only the percentage of cases sentenced.
76. Regarding action 2.7, since one of the indicators is the "annual number of Mozambican biologists and veterinarians trained", a total of five veterinarians trained over a few years period does not justify the rating of "achieved". The Secretariat considers that "substantially achieved" may be a more appropriate rating.
77. The Secretariat considers that the implementation of the NIRAP in Mozambique is on track and recommends an overall rating of "partial progress" for Mozambique, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

**Nigeria (Category A – in NIAP since 2014)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS      |                            |                            |                           |                          |                                      |                         |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                       | Achieved                   | Substantially achieved     | On track                  | Partial progress         | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Nigeria's assessment (following SC74) | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)    | 26%<br>(5 of 19 actions)   | 64%<br>(12 of 19 actions) | 10%<br>(2 of 19 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC75)       | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)    | 10%<br>(2 of 19 actions)   | 69%<br>(13 of 19 actions) | 21%<br>(4 of 19 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions) |
| Nigeria's assessment (SC77)           | 31.5%<br>(6 of 19 actions) | 31.5%<br>(6 of 19 actions) | 37%<br>(7 of 19 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC77)       | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)    | 47%<br>(7 of 19 actions)   | 47%<br>(10 of 19 actions) | 10%<br>(2 of 19 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions) |
| Nigeria's assessment (SC78)           | 42%<br>(8 of 19 actions)   | 47%<br>(9 of 19 actions)   | 11%<br>(2 of 19 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)       | 26%<br>(5 of 19 actions)   | 37%<br>(7 of 19 actions)   | 37%<br>(7 of 19 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 19 actions) |

78. At SC77, Standing Committee noted the limited progress made by Nigeria in implementing its NIAP and encouraged the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP; and agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Nigeria, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

79. The [NIAP of Nigeria](#) contains 19 priority actions. Nigeria's self-assessment on progress with NIAP implementation, available as Annex 11 to the present document, evaluates 8 actions as "achieved", 9 as "substantially achieved" and 2 as "on track".
80. Whilst Action A1 aims to strengthen wildlife legislation at both federal and state levels in order to achieve harmonization, the report has focused on progress made at federal level and has no mention of the status of the legislation in the four states where National Parks and Games reserves are found and the two states where illegal ivory markets have been identified. The indicators of this action anticipate having the obsolete legislation reviewed and harmonized in all the six states. Unless a clarification and confirmation of progress is provided, the Secretariat considers that "on track" will be a more appropriate rating than "substantially achieved".
81. Regarding action B1, the Secretariat noted in its reports to SC75 and SC77 the absence of information on the development of a national protocol for intelligence gathering and investigation procedures, which is foreseen in indicator and milestone 2 of the action. The Secretariat has taken note of the establishment of intelligence sharing platform with sister investigative agencies; however, it does not consider this as equivalent to what is planned. In the absence of further information in this regard, the Secretariat believes that a rating of "on track" would be more appropriate for this action.
82. The Secretariat notes that milestone 1 of action point B8 is to ensure that refresher training is provided to rangers and that they are effectively and safely patrolling all key sites. As refresher trainings are typically designed to review and reinforce knowledge, they should be organized on a regular basis as a recurring event. The last such training as indicated in the report took place in March 2022. The Secretariat therefore encourages Nigeria to organize such training more regularly.
83. The Secretariat congratulates Nigeria in advancing action B9 through the establishment of a network of elephant guardians, community scouts, the creation of conservation awareness and the provision of alternative livelihoods support programme. Since the indicator for this specific action is the number of arrests made on local intelligence reports, a total of five arrests over a period of several years tends to be low. The Secretariat recommends a rating of "substantially achieved" instead of "achieved". The Secretariat encourages Nigeria to further expand this work.
84. The Secretariat warmly welcomes the progress made in progressing various enforcement-oriented actions after the previous reporting to SC77. This includes action B12 on the training provided to personnels from law enforcement agencies working at the ports, border entry carried during this reporting period, which centred on risk-based management approach for effective functioning and control of containers at the port, and action point C1 on the development of a transboundary wildlife enforcement framework with neighbouring countries which include Benin in the west, Chad, and Cameroon in the east, and Niger in the north. The Secretariat hopes that a risk-based management approach for container control will be fully implemented soon.
85. Regarding action D1, the Secretariat considers awareness-raising and capacity-building for the judiciary and the police on wildlife crime as a recurring event to ensure long-lasting impact. Since there is no indication of activities since June 2022, the Secretariat would rate this as "substantially achieved" instead of "achieved", taking into account efforts made in the past. Also, the Secretariat seeks a clarification from Nigeria on what equipment was expected to be provided to facilitate investigation and intelligence gathering procedures as foreseen in milestone 5 since no information is provided to demonstrate that this has been accomplished.
86. Concerning action E1 on regular reporting to ETIS and to the CITES Standing Committee, the Secretariat recalls that Nigeria, as noted by the Standing Committee in recommendation m) at SC74, did not submit its reports on progress with NIAP implementation in time for SC66, SC67, SC69, SC70 and SC74. The progress report for consideration at SC77 was also submitted after the deadline. Also, as noted in the ETIS report to CoP19, Nigeria has not reported data to ETIS since 2017. A rating of 'achieved' is therefore not justified.
87. The Secretariat considers that the implementation of the NIAP in Nigeria is on track and recommends an overall rating of "partial progress" for Nigeria, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

