

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



Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2017

Regional matters

Regional reports

AFRICA

1. This document has been prepared by Pantaleon M. B Kasoma (Uganda) as the Africa Region Representative to the Animals Committee* and covers key CITES related activities undertaken in the region for the period from November 2015 to July 2017.

General Information

2. Animal Committee (AC) members: Dr Pantaleon M. B. Kasoma (Uganda) and Prof Dr. Ir. Guy Appolinaire Mensah (Benin). Alternate Members: Mr Moustafa Fouda (Egypt) and Ms Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka (Uganda).
3. Number of Parties in the Region: 53, Non-Parties: 2.
4. The regional representative used reports received from the few Parties that responded to the call to submit reports and included other information he was aware of from the region.
5. Getting reports from all the 53 Parties in the Region is still a big challenge. There are no resources to call a Regional Meeting and the Representative relies on only the good will of the Parties to submit reports. This report therefore might have some gaps as many Parties never responded to the call for submission of reports to enable compilation of a representative Regional Report.

Overview of Major Developments

6. Review of Significant Trade.

No significant issues to report. United Republic of Tanzania (URT) is still looking for fund to undertaking 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. IUCN Chameleon specialist Group is soliciting fund to support URT in conducting a study to collect biological data on chameleons

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

7. Periodic Review of Appendices

Kenya and Namibia could not continue with the periodic review, of the African lion beyond the CoP17 and the issue has come back to the Animals Committee

8. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

No significant issues to report.

9. Non-detrimental findings

Uganda concluded the Non-Detrimental Findings for Reptiles with special focus on Chameleons under trade. The report by the Consultant hired by Uganda Wildlife Authority has been submitted for review and will be shared with the CITES Secretariat in due course.

Zimbabwe did a non-detrimental finding for the African Lion (report available). Zimbabwe is in the process of reviewing available data to update a preliminary Leopard non-detriment finding report that was done in 2012.

South Africa is in the final process of concluding NDF for blue duiker (*Philantomba monticola*). The Scientific Authority will finalize the draft NDF for public comments.

10. Communication with other Parties in the sub- region and region since CoP17.

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.

South Africa visited Lesotho on a capacity building initiative. The training involved the following:

- CITES basic training
- CITES annual report

The capacity building initiative has resulted in Lesotho compiling their annual report and will be submitted to the Secretariat soon

11. Other issues

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. Following the commissioning of a forensics lab in Kenya in May 2015, Kenya started a collaborative arrangement with Uganda and Tanzania to undertake a DNA profile for rhino and elephant populations. Collection of fecal samples from the populations in the national parks and other protected areas within the three countries has started. To support the work of the forensic lab, Kenya is implementing a USAID supported Bar Code Project and Peer Project (jointly implemented with Tanzania) to establish reference IDs for commonly traded wildlife species to assist in controlling illegal trade.

Uganda continued to work on the national wildlife legislation to comply to the CITES requirements under the National Legislation Project. By end of June 2017, the new Wildlife Bill 2017 had been gazetted for presentation and discussion in the National Assembly (Parliament). Currently, Uganda is in Category Three under the National Legislation Project. The New Bill will be discussed in Parliament together with its new Regulations including the CITES Domestication Orders which were approved by Cabinet in 2015.

Kenya has initiated collaborative arrangement with Czech Republic on the conservation and management of the remaining population of northern white rhinos currently hosted by Kenya. The process will lead to a memorandum of understanding between the two Parties.

Uganda finalized the development of the National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP). The Plan aligned to the African elephant action plan has now been printed and its implementation has commenced.

Kenya conducted the regular elephant census in key areas of Tsavo-Mkomazi, Masai Mara – Serengeti and planning later this year to conclude censuses for Laikipia – Samburu ecosystem and Elgon (Kenya – Uganda) ecosystem.

Rwanda received 20 eastern black rhinos from South Africa for re-establishment of the population in Akagera National Park after more than 10 years after their disappearance.

The United Republic of Tanzania is reviewing its Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and preparing the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) Act". CITES Implementation Regulation for Tanzania (mainland) is under review. The new CITES Implementation Regulations for Zanzibar is in process. The technical meeting to finalize the CITES Regulations Implementation for Zanzibar has been scheduled to take place on 25-29 July 2017. Also, the Wildlife Conservation (Tourist hunting) regulation of 2015 was reviewed and a new regulation of 2017 has been released.

