

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Report of regional representatives

AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by Uganda as Regional representative for Africa*

Southern Africa

Botswana

Since SC65 in 2014, Botswana has continued to demonstrate her commitment to the protection of wildlife in general. Of special note is Botswana hosted the Kasane Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in March 2015. The Conference was a follow up to the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade. The United Kingdom provided financial support for hosting this important meeting. The Kasane Conference has contributed to raising the plight of many species in the illegal wildlife trade and identified specific actions required to address this scourge. Botswana also participated in the African Wildlife Consultative Forum where CITES implementation and wildlife management strategies in the Southern African region were discussed.

Capacity building

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is undertaking capacity building for the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in field of wildlife forensics. The EU has provided funds for the engagement of technical assistance in the establishment of the Wildlife Enforcement Network for Southern Africa (WENSA). Botswana is in the process of implementing the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytical Toolkit.

Enforcement

Botswana continues to implement the Convention by undertaking rigorous checks on application for export/import permits in collaboration with the importing/exporting parties. This also includes a background check on all exporters in the pet trade with the management authorities of countries of export. Botswana has also for this reporting period managed to secure funding from the African Elephant Fund to support a research project monitoring the potential range of elephants beyond their current and expected range. Botswana has also participated in a number of CITES intercessional working groups on pangolins and cheetahs.

Botswana was noted as a category 2 in the national legislation project review and we are happy to report that a review is underway to update our legislation. This will also include a review of penalties for wildlife related offences.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Awareness

Botswana commemorated World Wildlife Day on the 03rd March 2015 in the northern town of Kasane located in the heart of the northern elephant in Botswana.

Mozambique

Due to the increasing incidents of poaching and wildlife trafficking, mainly affecting the rhino and elephant, evolving organized syndicate of crime, the Government of Mozambique (GoM) has been developing and implementing several actions to combat this evil and protect the biodiversity of the country:

The GoM created the Anti-poaching Working Group, for the effective implementation the Program of combat the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in Mozambique. The Working Group is composed by representatives from following ministries: Agriculture and Food Security, Culture and Tourism, Defence, Interior, Mining Resources, Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Sea, Interior Water and Fisheries. In this context, were recruited, trained, equipped and affected on the ground the force of 1,500 soldier; The results of this Force has been observed and witnessed with various seizures that have been made in recent years in Mozambique.

The Governments of Mozambique and South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Fields of Biodiversity Conservation and Management on 17 April 2014 in Skukuza, Kruger National Park. The MoU was ratified on the 10th of June 2014 by the Mozambican Government and communicated to South Africa through a note verbale on the 14th of July 2014. The MoU is aimed at promoting cooperation between the parties in the field of biodiversity management, conservation and protection, law enforcement, compliance with CITES, and other relevant legislation and Conventions on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in an effort to strengthen the combating of rhino poaching as well as law enforcement. It was during the signing ceremony were both ministers announced that the officials from both countries will meet to discuss the Implementation Plan.

At moment, is ongoing the process of negotiation of MoU with Republic of Vietnam. The main objective of these memorandums is to coordinate efforts on control of poaching and fauna trafficking.

South Africa

Preparation for COP 17

South Africa initiated preparations for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) that will take place in Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016. This will be the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held on the African continent since CITES came into force on 1 July 1975, but the first on the continent since 2000.

Communication with other Parties in the sub- region and region

The SADC secretariat hosted a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from 21 to 22 May 2015 as part of SADC Technical Subcommittee Meeting . The African Rhino Range States met in Johannesburg, South Africa in July 2015 and November 2015 to develop an African Rhino Range States Action Plan aimed at a high level collective response to challenges facing Africa's rhinos. SADC also held a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 to 29 August 2015 to develop a SADC anti-poaching strategy.

CITES Implementation and Non Detrimental Findings (NDF)

South Africa is in the process of publishing national non-detriment findings for scientific input by the public for the following species:

- *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus* (Bontebok),
- *Equus zebra zebra* (Cape mountain zebra),
- *Panthera leo* (African lion), and
- *Panthera pardus* (Leopard).

South Africa is the final stages of publishing national non-detriment findings for *Hippopotamus amphibius* (Hippopotamus) and *Ceratotherium simum simum* (White rhinoceros) for implementation.

South Africa has further initiated the processes of making non-substantive amendments to the CITES regulations, these amendments will address practical implementation matters relating to non-detriment findings at a provincial level and for common species.

The Scientific Authority of South Africa is in the process of drafting recommendations for the development of norms and standards for the keeping of *Acinonyx jubatis* (cheetah) in captive breeding facilities in South Africa.

