

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



Intersessional work of the Standing Committee
2020-2021

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO:
UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 66th (Geneva, January 2016), 67th (Johannesburg, September 2016), 69th (Geneva, November 2017) and 70th (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) meetings, the Standing Committee considered the effective implementation of the Convention by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in accordance with Article XIII of the Convention and adopted recommendations regarding *quota setting and management; management of trade in Psittacus erithacus; trade in pangolin stockpiles; trade in Pericopsis elata; illegal trade; compliance assistance; and reporting.*
3. At SC70 (Sochi, October 2018), the Standing Committee requested DRC to report to the Secretariat on progress made on the implementation of these recommendations by 31 December 2019 in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and its comments to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee.

Progress made by DRC since SC70

4. On 28 December 2019, DRC requested an extension of the deadline for reporting on the progress made on the implementation of the SC recommendations until 28 February 2020. DRC explained that several investigations against alleged perpetrators of illegal trade in ivory and pangolin specimens seized in Singapore and Viet Nam were ongoing, and the outcomes of these investigations would help preparing a more substantive report. The Management Authority also requested an official meeting with the Secretariat to discuss the progress made during the first quarter of 2020. To date, a progress report has not been received by the Secretariat and the meeting with the Secretariat was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. On 12 June 2020, the Management Authority of DRC informed the Secretariat of measures taken regarding its permit system, aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Standing Committee recommendations. The changes in DRC's CITES permits and certificates were communicated to the Parties in Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/047](#) on 25 June 2020.
6. DRC also reported that as of 1 June 2020, the [website](#) of the CITES/DRC Management Authority was made operational, thanks to funding generously provided by the European Union through the CITES-Tree Species Programme (CTSP).
7. Regarding the management of export quotas for specimens of wild fauna and flora, DRC has reported that the server linked to the website of the CITES/DRC Management Authority is used to monitor export quotas. New CITES permit and certificate applications should be submitted online on the [website](#) of the CITES / DRC Management Authority by economic operators and by any person wishing to obtain a permit or certificate. The system is expected to improve the management and monitoring of export quotas and authorized trade.

8. Regarding the recommendation on *Pericopsis elata*, a 2019 voluntary annual export quota for that species was published by the Secretariat on its website after having been approved by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Plants Committee. By the end of 2019, DRC proposed a revision of this quota, which represented a 35% increase to the precautionary quota agreed for the year 2018, but without providing sufficient supporting evidence that this would be non-detrimental. The revised 2019 quota was rejected by the Secretariat after consulting the Chair of the Plants Committee, and the original quota for 2019 was therefore maintained (*i.e.* 54,494 m³ of logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets).
9. The proposed quota for 2020 (including a revision requested by DRC) was approved by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Plants Committee and was published on the CITES website (*i.e.* 54,747 m³ of logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets).
10. The annual export quotas published for 2019 and 2020 are within the precautionary limits established by the most recent edition of the relevant non-detriment finding (2018), available in [Annex 1](#) to document PC24 Doc. 13.2.

Conclusions

11. While the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made some progress in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting, the lack of submission of the report requested by the Standing Committee has made it difficult for the Secretariat to assess the compliance performance of the country.