**Qatar (Category C – in NIAP since 2017)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS     |                            |                            |                            |                         |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                      | Achieved                   | Substantially achieved     | On track                   | Partial progress        | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Qatar's assessment (June 2020)       | 33.3%<br>(5 of 15 actions) | 33.3%<br>(5 of 15 actions) | 33.3%<br>(5 of 15 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (June 2020) | 33%<br>(5 of 15 actions)   | 27%<br>(4 of 15 actions)   | 40%<br>(6 of 15 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) |
| Qatar's assessment (SC77)            | 40%<br>(6 of 15 actions)   | 40%<br>(6 of 15 actions)   | 20%<br>(3 of 15 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC77)      | 33%<br>(5 of 15 actions)   | 40%<br>(6 of 15 actions)   | 27%<br>(4 of 15 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) |
| Qatar's assessment (SC78)            | 86%<br>(13 of 15 actions)  | 7%<br>(1 of 15 actions)    | 7%<br>(1 of 15 actions)    | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)      | 33%<br>(5 of 15 actions)   | 40%<br>(6 of 15 actions)   | 27%<br>(4 of 15 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 15 actions) |

88. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted recommendation n) under agenda item 34 concerning Qatar as recorded in summary record [SC77 SR](#). The Committee agreed an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Qatar, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines of the NIAP process* and encouraged Qatar to step up its efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP.
89. The [NIAP of Qatar](#) contains 15 priority actions. Qatar's self-assessment on progress with NIAP implementation available as Annex 12 to document SC78 Doc. 33.13.1 evaluates 13 actions as "achieved", two as "substantially achieved" and one as "on track".
90. In June 2024, Qatar shared with the Secretariat a new draft progress report on NIAP implementation to seek the Secretariat's feedback before finalization. The Secretariat commended Qatar for taking such a step. Having reviewed the draft report, the Secretariat found that the description of the activities considerably lacked details and often remained the same as in the previous reports but the ratings on associated action points were moved to a higher level. The Secretariat shared this feedback with Qatar and suggested that the report should specify the activities, outcomes and dates of the actions taken to justify the ratings. The Secretariat advised Qatar to revisit its NIAP and make its self-assessment against the indicators and milestones that are set out in the NIAP. The Secretariat also shared an example of a NIAP progress report from another Party to help explain what sort of details is expected to demonstrate progress made.
91. It is against this background that the Secretariat finds Qatar's progress report for consideration at the present meeting disappointing since it has not improved from the draft. In the progress report, Qatar increased the percentage of actions self-rated as "achieved" from 40% in its report to SC77 to 86% in its report to SC78, but in most cases the description of the actions remains the same as in previous reports. For examples, in its report to SC78, Qatar provided identical information for actions B4, C1 and C2 as in its report to SC74 when these actions were rated "on track" but raised the ratings to "achieved" in the new report. Likewise, the same texts were provided for actions B1, B5 and D3 in its report to SC77 or even back to SC74 when they were evaluated as "substantially achieved", but they are now rated as "achieved". The only action point with a clear indication of a new activity during the current reporting period is action B2 where a brief mention of "Third workshop (March 2024)" is provided. This, however, is an action point which was already rated as "achieved" and agreed by the Secretariat at SC74. In other words, the report fails to provide any indication of progress made in the reporting period to advance the remaining action points.
92. The Secretariat recognizes that some of the indicators and milestones of Qatar's NIAP are quantifiable, but others are not. However, descriptions of activities must in one way or another demonstrate and explain

progress made. The Secretariat suggests that Qatar check the indicators and all milestones of its NIAP when evaluating its achievement and particularly when making the conclusion that the action has been achieved. For example, milestone 3 of action 1.1. anticipates “recommendations to address gaps and improve implementation of arrest of offenders and prosecutions”. This needs to be considered and reflected in the progress report.

