

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



Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee
Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

Regional matters

Regional reports

Africa

1. This report covers the period from June 2014 to July 2015 and was prepared by Samuel Kasiki (Kenya) as the Africa region Representative to the Animals Committee.

General Information

2. The regional representative used reports received from Parties and included other information he was aware of from the region. Below is a summary of the key highlights.
 - Kenya and Namibia continued work on the periodic review, with contributions from many African lion range States.
 - A number of workshops on wildlife conservation were organized in the region, including the Regional Trans-frontier Conservation Areas Initiative for southern Africa party members.
 - Cooperation and collaboration among Parties within the region were initiated or finalized, especially on the conservation of endangered species to curb illegal wildlife trade. Examples are MoU between Mozambique and South Africa to enhance cooperation and collaboration in the field of biodiversity management, conservation and protection, law enforcement, compliance with CITES, and other relevant legislation, and especially on protection of the rhino. There are also ongoing discussions for a MoU between Mozambique and Viet Nam to curb illegal trade in rhino horn.
 - The use of forensic science to curb illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products is increasingly being used by more Party members in the region, including South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, among others. Kenya started a DNA profile for rhino and elephant populations by collecting samples during a stockpile inventory exercise, which was concluded on 27th August 2015.
 - Of significance in the commissioning of a forensics lab in Kenya on 8th May this year, which increases the Africa region's capacity to combat wildlife crime. Kenya thanks Israel, South Africa and other partners in supporting capacity building for the required personnel in this area.
 - Many pangolin range States participated at First Pangolin range States Meeting held in Vietnam on 24 - 26 June 2015. These included Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and others.

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- South Africa initiated preparations for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 17) which will take place in Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa from 24th September to 5th October 2016. This will be the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held on the African continent since CITES came into force on 1 July 1975, but the first on the continent since 2000. AC members: Shaker A. A. Khamdan (Bahrain) and Suharsono (Indonesia), and alternates Nobuo Ishii (Japan) and Choo-Hoo Giam (Singapore).

Communication with other Parties in the sub- region and region since AC27

The African region National CITES Management Authorities maintained contact with each other on CITES issues of concern in the region. The CITES Scientific Authorities also continued to assist the regional representatives in communicating with regional members about submission to the representatives, reports on relevant national activities implemented to be incorporated in the regional report.

Kenya and Namibia continued to revise the review of Significant Trade on *Panthera leo* (African Lion), and though no document was submitted to AC 28, new information provided by IUCN and comments provided by some range States were taken into account. IUCN published the final African reassessment report one week before the deadline for submission of the review document to AC28 and therefore a validated report could not be submitted for discussion at AC 28 due to short period before the meeting.

Follow ups on selected agenda items (recommendations) of previous AC meetings were made and these and other CITES activities in the region, details of which will be given in the country reports.

Country reports

Kenya

The CITES Scientific Authorities for Kenya continued to assist the regional representatives in communicating with regional members about submission to the representatives, reports on relevant national activities implemented to be incorporated in the regional report.

Kenya started the generation of scientific information on the conservation status of pangolins and participated at the First Pangolins conference held in Vietnam in July 2015.

Kenya received requests to review the status of Mount Kenya bush viper *Atheris desaixi* with a view to determining whether the country could prepare a listing proposal for CoP 17.

Kenya celebrated the 2nd World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2015 by creation of public awareness through public meetings, TV and radio programmes.

Kenya celebrated the African Elephant Day to create awareness on illegal trade on ivory and educated the public on the need to conserve the species.

Kenya participated at the 13 AWCF meeting held in Ethiopia in 2014,

Uganda

Uganda participated in the First Pangolin Range States Meeting held in Vietnam 24 - 26 June 2015.

Uganda hosted a regional training in prevention of wildlife trafficking for wildlife, customs and INTERPOL officials from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia in May 2015. The training was facilitated by International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and had 66 participants.

Uganda actively participated in and coordinated two major international operations - COBRA 3 and WORTHY 2.

Uganda held a number of trainings for enforcement officers conducted by UNODC in intelligence and investigations, including the use of the ICCWC Toolkit.

Uganda acquired two sniffer dogs that are currently under training in sniffing ivory and other wildlife products. These will be deployed at major entry and exit ports to combat wildlife trafficking.

Uganda has continued to collect samples from seized ivory and rhino horns that were sent to accredited forensic laboratories for DNA analysis to establish the origin of the seized wildlife products. Feedback has already been obtained and shared with CITES Secretariat on one of the largest ivory seizures in Uganda in October and December 2013.

United Republic of Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania (URT) ratified the CITES Convention in 1979, and has been implementing her obligations since 1980. Currently, Tanzania has 56 CITES listed species in the export quota. As a member to CITES the URT participated in several workshops and meetings of the Conference of Parties (CoPs), Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing committee. Also, URT has been contributing its annual trust fund to support CITES activities.

