

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Online, 31 May, 1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Regional matters

Regional report

AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by the Representative from UGANDA on behalf of the Africa Region.*

2. General Information

a) Animals Committee (AC) members: Prof Ir. Guy Appolinaire Mensah (Benin) and Pantaleon M. B. Kasoma (Uganda). Alternate members: Mr Moustafa Fouda (Egypt) and Ms Ngalie Maha (Cameroon).

b) The representatives divide themselves as follows: Prof. Appolinaire coordinates the Francophone Parties while Dr. Kasoma coordinates the Anglophone Parties.

c) Number of Parties in the Region: 53. Non- Parties: 2.

3. Overview of major developments

a) Review of Significant Trade.

There are no significant issues to report from the Region.

b) Periodic Review of Appendices.

There are no significant issues to report.

c) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

Only one operation was registered by South Africa to breed species of *Psittacus erithacus* (African Grey Parrots) in captivity for commercial purposes. CITES Secretariat issued Notification No. 2020/075 on this operation in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15).

No other operations for breeding Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes were registered since AC30.

* 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.

d) Non-detriment findings

No studies in NDF were reported to the Regional Representatives. However, Regional Parties continue to participate in reviews of NDFs to identify gaps and needs for improving NDF guidance materials.

e) Other issues

With regard to Notification No. 2021/016 requesting for information on Pangolins (*Manis* spp) species through a questionnaire administered by IUCN, regional Parties would request for additional time to provide the requested info and actively participate in this study as most of the Parties in the Africa Region are range states of pangolins.

Many regional members continue to participate in various Intercessional Working Groups established by the Standing Committee and Animals Committee following CoP18 meeting in Geneva Switzerland. Some of the work of the Working Groups will be discussed at the scheduled Committee meetings.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 disease pandemic caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov-2) at the beginning of 2020 caused several challenges for all Parties due to disruptions caused by lock downs and restrictions.

f) Regional Meetings and Workshops

A number of workshops on CITES related issues were affected by the COVID-19 travel restrictions and country lock downs. Not much can be reported. In Southern Africa, a Southern African Development Community (SADC) meeting was held in Tanzania to come up with a Regional position on the outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. However, many countries have now adopted using online platforms to conduct meetings and workshops but there are still a number of challenges with internet connectivity and adaptability. There will be a lot of learning at the Meetings of Committees of CITES on the new 'normal' of meeting online.

g) Capacity building

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, Uganda organized a regional training in October 2019 involving customs, police and wildlife law enforcement officers from Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan in preventing wildlife trafficking across the region. The training covered topics ranging from CITES, financial and electronic fraud. The training was facilitated by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

Uganda also launched a National Wildlife Crime Coordination Task Force (NWCCTF) on 11 February 2020 to jointly address the wildlife crime. The NWCCTF is comprised of all law enforcement agencies in Uganda and coordinated by the Uganda Wildlife Authority. Since its launch in February 2020, awareness has been raised about CITES and wildlife conservation in general and the general public is now more involved in combatting wildlife crime in Uganda.

Across the region, Kenya, Botswana, Namibia and Malawi participated in the wildlife officials exchange program with United States from 27 October 2019 – 16 November 2019. The program was facilitated by the US Fish and Wildlife Office of Law Enforcement Bureau and it included a training of wildlife officers from the African countries at the US National Conservation Training Centre in Shepherdstown West Virginia to build adaptive leadership skills. The officers also received training in CITES, wildlife inspections for CITES and Non-CITES Species. Many other African countries have previously benefited from a similar training organized annually by the US Government.

h) Regional and International Cooperation

Collaboration and cooperation between Parties at regional and international level continued mainly online. In the southern African region, there is ongoing cooperation in the Trans-frontier Conservation Areas on the conservation of wildlife, with the major priority at landscape level; ensuring that baseline surveys are undertaken for all key species. It is however still difficult to coordinate and have a comprehensive report as many Parties in the Region still do not respond to email requests for reports. This is a challenge that we will continue to discuss internally within the region. It is even worse now that we are not able to have physical meetings where we would at least reach out to Parties present at the meeting to highlight some work in their countries for inclusion in the report.