United Republic of Tanzania (URT) in collaboration with UNDP has prepared and submitted a proposal to GEF seeking for funding to implement a project "combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade through an integrated approach". This project is part of the implementation of the National Strategy to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade. However, financial resources for sufficient implementation of this strategy and National Ivory Action Plan continue to be a challenge for the URT.

South African held public feedback session to inform the South Africa public of the outcomes of COP 17 and to ensure that the regulated community is aware of the changes to the listing and highlight the new decisions and resolution.

12. Meetings and Workshops.

A workshop on CITES and Livelihoods was held in South Africa from 23rd - 25th November 2016. The workshop was organized and supported by the CITES Secretariat and Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa. The workshop was the first step towards the effective implementation of CoP17 decisions and translating them into concrete actions with the overall aim of ensuring that CITES processes fully integrate socio-economic considerations and engagement of local communities. The workshop discussed the implementation of Res. Conf.16.6 (Rev.CoP17) on CITES and livelihoods adopted at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24th September – 4th October 2016). Key recommendations from this workshop included the following;

- There was need to empower and create sense of ownership of wildlife resources among communities in order to secure their support for conservation
- Communities need to be supported to form associations in order to harness benefits from wildlife resources.
- There was need for communities to be facilitated with low interest credit to develop wildlife enterprises and benefit from wildlife
- Strengthened regional and international cooperation is essential in securing maximum benefits to local people
- Need observed to draft flexible regulatory frameworks to allow regulated access to bush meat especially in countries with viable populations of wildlife
- Observed the need to increase consultations and representation of rural communities in CITES decision-making processes.
- There is need to support other livelihood and conservation projects to complement existing programmes aimed at conserving CITES listed species.

A Regional Wildlife Trafficking Workshop for stakeholders in the East African Region was held in Kampala Uganda 8 – 9 August 2016 and facilitated by TRAFFIC Regional Office in Tanzania and funded by USAID and IUCN. The workshop was attended by key stakeholders from the academia, enforcement, legislation, donors, IGOs and NGOs to share information on wildlife trafficking in the region and come up with recommendations for addressing the illegal trade. One key outcome from the workshop was the need to establish a Wildlife Trade Coordination Forum facilitated by TRAFFIC.

A number of African Countries – Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe participated in the Africa – Asia Pacific Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime held in Bangkok Thailand 4 – 6 July 2017. The Symposium was convened by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products, in partnership with the World Bank-led GEF-financed Global Wildlife Program and USAID. The main aim of the symposium was to advance efforts in Africa and Asia Pacific to strengthen and harmonize legal frameworks to combat wildlife crime. In two parallel working groups, participants considered (A) natural resource management and trade regulation and (B) criminal justice and inter-regional mechanisms. Each parallel session identified a series of suggested elements for strengthening legal frameworks to combat wildlife crime and for improving coordination and cooperation.

Zimbabwe attended the illegal trade in cheetah workshop that was held in Kuwait in November 2015.

Kenya hosted the African elephant coalition executive committee meeting from 26 to 28 June 2017 to review progress on the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan. The meeting also shared information on the current status of the species in member countries where it was noted that despite the general decline in poaching levels in most member states, the threat of poaching and illegal ivory trade remain a real challenge to the African elephant population in the range states.

South Africa participated in the Regional INTERPOL Environmental Crime Workshop in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania from 17 to 19 April 2017. They shared information and intelligence on trends and patterns used by traffickers of wild fauna and flora with a focus on Rhino and Elephant, built strong partnership with other regional counterparts to enhance investigative cooperation, operationalized appropriate databases, shared better practices; and revived functional multi-disciplinary teams consisting of Environmental Enforcement Agencies, Immigration, Customs and Prosecution for operation purposes.

An **extra ordinary joint meeting** of the South African Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources and of the Organ on Defense Peace and Security Co-operation took place in Swaziland from 1 to 3 February 2017. The meeting was organized to discuss among others, the following:

- Fast-track the implementation of the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy (LEAP and to Improve inter-agency cooperation and coordination between law enforcement officers to further align and harmonise law enforcement efforts in the region.