Legislation

URT is currently reviewing its Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and is proposing a new act namely, "Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) Act". A new order for establishment of this act has been signed. CITES Implementation Regulation for Tanzania (mainland) is under review while the new CITES implementation regulation for Zanzibar is in process.

Communication with CITES Secretariat other Parties since AC27

URT has communicated with Parties on different CITES related issues including, Periodic Review of African Lion, African Elephant Funded projects, updates on Ivory Register, Ivory Action Plan, consultation with the USFWS and EU on import of African lion and elephant trophies, UNEP-WCMS on biological and trade information for African lion, communication with Swiss CITES management Authority with regards to ivory seizure at Zurich, and communication with other parties on issues related to export/import permits verification.

Follow up on selected agenda items (recommendations) of previous AC meetings.

URT had been given recommendations to reports to the next meeting for two species of Chameleon, *Kinyongia fischeri* and *Kinyongiato tavetanum*. Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica Regulorum*) was recommended trade suspension by the Standing Committee in May 2013 by Notification to the Parties No. 2013/13 of 2nd May 2013 and a progress report has been sent UNEP-WCMS with respect to the taxa in question.

CITES activities in the country in respect to:

Review of Significant Trade – URT is still looking for funding to undertake non-detriment findings for all species listed in Appendix II which are in trade. Priority has been given to few selected chameleon and bird species.

Periodic Review of the Appendices - URT is following closely the periodic review of African lion, which is about to be concluded.

CITES projects - Two projects namely "Human-Elephant Conflicts Mitigation around Kilimanjaro" and "Reinforcement of anti-poaching patrols to reduce illegal trafficking of ivory and other wildlife products at entry and exit points". Progress reports for these project has been submitted.

URT celebrated the 2nd World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2015 by creation of awareness by organizing a rally, TV and radio programme and distribution of burners and posters in the country.

URT has a number of projects involving CITES listed species as follows:-

- Kihansi Spray Toad project.
- Rhino project in Serengeti.
- Jane Godall project on Chimpanzee of Gombe.
- Serengeti lion project.

- Cheetah and Wildog Project.

Promotion of CITES in the country

Representative of URT attended the 13 AWCF meeting held in Ethiopia in 2014 and SADC preparatory meeting for CoP 17 in South Africa.

URT celebrated the African Elephant Day to create awareness on illegal trade on ivory.

The scientific community in the country and CITES agenda.

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) is the Scientific Authority. However, plans are underway to include Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI) and Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute for the same purpose.

Collaboration with other MEAs.

URT collaborates with Multilateral Environment Agreements such as UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These conventions are co-ordinated by the Vice President's Office- Division of Environment.

Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs.

URT cooperates with stakeholders and NGO to ensure that conservation roles of the natural resources are met. WWF in particular has participated in different projects aimed at providing support in establishment of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). UNDP has supported URT in development of Wildlife Security Strategy. URT participated in the pangolin range state meeting in Vietnam to ascertain the threat of this species.

Emerging issues.

Fund for implementation of National Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade and National Ivory Action Plan continues to be a challenge for the URT.

Republic of Mozambique

Due to the increasing incidents of poaching and wildlife trafficking, mainly affecting the rhino and elephant, evolving organized syndicate of crime, the Government of Mozambique (GoM) has been developing and implementing several actions to combat this menace and protect the biodiversity of the country through the following actions;

- i. The GoM created the Anti-poaching Working Group (APWG), for the effective implementation the Program to combat the illegal exploitation of natural resources in Mozambique. This force has been effective in combating wildlife crime and various seizures that have been made in recent years in Mozambique.
- ii. The Governments of Mozambique and South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Fields of Biodiversity Conservation and Management in 2014 in Skukuza, Kruger National Park. The MoU was ratified on the 10th of June 2014 by the Mozambican Government and communicated to South Africa through a note verbale on the 14th of July 2014. The MoU is aimed at promoting cooperation between the parties in the field of biodiversity management, conservation and protection, law enforcement, compliance with CITES, and other relevant legislation and Conventions on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in an effort to strengthen the combating of rhino poaching as well as law enforcement. It was during the signing ceremony were both ministers announced that the officials from both countries will meet to discuss an implementation plan.
- iii. Currently there is an ongoing negotiation of MoU with Republic of Vietnam. The main objective of this engagement is to coordinate efforts on control of poaching and fauna trafficking.
- iv. The GoM has actively participated in international law-enforcement operation Cobra II, organized by LATF, China, USA, South Africa, ASEAN-WEN and SAWEN. In this operation Mozambique

was represented by two technicians based in Thailand and Kenya throughout the course of operation. The operation resulted in seizure of more than 22 ivory and rhino horns at the airports of Maputo and Beira.

