

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



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

ELEPHANTS

Recommendations

The Working Group established at SC65 considered the recommendations contained in documents SC65 Doc. 42.1 and SC65 Doc. 42.2, and recommends the following to the Standing Committee:

Document SC65 Doc. 42.1

Arising from Decisions 16.79

- a) request Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Nigeria to:
 - i) work with the Secretariat and its consultants to finalize the development of national ivory action plans with time frames and milestones, by 31 October 2014, and to take urgent measures ensuring significant progress by SC66 on the implementation of their national ivory action plans; and
 - ii) submit a comprehensive report to the Secretariat by 15 May 2015, in the format provided in the Secretariat's evaluation of the progress reports as presented in the Annex to document SC65 Doc. 42.2, so that the Secretariat can make the reports available to the Standing Committee and convey any recommendations it may have, as appropriate, at SC66;

With regard to Parties of "Importance to Watch"

Arising from Decisions 16.80

- b) request Japan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to submit a report to the Secretariat on their implementation of CITES provisions concerning control of trade in elephant ivory and ivory markets, by 15 May 2015, so that the Secretariat can make the reports available to the Standing Committee and convey any recommendations it may have, as appropriate, at SC66;
- c) request Angola, Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic to:
 - i) work with the Secretariat and its consultants to finalize the development of national ivory action plans with time frames and milestones, similar to those that will be developed by countries of 'secondary concern', by 31 October 2014, and to take urgent measures ensuring significant progress by SC66 on the implementation of their national ivory action plans; and
 - ii) submit a comprehensive report to the Secretariat by 15 May 2015, in the format provided in the Secretariat's evaluation of the progress reports as presented in the Annex to document SC65 Doc. 42.2, so that the Secretariat can make the reports available to the Standing Committee and convey any recommendations it may have, as appropriate, at SC66;

With regard to Parties of “Secondary Concern” and “Importance to Watch”

- d) request the Secretariat to
 - i) make the national ivory action plans referred to in paragraphs a) and c) public;
 - ii) inform the Standing Committee in case a country fails to submit an adequate national ivory action plan by the deadlines specified in paragraphs a) and c), for the Standing Committee to consider taking appropriate intersessional decisions, which may include compliance measures as necessary; and
 - iii) recommend to Parties that develop or update national ivory action plans to include, where possible, indicators to measure the impacts of the actions in the NIAPs (e.g. through data on elephant poaching levels; number of ivory seizures; successful prosecutions; progress on paragraph d) under “Regarding trade in elephant specimens” of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16); and changes to legislation);

Arising from Decision 16.78, paragraph b)

- e) encourage all Parties to make full use of the “Guidelines for forensic methods and procedures of ivory sampling and analysis” developed by UNODC, to promote the use of forensic analysis to the fullest extent possible to combat the illegal ivory trade;
- f) request the Secretariat to compile a list of appropriate forensic-analysis facilities capable of reliably determining the age or origin of ivory, or both, for distribution to the Parties;

Arising from Decision 16.83

- g) encourage Parties that submit ivory samples for analysis in accordance with Decision 16.83, to use the forensic analysis results as suggested in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the present document;
- h) encourage Parties to share with the Secretariat information on the origin of ivory specimens, arising from forensic analysis of ivory samples, for use by the MIKE and ETIS programmes and their reporting to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties;
- i) encourage Parties affected by illegal ivory trade, as a source, transit or destination country, to develop national sampling and funding strategies aimed at promoting the collection of samples from seized ivory for forensic analysis both from large ivory seizures and from stockpiles;
- j) encourage Parties and the donor community to provide financial support to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and to Parties and territories that make large ivory seizures (i.e. 500 kg or more) but lack the capacity and financial resources to implement the provisions of Decision 16.83 to support the collection and analysis of ivory samples from such seizures;
- k) encourage Parties and the donor community to provide financial support to Parties and territories that wish to collect samples from their national ivory stockpiles for forensic analysis but lack the capacity and financial resources to do so.