93. In consideration of the above, the Secretariat would maintain the same ratings as it provided to Qatar’s report to SC77. The Secretariat is available to provide support to Qatar in the preparation of its next progress report upon request. The Secretariat noticed that Qatar expressed its wish to exit the NIAP process back in 2020 which was considered at SC74 in 2022. However, the Secretariat believes that the NIAP process must be fair, transparent, and consistent for all Parties. Qatar must first demonstrate its willingness and commitment to fulfil its NIAP. Also, Qatar must provide sufficient details to justify the ratings and the same description should not repeat when the assessment has changed.
94. In conclusion, the Secretariat considers that the report of Qatar fails to show sufficient progress and full commitment of Qatar in the implementation of its NIAP. In view of the lack of progress made and commitment in achieving its NIAP, the Committee may wish to, in line with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, consider appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the NIAP process by Qatar, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*. In the meantime, the Committee may wish to encourage Qatar to seek support in the implementation of its NIAP and the reporting of progress.

**Togo (Category A – in NIAP since 2017)**

| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS    |                          |                         |                             |                           |                                      |                             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                     | Achieved                 | Substantially achieved  | On track                    | Partial progress          | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced               |
| Party's assessment (following SC70) | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)  | 5%<br>(1 of 21 actions) | 47.5%<br>(10 of 21 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)   | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)              | 47.5%<br>(10 of 21 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC71)     | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions) | 29%<br>(6 of 21 actions)    | 19%<br>(4 of 21 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)              | 52%<br>(11 of 21 actions)   |
| Party's assessment (following SC74) | 5%<br>(1 of 21 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions) | 33%<br>(7 of 21 actions)    | 29%<br>(6 of 21 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)              | 33%<br>(7 of 21 actions)    |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC75)     | 5%<br>(1 of 21 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions) | 33%<br>(7 of 21 actions)    | 29%<br>(6 of 21 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)              | 33%<br>(7 of 21 actions)    |
| Party's assessment (SC78)           | 14%<br>(3 of 21 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions) | 14%<br>(3 of 21 actions)    | 48%<br>(10 of 21 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)              | 24%<br>(5 of 21 actions)    |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78)     | 14%<br>(3 of 21 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions) | 10%<br>(2 of 21 actions)    | 52%<br>(11 of 21 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 21 actions)              | 24%<br>(5 of 21 actions)    |

95. At SC77, the Standing Committee adopted a set of recommendations directed to Togo under agenda item 34 c) as recorded in summary record ([SC77 SR](#)). The Standing Committee noted the late submission of the report on progress with NIAP implementation by Togo; requested the Secretariat to review and assess the progress report if the reports is not to the satisfaction of the Secretariat; requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Togo until a satisfactory progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.

96. The Secretariat reviewed Togo's NIAP which was submitted late for consideration at SC77 and concluded that some progress had been made in advancing its NIAP. In August 2024, the Secretariat wrote to Togo and urged it to submit a new progress report for consideration at SC78 on time and the report must demonstrate sufficient progress.
97. The [NIAP of Togo](#) includes 21 priority actions. Togo's self-assessment, available as Annex 13 of document SC78 Doc. 33.13.1, evaluates three actions as "achieved", two actions as "on track", 10 actions as "partial progress", one action as "pending completion of another action" and five actions as "not commenced". The Secretariat concurs with these ratings.
98. Regarding action point 1.1, since the first of the four milestones, which is to have the first drafts of the revised laws ready by May 2018, has not been achieved, the Secretariat considers that "partial progress" will be a more appropriate rating than "on track". On action 1.2, the Secretariat wishes to seek some explanations from Togo on the relevance of the national project for the management of protected areas with the development of a text to enhance CITES implementation. The Secretariat noticed that action 3.2 is rated as "Pending completion of another action" in Section B of the report, but it appears as "on track" in Section C. Given the information provided as well as ratings in previous reporting, the Secretariat considers "on track" as the appropriate rating.
99. Overall, the report of Togo lacks both demonstrable progress and details on actions where some progress has been made.
100. As highlighted in the overview by Togo in Section A, this report marks the end of the implementation of Togo's NIAP since the originally set timeframe is 2018-2023. However, so far only 14% of the NIAP has been achieved, leaving 24% of actions yet to be commenced according to its self-assessment. Having revisited Togo's previous reports, the Secretariat is under the impression that such ratings are indeed based on the consideration of consolidated progress made rather than during the reporting period. At SC75, the Standing Committee already noted the high percentage of actions rated by Togo as "not commenced" and urged Togo to step up the overall implementation of its NIAP with a sense of greater urgency. The Secretariat also reiterated the urgency for accelerated actions in its report to SC77 and encouraged Togo to clarify the reasons why the implementation of these actions had not yet been commenced and explain the barriers to their implementation. So far, the Secretariat has not received an explanation.
101. In conclusion, the Secretariat considers that the report of Togo fails to show sufficient progress and commitment in the implementation of its NIAP. In view of the lack of progress made and commitment in achieving its NIAP, the Committee may wish to, in line with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, consider appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the NIAP process by Togo, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*, to encourage progress in the NIAP implementation. In the meantime, the Committee may wish to encourage Togo to seek external support in the implementation of its NIAP.

