

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

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Opening remarks of the Chair *No document*

The Chair welcomed the participants and gave an opening speech.

2. Opening remarks of the Secretary-General *No document*

The Secretary-General also welcomed the participants and gave an opening address.

3. Agenda SC66 Doc. 3

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 3.

It was agreed that, under agenda item 60 on *Any other business*, the Committee would consider the issue of vicuña at the request of Chile. With this amendment, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda in document SC66 Doc. 3.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia).

4. Working programme SC66 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1).

The Committee adopted the draft working programme in document SC65 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1).

There were no interventions.

5. Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee

- 5.1 Adoption of the Rules of Procedure SC66 Doc. 5.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 5.1.

The Committee noted the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee as amended at the 65th meeting and contained in the Annex to that document.

There were no interventions.

- 5.2 Proposed process to review the Rules of Procedure of CITES bodies SC66 Doc. 5.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 5.2.

Standing Committee members expressed their interest in following closely the review process, especially the revisions necessary now that a regional economic integration organization (RIEO) has become a Party. They supported the review process that should focus on inconsistencies and

omissions, on ensuring a balanced representation in the working groups and on simplifying the number of working groups, taking into account the fact that small delegations cannot participate in all working groups. Several Parties expressed words of caution about a possible transition to e-voting.

Noting that the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committees are different from those of the Conference of the Parties, the Chair of the Animals Committee informed the Standing Committee that both the Plants and Animals Committee will be requesting a mandate to review their terms of reference in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16).

A non-governmental organization noted that any revision of the Rules of procedure should allow for the continued participation of observers. The United Nations Environment Programme took note of the proposed review process and expressed its interest in being involved in the review.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to work in close collaboration with the Chairs of the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees to draft a revised set of Rules of Procedure that will then be circulated, as soon as possible following the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, for wider input by the Parties.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia, (Indonesia and Japan), Europe (Hungary¹ and Norway), and of North America (United States of America), by China, by the Chair of the Animals Committee, and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Lewis and Clark College.

6. Credentials..... *No document*

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item.

The Standing Committee noted that, at its first session, 16 of the 19 delegations of the members of the Standing Committee had provided credentials and that a further update would be provided later at the meeting.

The Standing Committee noted that 79 Parties were represented by delegations at the meeting, of which six had not provided credentials. All delegations of the voting members of the Standing Committee had provided credentials by the fourth session of the Standing Committee.

There were no interventions.

7. Admission of observers..... SC66 Doc. 7

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 7.

The Committee noted the list of organizations that had been invited to attend the meeting as contained in document SC66 Doc. 7.

There were no interventions.

8. Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees SC66 Doc. 8

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 8.

The new policies that were adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) regarding guidelines for dealing with potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees were generally welcomed. But it was stressed that further transparency would be desirable, and that processes should be developed pro-actively for handling conflicts that may not be declared or identified through the current self-policing by the members of the Animals and Plants Committees. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue examining relevant arrangements in other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

¹ Hungary was also speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Members States, unless otherwise indicated.

The Standing Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the extension of Decisions 16.9 and 16.10, with the aim to review the conflict of interest policy, and provide amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on *Establishment of Committees* as necessary for consideration at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, and eventual adoption at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Norway and Portugal) and North America (United States of America) and by New Zealand.

9. Administration of the Secretariat

9.1 Report of UNEP on administrative matters SC66 Doc. 9.1

The representative of UNEP introduced document SC66 Doc. 9.1, focusing only on the section relating to administrative matters.

A Standing Committee member mentioned that the late submission of the UNEP report is not acceptable and also noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Standing Committee and the UNEP Executive Director indicated that the submission of the report should be made in a timely manner. A correction was made to paragraph 26 of the UNEP report, noting that the "Wildlife Enforcement Network" for West Asia was never formed and will not take place in the future. Pointing to page 3 of the report related to the interface between national databases and Species+, a Standing Committee member asked whether UNEP could provide training for Parties to help them better use this interface. A Party noted that the African Elephant Fund was now up and running as there had been administrative problems to disburse funds for the newly approved projects. The representative also wanted reassurance from UNEP that funds are now being disbursed through Umoja.

The Standing Committee noted the report.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia and Kuwait) and North America (United States of America) and by Kenya.

9.2 Report of the Secretariat on administrative matters SC66 Doc. 9.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 9.2.

Information was given on the personnel changes of Secretariat and all new staff were introduced during the plenary session. Further information was given by the Secretariat on the implementation of the new administrative system, Umoja, and its impact on the daily operations of the CITES Secretariat.

The Standing Committee noted the report.

There were no interventions.

9.3 Report of the Working group on options for administrative hosting arrangements for the CITES Secretariat SC66 Doc. 9.3

The United States, as chair of the Working Group on options for administrative hosting arrangements for the CITES Secretariat, introduced document SC66 Doc. 9.3.

