

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



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

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Administrative matters

1.1 Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Alternate Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee

The Secretary-General, as temporary chair of the meeting, confirmed that, following the elections at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16), the current members of the Standing Committee were as follows:

Africa: Botswana, Egypt, Niger and Uganda;

Asia: Indonesia, Japan and Kuwait;

Central and South America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Dominica and Guatemala;

Europe: Hungary, Norway, Portugal and Ukraine;

North America: the United States of America;

Oceania: Australia;

Depositary Government: Switzerland;

Previous Host Country: Thailand; and

Next Host Country: South Africa.

Norway was nominated to continue as the new Chair of the Standing Committee. The United States was nominated to continue as Vice-Chair and Kuwait as Alternate Vice-Chair. These nominations were all agreed by the Committee.

Mr Øystein Størkersen, as the representative of Norway, took the chairmanship for the rest of the meeting. He thanked the members of the Committee for the privilege and for the continued confidence they had shown in his country.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Norway and Portugal).

1.2 Agenda

The Chair noted that there were two main items to be discussed: a) National ivory action plans; and b) Establishment or renewal of working groups.

There were no interventions.

2. Elephants: National ivory action plans

The Secretariat introduced document SC64 Doc. 2, noting that this had been produced at the request of the Standing Committee at its 63rd meeting (Bangkok, 2 March 2013), and following consultations with the eight Parties to which the Committee had directed recommendations regarding the control of ivory trade. Paragraph 5 of the document contained the Secretariat's recommendations regarding a process to put national ivory action plans in place and to monitor their implementation.

During the discussion that followed, general support was expressed for the recommendations of the Secretariat. Various amendments to the text submitted by the Secretariat were proposed concerning, amongst other subjects: reporting; oversight by the Standing Committee; and the monitoring by the Secretariat of the implementation of the action plans.

Malaysia did not think that it should be considered as a country of concern, noting that it was neither a source of nor a destination for elephant ivory. They suggested that recommendation d) be deleted. Indonesia concurred. China agreed that the countries of concern needed to be clarified. They also expressed concern about the ETIS analysis of illegal trade conducted by TRAFFIC, considering that enforcement efforts were not adequately reflected, and suggesting that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should be asked to review the ETIS programme and redesign the analysis. Viet Nam shared the concerns expressed and stressed the need for adequate time to implement action plans. Kenya also shared the concerns of Malaysia; they reported on significant seizures and suggested additional recommendations regarding the taking of samples for DNA analysis. Others suggested that this was unnecessary as it was covered by a Decision from CoP16¹.

The Chair noted the willingness of the eight Parties concerned to cooperate to produce ivory action plans and to report on their implementation. While noting the good intentions of the suggested amendments to the recommendations of the Secretariat, the Chair pointed out that the original recommendations were well balanced and asked that, in view of the time constraints, these be accepted as presented in the document. This was agreed.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana, Niger and Uganda), Asia (Indonesia), Europe (Hungary and Portugal), North America (United States), Oceania (Australia) and the Previous Host Country (Thailand), and by China, Kenya, Malaysia and Viet Nam.

4. Establishment and renewal of working groups

4.1 MIKE and ETIS Subgroup

Uganda proposed that the membership of the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup be as follows: Uganda (Chair), Botswana (Alternate Chair), Japan, Niger, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States. This was agreed.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger and Uganda).

4.2 Decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory

It was agreed that the working group on this subject, dealing with Decision 16.55, would be as follows: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Congo, India, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat. The working group was requested to initiate work regarding the implementation of the CoP16 Decision on this subject².

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of the Next Host Country (South Africa) and the Previous Host Country (Thailand), and by Kenya.

¹ See Decision 16.83.

² See Decision 16.55.

4.3 Rhinoceroses

It was agreed that the working group on rhinoceroses would be continued, with the existing membership and with the United Kingdom as the Chair, in order to initiate the implementation of the CoP16 Decisions related to this subject³.

There were no interventions.

4.4 Electronic permitting

It was agreed that the working group on e-permitting would be continued, with the existing membership, with the addition of the United States, and with Switzerland as the Chair, in order to initiate the implementation of the CoP16 Decision related to this subject⁴.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the representative of North America (the United States).

4.5 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

It was agreed that the working group on IPBES would be continued, with the existing membership, with the addition of Ireland and the European Commission, and with Mexico as the Chair, in order to initiate the implementation of the CoP16 Decisions related to this subject⁵.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the representative of Europe (Hungary).

4.6 Snake trade and conservation management

It was agreed that the working group on snake trade and conservation management would be continued, with the existing membership, and with Switzerland as the Chair, in order to initiate the implementation of the CoP16 Decisions related to this subject⁶.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the representative of the Depositary Government (Switzerland).

4.7 Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC)

It was agreed that, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14), as amended at CoP16, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee would be established as a permanent subcommittee. It was also agreed that its membership would continue and that it should meet immediately before the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

There were no interventions.

4.8 Purpose-of-transaction codes

It was agreed that the working group on purpose-of-transaction codes would be continued, with the existing membership, and with Canada as the Chair, in order to initiate implementation of the CoP16 Decision related to this subject⁷.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by Canada.

³ See Decisions 16.84-16.92.

⁴ See Decision 16.54.

⁵ See Decisions 16.13-16.16.

⁶ See Decisions 16.102-16.108.

⁷ See Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP16).

4.9 Memorandum of Understanding with the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

It was agreed that the working group on this subject would continue, with Canada as the Chair.

4.10 Annotations

It was agreed that the Committee would consider at SC65 the continuation of the working group on annotations. Canada expressed a wish to continue as a member of the working group and Kuwait wished to join the group.

There were no other interventions.

4.11 Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures

It was agreed that the working group on this subject would continue with the existing membership, and with South Africa as the Chair, in order to proceed with work to implement the CoP16 Decision related to this subject⁸.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the representative of the Next Host Country (South Africa).

5. Any other business

The United States suggested that the Committee consider amending the Rules of Procedure regarding credentials. It was agreed that this should be discussed at SC65.

UNEP requested that the Committee consider the possibility of amending its Memorandum of Understanding with the Executive Director of UNEP after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties if appropriate. It was agreed that this would be discussed at SC65.

There were no further interventions.

6. Determination of the time and venue of the 65th meeting

The Committee noted that its 65th meeting would take place in Geneva, Switzerland, in July 2014. The exact dates would be announced later.

7. Closing remarks

The Chair thanked the members of the Committee and all those present for their participation.

⁸ See Decision 14.29 (Rev. CoP16).