- v. Collection of DNA samples for forensic analysis from rhino horn confiscated in Mozambique – analysis in progress.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe participated in the first pangolin range states workshop from 24 to 26 June, 2015 in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Zimbabwe also submitted information to Namibia and Kenya for the ongoing Periodic of African lion.

In compliance with relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions, Zimbabwe submitted relevant reports and documents to the CITES Secretariat.

Zimbabwe also participated at regional workshops on wildlife conservation through the regional Transfrontier Conservation Areas initiative.

Monitoring programmes for all CITES listed species as well as other species are ongoing.

Non-detriment findings are conducted for key species in order to ensure that trade is not detrimental to their survival in the wild.

Republic of South Africa

South Africa initiated preparations for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 17) that will take place in Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016. This will be the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held on the African continent since CITES came into force on 1 July 1975, but the first on the continent since 2000.

Communication with other Parties in the sub- region and region since AC27

The National CITES Management Authority is in regular contact with other CITES Management Authorities in the sub-region and region with regard to CITES issues such as the import and re-export of hunting trophies and other CITES issues of concern in the region.

The SADC secretariat hosted a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from 21 to 22 May 2015 in preparation for the CITES CoP 17.

The African Rhino Range States met in Johannesburg, South Africa from 15th – 17th July 2015 to draft a African Rhino Range States Action Plan aimed at a high level collective response to challenges facing Africa's rhinos.

SADC held a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24th to 29th August 2015 to develop a SADC anti-poaching strategy.

Follow up on selected agenda items (recommendations) of previous AC meetings

Based on a scientific study published, South Africa requested the Animals Committee to list *Poicephalus robustus* (Cape parrot) as a separate species on the CITES appendixes. South Africa is further in the process of drafting a non-detriment finding for Cape Parrot.

CITES activities in the country in respect to:

Periodic Review of the Appendices: South Africa commented on the report for the Periodic Review of the Lion, *Panthera leo*.

CITES projects: South Africa is in the process of publishing national non-detriment findings for scientific input by the public for the following species:

- *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus* (Bontebok),
- *Equus zebra zebra* (Cape mountain zebra),
- *Panthera leo* (African lion), and
- *Panthera pardus* (Leopard).

South Africa is the final stages of publishing national non-detriment findings for *Hippopotamus amphibius* (Hippopotamus) and *Ceratotherium simum simum* (White rhinoceros) for implementation.

South Africa has further initiated the processes of making non-substantive amendments to the CITES regulations, these amendments will address practical implementation matters relating to non-detriment findings at a provincial level and for common species.

The Scientific Authority of South Africa is in the process of drafting recommendations for the development of norms and standards for the keeping of *Acinonyx jubatis* (cheetah) in captive breeding facilities in South Africa.

South Africa is in the process of developing guidelines for the trophy hunting of wild lion (*Panthera leo*) for scientific input by the public.

Registration of operations breeding/Artificial propagation Appendix-I animal/plant species for commercial purposes: South Africa intends to submit an application to register Cango Wildlife Ranch for commercial trade in cheetah at the AC 28.

Celebrations of World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2015: WWD was celebrated in Kruger National Park. The theme for World Wildlife Day 2015: "Wildlife Crime is serious: let's get serious about wildlife crime" was aimed at highlighting the positive role that local communities can play in helping to curb illegal wildlife trade.

Capacity building activities, awareness campaigns: South Africa held a CITES basic training session in the Gauteng Province from 26 to 29 August 2015 in an effort to improve the interpretation of the CITES Regulations.

South Africa continues to implement the GEF-UNEP Rhino Project. In this regard, as part of inter departmental collaboration between the Department of Environmental Affairs (CITES Focal Point) and the South African Judicial Education Institute (within the Department of Justice) a Judicial Colloquium on Biodiversity Crime was hosted from 24th– 27th August 2015 in Johannesburg. One hundred and fifty magistrates from district and regional courts across the country attended the event, which was aimed at raising awareness on environmental crime, with a particular focus on rhino.

The next advanced biodiversity crime scene management training is scheduled to take place from 7th September this year. This will also provide an opportunity to finalise the filming material, which will serve as visual supplementary training material for rhino crime scene investigators. The Prosecutor Training Conference is then scheduled to take place in November 2015.

The use of technology has been further bolstered by the use of the four 4x4 Forensic Mobile Units that were handed over to South African National Parks (SANParks), the North West department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, as well as the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency in May 2015. The use of the forensic trailers is in terms of our partnership with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

The trailers have been assisting with the effective management of crime scenes, particularly in outlying areas where the correct equipment required for on-scene forensic investigations is not readily available.

Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

South Africa continues to collaborate and cooperate with stakeholders and NGOs in the fight against poaching. South Africa is in the process of developing a MoU with WWF to improve cooperation between the Department of Environmental Affairs and WWF.