13. Report from Non-Party (South Sudan)

While Most Parties did not respond to the call for submission of reports for the regional report, the Regional Representative would like to acknowledge receiving a report from South Sudan a Non-Party and here below, I reproduce the report from South Sudan (below) and commend them for the work they are doing despite the challenges the country is facing:

Overview of Major Developments

In South Sudan, humans have hunted wildlife for meat and just for subsistence since time immemorial (Stanford & Bunn, 2001). To date, wildlife is still hunted being to provide meat (bush meat), but at an alarming rate such that almost it is being consumed or sold in every household and major towns mainly due to weak law enforcement institutions, poverty and hunter. Data on the size and degree of trade in wildlife are, however the general trend is that the trade is increasing and is negatively impacting wildlife species. Examples of wildlife species greatly affected by poaching in South Sudan include the African elephant, Tiang, Mongalla gazelle, white eared kob, warthog, giraffe, Nile crocodile and python.

*African elephant *Loxodonta africana**

South Sudan used to have a healthy population of elephants, and occur all over South Sudan but now days, it is confined to protected areas as a result of anthropogenic activities. Its population is estimated to have fallen by over 90%, and the fall is still continuing.

Tiang, Mongalla gazelle, white eared kob, and warthog

Most of the bush meat in the market is thought to come from Tiang, Mongalla gazelle, and white eared kob. Besides, the white eared kob and warthog are getting weak and sluggish, and above all being lost to disease outbreak (see Fig. a & b).



Figure 1a: Sick male white-eared kob in Boma National Park (©Tombe 2011).



Figure 1b: Sick common warthog with outgrowth on the foot in Nimule National Park (© Solomon 2016).

Giraffe

Although, a schedule I animal in South Sudan, giraffe are being hunted to the extent that they are rarely seen nowadays. It would be if the IUCN can enlist it as an endangered species.

Nile crocodile and python

Likewise both the Nile crocodile and python though listed as schedule animal species in South Sudan, they too are being poached openly in certain places and skins exported (see Fig.).

b) Periodic Review

Periodic reviews can hardly be done in South Sudan. This is because surveys of wildlife populations are not done on regular basis mainly due to lack of resources and insecurity. Nevertheless, regardless of the respective conservation status, all wildlife species require periodic review partly because of disease prevalence and poaching.

c) Non-detriment findings

No export permit has been issued for trade in appendix I wildlife species. The only permit issued was for 5cm specimen curved from seized elephant tusks in Juba and for the dung of savanna elephants from Nimule National Park. This was done mainly for scientific purposes and following the correct procedures that include import permits, etc.

d) Capacity-building

Research and surveys in protected areas in South Sudan are carried out by few institutions (e.g. university of Juba) and non-governmental organisations (Wildlife Conservation Society WCS, African Wildlife Foundation AWF and Flora and Fauna International FFI).

Some progress in staff training in different fields has been achieved. One undergraduate has completed his dissertation on species diversity and abundance of amphibians in Nimule National Park. Currently three undergraduate final year students (two females and a male) are writing their dissertations on species diversity and abundance of lizards, butterflies and dung beetles in Nimule National Park respectively. Three Teachings Assistants (two females and a male) and two lecturers (males) have enrolled for M.Sc. and PhD. studies respectively. In addition, one technician has enrolled for M.Sc. studies. Furthermore, one wildlife officer has enrolled for M.Sc. studies and will be working on the species diversity and abundance of bats in Badingilo National Park. However, training of wildlife biologists in South Sudan is hampered by lack of employment for its graduates, and lack of equipment, e.g. field guides and equipment for the study of different taxonomic groups.

e) Other

Not applicable.

Activities of Regional Representatives

Two main activities we are mentioning are first, the accession by the government of South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Management to the Elephant Protection Initiative EPI. The initiative obliges member states to protect the remaining African elephant population across its range. Second, was the World Wildlife Day celebration at Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Management in Juba, South Sudan. During the meeting, the representative president, read out the speech of the president. The speech included several important degrees and directives for example directing the government officials not wear artefacts made from wildlife.

Regional cooperation

There is a trans-boundary agreement between the Republics of South Sudan and Uganda, but it needs to be strengthened and back. Recently, it was reported that three elephants which were part of a herd that crossed into Uganda were shot; one did not make it, two made it back into Nimule National Park but died thereafter.

Meetings and Workshops

No knowledge of meetings and workshops on wildlife between November 2015 and May 2017.