South Africa is in the process of developing guidelines for the trophy hunting of wild lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) for scientific input by the public.

South Africa reported on a revised nomenclature for *Aloe*, whereby three small genera have been circumscribed from species previously included in *Aloe* (the tree aloes (*Aloidendron*, 6 taxa), the rambling aloes (*Aloiampelos*, 10 taxa) and *Kumara plicatilis*), and four species of the genus *Chortolirion* are now included in *Aloe*.

South Africa published Rhino Biodiversity Management Plan on the 02 December 2016.

South Africa also published the draft amendments to the Norms and Standards for the marking of rhinoceros and rhinoceros horn and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes on the 12 January 2016 for public comment

Capacity Building and awareness raising

South Africa held a CITES basic training session in the Gauteng Province from 26 to 29 August 2015 in an effort to improve the interpretation of the CITES Regulations.

South Africa continues to implement the GEF-UNEP Rhino Project. In this regard, as part of inter departmental collaboration between the Department of Environmental Affairs (CITES Focal Point) and the South African Judicial Education Institute (within the Department of Justice) a Judicial Colloquium on Biodiversity Crime was hosted from 24 – 27 August 2015 in Johannesburg. One hundred and fifty magistrates from district and regional courts across the country attended the event, which was aimed at raising awareness on environmental crime, with a particular focus on rhino.

Advanced biodiversity crime scene management training took place in September 2015. This also provided an opportunity to finalise the filming material, which will serve as visual supplementary training material for rhino crime scene investigators in future. The Prosecutor Training Conference took place in November 2015.

The use of technology has been further bolstered by the use of the four 4x4 Forensic Mobile Units that were handed over to South African National Parks (SANParks), the North West department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, as well as the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency in May 2015. The use of the forensic trailers is in terms of our partnership with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

The trailers have been assisting with the effective management of crime scenes, particularly in outlying areas where the correct equipment required for on-scene forensic investigations is not readily available.

WWD was celebrated in Kruger National Park. The theme for World Wildlife Day 2015: *Wildlife Crime is serious: let's get serious about wildlife crime* was aimed at highlighting the positive role that local communities can play in helping to curb illegal wildlife trade.

Enforcement

SADC Anti-Poaching Strategy

South Africa participated in meetings to discuss the drafting of the SADC Anti-Poaching Strategy and commented on all the draft documents.

Wildlife Enforcement Network of Southern Africa (WENSA)

South Africa participated in meetings where the establishment of a WENSA was discussed.

UNEP-GEF Rhino Program

The UNEP-GEF Rhino Program is progressing on an accelerated schedule. The second of the three crime-scene filming sessions has been completed which will serve as visual supplementary training material for rhino crime scene investigators in future. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory for analysis of rhino horn DNA from crime scene incidents was concluded.

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

The illegal wildlife trade featured prominently on the agenda of the AMCEN meeting which took place in March 2015 in Egypt. A Decision on an African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora was adopted by the AMCEN (Decision 15/2). Work that started at this meeting on the African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora continued at the International Conference on Illegal Exploitation and Illicit Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, in Congo Brazzaville during the last week of April 2015.

Kasane Conference of Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT)

South Africa attended the Kasane Conference on IWT which was a follow-up meeting from the London Conference on IWT that had taken place in February 2014. The Kasane Statement on Illegal Wildlife Trade was adopted by the meeting. The Statement included actions to address four (4) critical areas:

- Eradicating the market for illegal wildlife products
- Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Sustainable livelihoods and economic development

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU's)

China

An MOU on Cooperation in the field of Wetlands, Desert Ecosystem and Wildlife Conservation with the State Forestry Administration was signed in March 2013. On 23 March 2015, the Vice Administrator of the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China, Mr Sun Zhagen and Minister Molewa signed a Wildlife Conservation Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan promotes cooperation between the Parties in relation to, amongst others, the fields of law enforcement, compliance with CITES and technology transfer. The two parties acknowledged they face common challenges with respect to wetland and desert ecosystems and wildlife conservation. The illegal trafficking of threatened and endangered species, including rhino, remains a serious concern. It was acknowledged that there is an urgent need to find cost-effective and long-term solutions to address wildlife and ecosystem issues - through international co-operation. The Plan, which is valid until 2020, puts into action the terms of the MOU and both parties committed to engaging on best practice and share expertise on priority areas through continuous engagement, research and study tours.