**Viet Nam (Category A – in NIAP since 2013)**

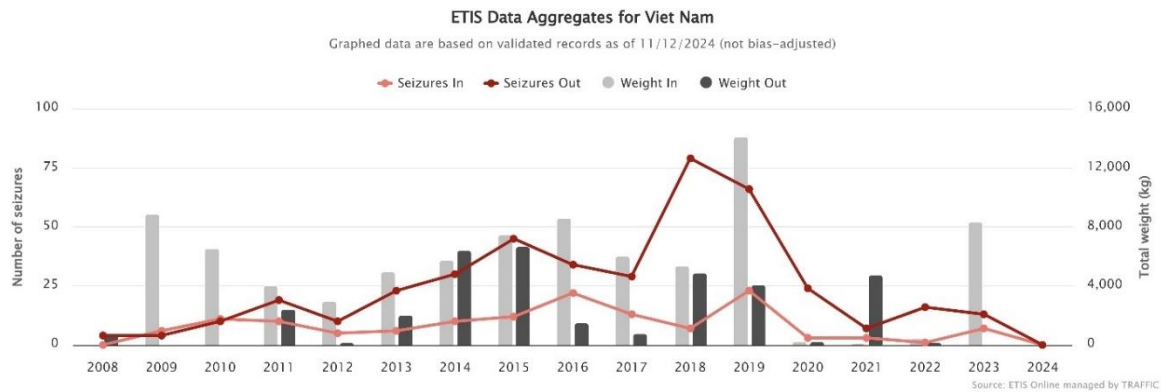
| PROGRESS RATINGS OF NIAP ACTIONS  |                           |                          |                          |                         |                                      |                         |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | Achieved                  | Substantially achieved   | On track                 | Partial progress        | Pending completion of another action | Not commenced           |
| Viet Nam's assessment<br>(July 2020 assessment, February & November 2021 updates) | 88%<br>(22 of 25 actions) | 12%<br>(3 of 25 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions)              | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment<br>(SC74)  | 76%<br>(19 of 25 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions)  | 16%<br>(4 of 25 actions) | 4%<br>(1 of 25 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions)              | 4%<br>(1 of 25 actions) |

|                                 |                           |                         |                          |                         |                         |                         |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Viet Nam's assessment (SC78)    | 88%<br>(22 of 25 actions) | 4%<br>(1 of 25 actions) | 8%<br>(2 of 25 actions)  | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions) |
| Secretariat's assessment (SC78) | 76%<br>(19 of 25 actions) | 8%<br>(2 of 25 actions) | 12%<br>(3 of 25 actions) | 4%<br>(1 of 25 actions) | 0%<br>(0 of 25 actions) | 0%<br>(1 of 25 actions) |

