

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



Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018

GREAT APES

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: the representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah) and the alternate representative of North America (Ms. Caceres);

Parties: Hungary, Indonesia, Spain, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), IUCN, Environmental Investigation Agency US, Humane Society International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Impact, WAZA and Legal Atlas.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall review the report in the Annex of document AC30 Doc. 26 and provide comments, feedback and recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Animals Committee and subsequent communication to the Secretariat, for it to bring to the attention of the authors before they finalize the report and submit it to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting.

Recommendations

The Animals Committee recommends the Secretariat provide the following observations for the authors to consider on ways to update and improve the presentation of the report.

With regard to the body of the report, the Animals Committee suggests to:

1. include in the report the findings from the recent survey on Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo which provides more updated information on temporal trends for mountain gorilla populations;
2. review the usage of the word “poaching” throughout the report, considering the different meanings of this term amongst different range States;
3. review tables 5, 6 and 10 in terms of the presentation of key threats to great apes;
4. invite Indonesia to provide its findings on the recent great apes’ abundance analysis for inclusion in the report;
5. review the information on seizures provided in TRAFFIC’s reports, as relevant;
6. consider clearly mentioning that infant ape trade is a by-product of other illegal activities;
7. provide more explanatory background information to support statements made (e.g. under section 4);

8. regarding section 6, include reference to regional collaborative efforts and provide specific details on the listings of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) referred to;
9. consider reflecting tourism in “challenges and solutions” under section 7;
10. consider the value of the information available from CountrySTAT of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and
11. consider the value of an acronym list and a glossary in the document to facilitate its interpretation by readers.

With regards to the recommendations contained in the report, the Animals Committee suggests to:

12. review the presentation style of the recommendations section for consistency, and clearly distinguish those recommendations directed to countries from those only directed to range States;
13. regarding recommendations 1 and 4, highlight that many Parties have already undertaken activities in these areas;
14. amend recommendation 2 to reflect that the review of the sanctions and relevant legislation should be at the national level;
15. amend recommendation 8 to reflect the existence of DNA sequence databases;
16. amend recommendation 9 to encourage countries to actively contribute to the A.P.E.S. database of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN SSC);
17. amend recommendations 11 and 12 to encourage the proposed actions;
18. clearly mention that recommendation 13 refers to all sources of illegal domestic trade;
19. regarding recommendation 14, provide more precision on the scope of the investigations being recommended;
20. amend recommendation 15 to encourage CITES Parties to not trade in wild-sourced great apes;
21. consider an additional recommendation to encourage the preparation of a legislative analysis; and
22. consider an additional recommendation to encourage CITES Parties to submit their CITES annual illegal trade reports in a timely manner.