Arising from Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) in the section “Regarding trade in elephant specimens”, paragraph e)

- l) the Secretariat to make country-specific data from the ivory stock declarations of Parties available to MIKE and ETIS for analysis, and report an aggregated summary of this data to the Standing Committee at its regular meetings and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
- m) encourage all Parties in whose territory legal ivory markets exist or that export pre-convention raw elephant ivory for commercial purposes, to provide wholesale price data on such sales of raw ivory to the Secretariat, for integration into MIKE and ETIS analyses.
- n) the Secretariat, through MIKE and ETIS, to identify Parties of “Primary Concern”, “Secondary Concern” or “Importance to Watch” for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC67, based on an analysis of all data in the last five years available to MIKE and ETIS and using scientific and clear methodologies.

- o) Request the CITES Ivory Enforcement Task Force to examine the trade in preconvention ivory and the possible laundering of illegal ivory into this trade and report its findings and recommendations to SC66 or SC67.

Document SC65 Doc. 42.2

With regard to Parties of “Primary Concern”

Arising from the recommendations adopted by the 64th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC64, Bangkok, March 2013)

- a) note the Secretariat’s evaluation of the progress reports submitted by China, Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam on the implementation of their NIAPs, as presented in the Annex to document SC65 Doc. 42.2;
- b) encourage the eight Parties to review and, as necessary, revise their NIAPs, including the milestones and timeframes and, where possible, to include indicators to measure the impacts of actions in the NIAPs (e.g. through data on elephant poaching levels; number of ivory seizures; successful prosecutions; progress on paragraph d) under “Regarding trade in elephant specimens” of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16); and changes to legislation), based upon any new identified needs and these Parties’ own evaluations of progress*. In doing so, the eight Parties are further encouraged to take into consideration the evaluation of the Secretariat, in particular the actions where progress was rated as ‘challenging’ or ‘unclear’;
- c) request the eight Parties to continue to implement their NIAPs between SC65 and SC66, in accordance with the milestones and timeframes in each NIAP, and including any revisions made to their NIAPs as referred to in recommendation b) above;
- d) request the Parties of “Primary Concern” to report on the further measures taken to implement their NIAPs to the Secretariat by 15 May 2015* and in the format used for the Secretariat’s evaluation of the progress reports as presented in the Annex, so that the Secretariat can make the reports available to the Standing Committee and convey any recommendations it may have, as appropriate, at SC66;
- e) request the Secretariat to evaluate the reports submitted in compliance with the recommendation in paragraph d), including its footnote, and convey its findings and recommendations at SC66 in the format as submitted to SC65; and
- f) taking into consideration the reports and the Secretariat’s evaluation, the Standing Committee will decide whether Parties have substantially achieved their NIAPs and should no longer be considered of primary concern; or have made progress but remain of primary concern; or have made insufficient progress and require compliance measures.

* 1. *The Standing Committee recommends that Thailand submits to the Secretariat a revised NIAP by 30 September 2014, which should include the following actions, to be achieved by 31 March 2015:*

- a) *the enactment of appropriate legislative or regulatory provisions (such as the inclusion of the African elephant as “protected species” under the Wildlife Act) that allow for the effective control of domestic trade and possession of elephant ivory and provide for strict penalties in case of illegal possession or illegal domestic trade of ivory;*
- b) *the enactment of legislative or regulatory controls establishing (i) a comprehensive registration system for domestic ivory and (ii) an effective system for registration and licensing of ivory traders (including enforcement and penalisation in case of offences); if those controls are already in place, Thailand should inform the Secretariat on the acts establishing those controls;*
- c) *increases efforts on the monitoring and control of ivory traders and ivory data, as well for law enforcement efforts against illegal ivory trade, including indicators on how those efforts will be measured.*

The Standing Committee further recommends that Thailand submits a progress report to the Secretariat of the aforementioned actions by 15 January 2015. The Committee, after assessing Thailand’s progress, in consultation with the Secretariat, will make such recommendations as appropriate.

2. *The Standing Committee requests Thailand to submit a further progress report by 31 March 2015, on which date it will assess Thailand’s progress in consultation with the Secretariat, convey its assessment to Thailand and, if it is not satisfied that the actions in point 1. above have been achieved, shall proceed appropriately by postal procedure in accordance with provisions in Resolution Conf. 14.3, paragraph 30.*