102. The Standing Committee at its 77th meeting, agreed recommendation n) i) - iii), contained in summary record [SC77 SR](#) concerning Viet Nam, and noted the late submission of the report on progress with NIRAP implementation by Viet Nam and requested the Secretariat to review and assess the progress report; if the report is not to the satisfaction of the Secretariat, requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with the relevant Party until the Party submits a satisfactory progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIRAP implementation.
103. The Secretariat assessed the report received and concluded that Viet Nam has made progress with the implementation of its NIRAP.
104. The [NIRAP of Viet Nam](#) includes 25 priority actions. Viet Nam's self-assessment, available as Annex 14 of the present document, evaluates 22 actions as "achieved," one as "substantially achieved" and two as "on track". In accordance with its self-assessment rating, Viet Nam therefore fulfils the requirements outlined in Step 5 paragraph a) of the *Guidelines* to exit the NIAP process (i.e. having assessed more than 80% of NIAP actions as "substantially achieved" and all remaining actions as "on track").
105. Regarding action point 2.1, since the plan was to generate a national database for illegal wildlife trade, especially ivory and rhino horn, and there is no indication in the report that the database is already in place, the Secretariat proposes "substantially achieved" instead "achieved" for this action unless Viet Nam can provide more information explaining how the information exchange mechanism serves the same purpose. On action point 3.3, the frequency of information exchange and the number of arrests (three) made over a period of few years (since 2018) do not seem to justify the rating of "achieved". Unless more information is provided by Viet Nam on the information received and arrests made from sufficient quality information, which is the indicator of this action point, the Secretariat considers that "on track" will be a more appropriate rating.
106. For action point 4.1, the Secretariat thanks Viet Nam for the confirmation that national extracurricular training curriculum on the conservation of prioritized wildlife for elementary school students has been approved by Ministry of Education and Training and its follow-up activities to supply primary schools national wide with teaching aids and educational tools to support the use of the programme. However, the process to get the extracurricular programme as part of national curriculum for general education (as anticipated under action point 4.2) has not started. The description of the activities against this action does not seem to correspond to this action and its indicator. The Secretariat would therefore still rate this action point as "on track" instead of "achieved".
107. With regard to outreach activities under action 4.5, since demand reduction entails persistent efforts and sufficient saturation of messages delivered by the most effective messengers to achieve impact over a long period of time, the Secretariat believes "substantially achieved" will be a more appropriate rating than "achieved" The Secretariat also encourages Viet Nam to actively use the [CITES Guidance on demand reduction](#) to achieve behaviour change. The action quoted is more of the nature of public awareness campaigns.
108. Regarding action 5.1, Viet Nam explained in Section A of the report that "under review of the actual practice, the plan on development of a national database system of illegal trade, prosecution, convictions were later dismissed. The reason for this is that the information is regularly collected and reported by the Viet Nam MA on an annual basis or reported through the Viet Nam-WEN scheme. As the development of such database was deemed not necessary, resources were given to another imperative task, which is the development of the CITES E-permit system." The Secretariat's understanding is that Viet Nam may establish an electronic permitting system which may also host data on illegal trade. However, since this remains a plan rather than an existing system that is already in place to serve the purpose of action 5.1, the Secretariat considers that "partial progress" may be a more appropriate rating than "achieved".



109. In preparing this assessment, the Secretariat consulted with TRAFFIC as the manager and coordinator of ETIS, requesting information on the latest data concerning ETIS that is available to ETIS. The Secretariat would like to thank TRAFFIC for the information provided. The figure below shows the trend of the seizures of ivory that implicated Viet Nam.



**Figure 3.** ETIS data aggregates for number of seizures and total seized weight for seizures made in Viet Nam (seizures-in) and seizures made elsewhere that implicated the Viet Nam on the trade chain (seizure-out) based on data updated up to 11 December 2024.

110. In 2023, seizures made by Viet Nam, or that implicated Viet Nam, totaled over 8.3 tons and consisted over 45% of the total global illegal ivory trade (18.2 tons, as reported in document SC78 Doc. 65.1). The very large volume of raw ivory destined for Viet Nam, and the seizures of large quantities (several hundreds) of worked ivory items in Viet Nam, may indicate that the Party is a processing hub for internal or external ivory products consumption. For the latter, only a few large consignments of worked ivory were reportedly exported from Viet Nam in recent years, which may suggest the use of ivory products for internal consumption, or poor law enforcement detection if products are shipped overseas. Regardless, the very large illegal consignments of ivory totaling several tons and the fact that other Parties implicated Vietnamese nationals in seizures made in African range States can indicate that organized criminal networks are involved. Therefore, continued monitoring is warranted.

111. In light of the above, the Secretariat considers that the substantial efforts made by Viet Nam to implement its NIRAP, the ongoing initiatives and activities, and the progress made to date, deserve full recognition. However, since Viet Nam remains one of the primary destination countries for illegal ivory and rhino horn consignments and the problem persists, the Secretariat suggests that Viet Nam be invited to revise and update its NIRAP and continue its implementation.