

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



Intersessional work of the Standing Committee
2020-2021

NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLANS PROCESS:
UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat to update the Standing Committee on progress regarding the National Ivory Action Plans (NIAP) process since the 71st meeting of the Committee (SC71, Geneva, August 2019).

Parties that are included in the NIAP process

2. There are currently 15 Parties participating in the NIAP process: Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo and Viet Nam (Category A), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China (Category B), and Angola, Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), and Qatar (Category C).
3. In accordance with the timeframe set in Step 4, paragraph a) of the *Guidelines to the NIAP Process*¹, contained in Annex 3 to [Resolution Conf. 10.10 \(Rev. CoP18\)](#) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, Parties should submit their reports on progress with NIAP implementation to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of each regular Standing Committee meeting.
4. Six Parties submitted progress reports to the Secretariat within the deadline initially scheduled for the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC73) in October. These Parties are Cambodia, Congo, Gabon, Lao PDR, Qatar and Viet Nam; they submitted their reports between April to July 2020. The Secretariat has prepared preliminary assessments of the reports received and will informally share its assessments with the concerned Parties. The Secretariat will invite these Parties to update, if they so wish, their progress reports for re-submission 90 days in advance of a rescheduled SC73, taking into account the observations made by the Secretariat in its assessments. If a concerned Party does not wish to update its report, the report submitted between April and July 2020 will be taken as the final report for consideration by SC73.

Identification of Parties to participate in the NIAP process

5. The Standing Committee at SC71 agreed recommendation c) directed to Turkey, contained in document [SC71 SR](#). The Committee agreed not to include Turkey in the NIAP process and requested the Party instead to submit to the Secretariat a report on progress made and the results achieved in addressing illegal trade in ivory as it relates to Turkey. The Committee further agreed to consider at SC73, on the basis of the report from Turkey and any recommendations from the Secretariat, if Turkey should be included in the NIAP process.
6. Pursuant to recommendation c), Turkey submitted its report to the Secretariat on 24 June 2020. The Secretariat is currently assessing the report received and will informally share its assessment with Turkey. The Secretariat will invite Turkey to update, if it so wishes, its report for re-submission 90 days in advance of SC73, taking into account the observations made by the Secretariat in its assessment. If Turkey does not

¹ Referred to as 'the Guidelines' throughout the rest of the present document.

wish to update its report, the report submitted in June 2020 will be taken as the final report for consideration by SC73.

Parties that 'achieved' their NIAPs

7. The Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) agreed recommendation t) directed to Hong Kong SAR, contained in document [SC70 SR](#). The Committee commended Hong Kong SAR for implementing its NIAP, the additional measures and activities implemented to address illegal trade in ivory, and the firm commitment demonstrated to build upon the progress made to date. The Committee also encouraged Hong Kong SAR to submit a comprehensive report to SC73 on:
 - a) any further measures taken and activities implemented to combat illegal trade in ivory;
 - b) progress with the implementation of the three-step plan to phase out trade in elephant ivory;
 - c) any measures and activities implemented to prevent the displacement of illegal trade in ivory to Hong Kong SAR that may result from the closure of domestic ivory markets in mainland China; and
 - d) measures implemented to deter and detect worked ivory products moving out of Africa to Hong Kong SAR, and to penalize offenders involved.

The Committee agreed that it will consider at SC73 whether Hong Kong SAR should exit the NIAP process, in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines*.

8. Pursuant to the Committee's recommendation, Hong Kong SAR submitted its report to the Secretariat on 30 June 2020. The Secretariat is currently assessing the report received and will informally share its assessment with Hong Kong SAR. The Secretariat will invite Hong Kong SAR to update, if it so wishes, its report for re-submission 90 days in advance of SC73, taking into account the observations made by the Secretariat in its assessment. If Hong Kong SAR does not wish to update its report, the report submitted in June 2020 will be taken as the final report for consideration by SC73.

Parties that have recently revised and updated their NIAPs

9. The Standing Committee at SC70 agreed recommendation g) directed to Lao PDR. The Committee requested Lao PDR if it decided to revise and update its NIAP, as indicated in its progress report to SC70, to submit any revised and updated NIAP to the Secretariat for assessment in accordance with Step 3 of the *Guidelines*. Pursuant to the Committee's request, Lao PDR submitted a revised and updated NIAP to the Secretariat on 9 July 2020. The Secretariat has assessed the revised and updated NIAP as adequate, in accordance with Step 3 of the *Guidelines*, and informed Lao PDR accordingly.
10. The Standing Committee at SC71 agreed recommendations f) directed to Nigeria and j) directed to Mozambique. The Committee requested Nigeria to revise and updated its NIAP and Mozambique to revise and update its National Ivory and Rhinoceros Action Plan (NIRAP). Pursuant to the Committee's request, Nigeria submitted its revised and updated NIAP to the Secretariat on 5 May 2020, and Mozambique submitted its revised and updated NIRAP on 11 September 2020. The Secretariat has assessed the revised and updated NIAP and NIRAP as adequate, in accordance with Step 3 of the *Guidelines*, and informed the two Parties accordingly. The reports on progress with NIAP/NIRAP implementation from Nigeria and Mozambique are due to be submitted 90 days in advance of SC73.

The status of ivory stockpiles in Burundi

11. The Standing Committee at SC71 agreed recommendation a) directed to Burundi. The Committee agreed not to include Burundi in the NIAP process but requested the Party to report on the status of its ivory stockpiles. The Standing Committee also asked to include information on any activities conducted and findings made following the May 2015 letter of the Secretariat concerning ivory from the Burundi stockpile that allegedly made its way into illegal trade. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to make the report from Burundi available to the Committee at SC73.
12. The Secretariat wrote to Burundi on 13 November 2019 requesting the Party to provide the Secretariat with a comprehensive report on the status of its ivory stockpiles. At the time of writing the present document, no report from Burundi has been received by the Secretariat. The Secretariat will again write to Burundi to request the Party to submit its report no later than 90 days in advance of SC73.

Conclusions

13. The Secretariat notes that Parties are making progress in the implementation of their NIAPs. Of the 15 Parties participating in the NIAP process, six have submitted progress reports and three have revised and updated their NIAPs. At its next regular meeting, the Committee will need to consider four main issues related to the NIAP process:

- a) the progress made by all the Parties included in the NIAP process;
- b) whether Hong Kong SAR can exit the process;
- c) whether Turkey should join the NIAP process; and
- d) how to proceed with the case of the ivory stockpiles of Burundi.

In accordance with the *Guidelines to the NIAP Process*, the Secretariat will prepare recommendations on these issues for consideration by the Standing Committee.