

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

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Sixty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Bangkok (Thailand), 14 March 2013

Elephants

NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLANS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 63rd meeting (SC63, Bangkok, 2 March 2013), the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to use its best endeavours in the course of 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16; Bangkok, 3 to 14 March 2013) to assist eight Parties to which the Committee had directed recommendations concerning their implementation of CITES provisions for controls of trade in ivory<sup>1</sup> to develop national action plans aimed at reducing illegal trade in ivory, with time frames and milestones, and undertake these targeted actions by the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65) in July 2014.
3. The Standing Committee further requested the Secretariat to report to the present meeting the progress in the development of these national ivory action plans, and recommend a way forward.
4. The Secretariat worked closely with representatives of all eight Parties within the margins of CoP16. The eight Parties demonstrated a strong commitment to take immediate, decisive actions in combating the illegal trade in elephant ivory, and collaborating with the Standing Committee and the Secretariat in developing and implementing national ivory action plans. Six of them, Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, Uganda, Thailand and Viet Nam, developed draft plans in the course of CoP16 and shared these with the Secretariat. China and the United Republic of Tanzania committed to submit national ivory action plans within a specified time frame after consultation with relevant authorities in their respective countries.

Recommendations

5. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee adopt the following recommendations:
  - a) China, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam should finalize their national ivory action plans, with time frames and milestones, and submit them to the Secretariat by 15 May 2013.
  - b) The Secretariat will share the national ivory action plans received with the Standing Committee, and inform the Chair of the Standing Committee if any of the above Parties fails to submit its plan by the above deadline.
  - c) The eight Parties are requested to take urgent measures to implement their national ivory action plans between SC64 and SC65.
  - d) The eight Parties should keep the Secretariat updated via electronic means about progress made against timeframes and milestones.
  - e) The Secretariat shall monitor progress and will keep the Standing Committee informed intersessionally via electronic means. The Secretariat shall, upon request, advise the Parties concerned on the

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<sup>1</sup> Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were identified as source countries for illegal elephant ivory; Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam as transit countries of such ivory; and China and Thailand as destination countries. In addition, Hong Kong SAR was considered an important transit place.

implementation of their respective plans. In the light of progress with the implementation, the Secretariat may undertake missions to one or more of the Parties mentioned in paragraph a), pending invitations from these Parties and the availability of external funding.

- f) The eight Parties are requested to submit reports on progress in the implementation of their national ivory action plans by the deadline for submission of documents at SC65.
- g) The Secretariat shall evaluate the reports submitted in compliance with the recommendation in paragraph e) above and convey its findings and recommendations at SC65.