The signing also augmented provisions of the 5-10 Year Strategic Programme signed by South Africa and China during the state visit to China by President Jacob Zuma in December 2014. The 5-10 Year Strategic Programme defines areas of mutual cooperation within the conservation and biodiversity sector and will take place this year – announced as the Year of China in South Africa. It is the view of both countries that this programme would open a new chapter in people cultural exchanges that will benefit both the Chinese and South African people.

CAMBODIA

An MoU on Cooperation in the field of Biodiversity Management, Conservation, and Protection was initiated, negotiated, finalised and signed during 2015. The draft Action Plan is being finalised.

MOZAMBIQUE

An MOU with Mozambique, was signed on 17 April 2014 at Skukuza in Kruger National Park

A significant amount of progress has been made by both countries in so far as cooperation in different fields such as law enforcement and information sharing is concerned. Relations between Mozambique and South Africa have improved as a result and the two countries are more willing partners.

BOTSWANA

A draft MOU with Botswana, as a key frontline State is in place, awaiting dates for finalization from Botswana. The MOU aims at also facilitating the translocations which will include animals from government to expand populations.

TANZANIA

Draft MOU with Tanzania is in place, final discussions will take place in early 2016.

VIETNAM

The government of South Africa and the government of Vietnam signed a MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Biodiversity Conservation and Protection 12 December 2012. Since signature, progress has been made in terms of implementation.

Eastern Africa

General Information

- Kenya continued work with Namibia on the periodic review, with contributions from many African lion range States.
- A number of workshops on wildlife conservation were organized in the region, including the Regional Trans-frontier Conservation Areas Initiative for eastern and southern Africa party members.
- Cooperation and collaboration among Parties within the region were initiated or finalized, especially on the conservation of endangered species to curb illegal wildlife trade. Examples are MoU between Mozambique and South Africa to enhance cooperation and collaboration in the field of biodiversity management, conservation and protection, law enforcement, compliance with CITES, and other relevant legislation, and especially on protection of the rhino.
- The use of forensic science to curb illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products is increasingly being used by more Party members in the region, including South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, among others. Kenya started a DNA profile for rhino and elephant populations by collecting samples during a stockpile inventory exercise, which was concluded on 27th August 2015.
- Of significance in the commissioning of a forensics lab in Kenya on 8th May this year, which increases the Africa region's capacity to combat wildlife crime. Kenya thanks Israel, South Africa and other partners in supporting capacity building for the required personnel in this area.
- Many pangolin range States participated at First Pangolin range States Meeting held in Vietnam on 24 - 26 June 2015. These included Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and others.

Communication with other Parties in the sub- region and region since SC65

The African region National CITES Management Authorities maintained contact with each other on CITES issues of concern in the region. The CITES Scientific Authorities also continued to assist the regional representatives in communicating with regional members about submission to the representatives, reports on relevant national activities implemented to be incorporated in the regional report.

Kenya and Namibia continued to revise the review of Significant Trade on *Panthera leo* (African Lion). Follow-ups on selected agenda items (recommendations) of previous SC meetings were made and these and other CITES activities in the region, are given in the country reports.

Country reports

Kenya

Kenya started the generation of scientific information on the conservation status of pangolins and participated at the First Pangolins conference held in Vietnam in July 2015.

Kenya received requests to review the status of Mount Kenya bush viper *Atheris desaixi* with a view to determining whether the country could prepare a listing proposal for CoP 17.

Kenya celebrated the 2nd World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2015 by creation of public awareness through public meetings, TV and radio programmes.

Kenya celebrated the African Elephant Day to create awareness on illegal trade on ivory and educated the public on the need to conserve the species.

Kenya participated at the 13 AWCF meeting held in Ethiopia in 2014,

Uganda

Uganda participated in the First Pangolin Range States Meeting held in Vietnam 24 - 26 June 2015.

Uganda hosted a regional training in prevention of wildlife trafficking for wildlife, customs and INTERPOL officials from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia in May 2015. The training was facilitated by International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and had 66 participants.

Uganda actively participated in and coordinated two major international operations - COBRA 3 and WORTHY 2.

Uganda held a number of trainings for enforcement officers conducted by UNODC in intelligence and investigations, including the use of the ICCWC Toolkit.

Uganda acquired two sniffer dogs that have been successfully trained in sniffing ivory and other wildlife products. The sniffer dogs have been deployed at the main International Airport and occasionally deployed at other major entry and exit ports to combat wildlife trafficking.

On 3rd March 2015 Uganda joined the rest of the world to celebrate the second World Wildlife Day. The celebrations were marked by several events including;

1. Prior to the main event , Uganda held a local celebration on 28th Feb, 2015 at West Bugwe Forest Reserve, Busia District, where the local community participated in a forest walk, forest restoration activities, stakeholder dialogue and awareness.
2. Monday 2nd March, 2015- The Minister of Tourism , Wildlife and Antiquities addressed a Press conference in Kampala city and later flagged off a match past from the Constitutional Square to Uganda Museum, culminating into a public lecture on the topic “ **Fighting wildlife crime in Uganda, gaps challenges and successes**”.
3. The main event was held on 3rd March, 2015- Final celebrations at Uganda Wildlife Education Center (formerly Entebbe Zoo) in Entebbe town. The main day events included speeches, guided tour of exhibitions, tree planting and performances from school groups which included St. Theresa primary school, St. Mary's college kisubi, Nkumba University and Makerere University.

Uganda has continued to collect samples from seized ivory and rhino horns that were sent to accredited forensic laboratories for DNA analysis to establish the origin of the seized wildlife products. Feedback has already been obtained and shared with CITES Secretariat on one of the largest ivory seizures in Uganda in October and December 2013.

United Republic of Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania (URT) ratified the CITES Convention in 1979, and has been implementing her obligations since 1980. Currently, Tanzania has 56 CITES listed species in the export quota. As a member to CITES the URT participated in several workshops and meetings of the Conference of Parties (CoPs), Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing committee. Also, URT has been contributing its annual trust fund to support CITES activities.

Legislation

URT is currently reviewing its Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and is proposing a new act namely, “Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) Act”. A new order for establishment of this act has been signed. CITES Implementation Regulation for Tanzania (mainland) is under review while the new CITES implementation regulation for Zanzibar is in process.

URT has communicated with Parties on different CITES related issues including, Periodic Review of African Lion, African Elephant Funded projects, updates on Ivory Register, Ivory Action Plan, consultation with the USFWS and EU on import of African lion and elephant trophies, UNEP-WCMS on biological and trade information for African lion, communication with Swiss CITES management Authority with regards to ivory seizure at Zurich, and communication with other parties on issues related to export/import permits verification.

Follow up on selected recommendations of previous CITES meetings.

URT had been given recommendations to reports to the next meeting for two species of Chameleon, *Kinyongia fischeri* and *Kinyongiato tavetanum*. Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica Regulorum*) was recommended trade suspension by the Standing Committee in May 2013 by Notification to the Parties No. 2013/13 of 2nd May 2013 and a progress report has been sent UNEP-WCMS with respect to the taxa in question.

CITES activities in the country in respect to:

Review of Significant Trade – URT is still looking for funding to undertake non-detriment findings for all species listed in Appendix II which are in trade. Priority has been given to few selected chameleon and bird species.

Periodic Review of the Appendices - URT is following closely the periodic review of African lion, which is about to be concluded.

CITES projects - Two projects namely “Human-Elephant Conflicts Mitigation around Kilimanjaro” and “Reinforcement of anti-poaching patrols to reduce illegal trafficking of ivory and other wildlife products at entry and exit points”. Progress reports for these project has been submitted.

URT celebrated the 2nd World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2015 by creation of awareness by organizing a rally, TV and radio programme and distribution of burners and posters in the country.

URT has a number of projects involving CITES listed species as follows:-

- - Kihansi Spray Toad project.
- - Rhino project in Serengeti.
- - Jane Godall project on Chimpanzee of Gombe.
- - Serengeti lion project.

- Cheetah and Wild dog Project. Promotion of CITES in the country

Representative of URT attended the 13 AWCF meeting held in Ethiopia in 2014 and SADC preparatory meeting for CoP 17 in South Africa.

URT celebrated the African Elephant Day to create awareness on illegal trade on ivory. The scientific community in the country and CITES agenda.

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) is the Scientific Authority. However, plans are underway to include Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI) and Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute for the same purpose.

Collaboration with other MEAs.

URT collaborates with Multilateral Environment Agreements such as UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These conventions are co- coordinated by the Vice President’s Office- Division of Environment.

Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs.

URT cooperates with stakeholders and NGO to ensure that conservation roles of the natural resources are met. WWF in particular has participated in different projects aimed at providing support in establishment of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). UNDP has supported URT in development of Wildlife Security Strategy. URT participated in the pangolin range state meeting in Vietnam to ascertain the threat of this species.

Emerging issues.

Fund for implementation of National Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade and National Ivory Action Plan continues to be a challenge for the URT.