The Working Group Chair reported that the Working Group met briefly and agreed it could continue with a narrower mandate to look at the financial implications of the various options, taking into account forthcoming reports by UNEP. The revised terms of reference were supported by all interveners noting that the question of whether there is, or is not, a need to amend the Convention to accommodate any proposed change would not be considered at this stage but at a later stage, if necessary.

The Standing Committee noted the report and the comments made by the United Nations Environment Programme and adopted the revised terms of reference of the working group as follows:

- Taking into account the Report of the UNEP Task Team on the Effectiveness of Administrative Arrangements and Programmatic Cooperation between UNEP and UNEP-administered Convention Secretariats, the forthcoming related report of the UNEP Executive Director, the information to be provided by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP respectively on the financial implications of alternative hosting models, and such other information as appropriate, including for example, the outcomes of UNEA2 (May 2016), consider the advantages and disadvantages of different hosting models for the CITES Secretariat, including retaining the status quo; and
- Present the Working Group findings to the Standing Committee at its 67th meeting.

The Standing Committee agreed to the participation of Colombia and Germany in the Working group.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway and Portugal), and of the Next host country (South Africa), by Germany and by UNEP.

10. Financial matters

10.1 Financial reports for 2014 and 2015..... SC66 Doc. 10.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 10.1 and its annexes.

Financial information was given for the year ending 31 December 2014 and part of the year 2015 up to 31 October 2015. Further information was given about financial changes within the United Nations; the inclusion of a new Party member to CITES; and increased volume of document requiring translation. Further data and information would be provided in the Finance and Budget Sub-Committee.

Commending the host country, the United States of America asked whether Switzerland is considering changes to its financial support to the CITES Secretariat so that it could be similar to that afforded to other Conventions' Secretariats based in Switzerland. The United States acknowledged the disruption created by the deployment of Umoja had had on the implementation of the 2015 budget, noting that a small convention Secretariat like CITES should get more support from UNEP headquarters during this major change. Recognizing that having in-house translators was not cost effective and appreciating the efforts made by the Secretariat to use free-lance translators, Standing Committee members supported the recommendation that the Secretariat will undertake a further review of translation of documents statistics and prepare policy to be presented at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17).

The United States of America requested that the following statement be included in the Summary Record:

“The United States is concerned that the Secretariat continues to refer to unpaid voluntary contributions by the Parties as “arrears.” The United States considers its contributions to CITES to be strictly voluntary. The United States does not recognize the use of a mandatory contribution scale with respect to voluntary contributions. Since the United States does not view its contributions as obligations under the Convention, we do not believe that contributions can accrue in “arrears.” While we strive to keep our annual contribution at or above historic levels, the actual amount of our contribution will be determined through administrative processes related to the domestic budgeting process. The United States endeavours to provide additional voluntary contributions beyond our core pledge annually to the CITES Trust Fund to advance the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. We urge countries to redouble their efforts to contribute to the CITES Trust Fund to support the important work of the Convention.”

A non-governmental organization (NGO) asked the Secretariat to consider waiving registration fees for NGOs or using a sliding scale in the future to reduce the burden for observer organizations.

The Standing Committee noted the report and requested the Finance and Budget Sub-Committee to take into account the proposal of the United States of America on hosting arrangements.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of North America (United States of America) and by Humane Society International.

10.2 Report on proposed budget scenarios for 2017-2019..... SC66 Doc. 10.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 10.2 and provided information on the proposed three alternative budgetary scenarios for the 2017-2019 period. The Chair of Standing Committee informed the members that this report and documents 9.2 and 10.1 will be further reviewed by the Finance and Budget Sub-Committee (FBSC) that will report back on Friday.

The Standing Committee noted the report.

There were no interventions.

10.3 Report of the Finance and budget sub-committee (and its Working group on Access to finance, including GEF funding and innovative mechanisms) *No document*

The Secretariat gave an oral report to the FBSC on the progress with the GEF Global Wildlife Programme in GEF-6, as well as on the communication through the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in preparing for the GEF-7 programming. The Secretariat requested the FBSC for advice on further actions to be taken by the Secretariat with regard to the implementation of outstanding Decision 16.2 sub-items a) and b), and on the consideration of GEF as a financial mechanism for CITES. The FBSC recommended that the Standing Committee direct the Secretariat to invite the GEF Secretariat to CoP17, so that Parties can receive awareness-raising and information regarding the access to GEF funding. Furthermore, the FBSC recommended that the Secretariat need not implement Decision 16.2 a).

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the FBSC introduced its report and the work undertaken by FBSC in document SC66 Com. 5.

The Secretariat introduced text revisions to the proposed recommendation regarding the Access to GEF funding.

The representative of the Depositary Government noted that Switzerland is the depositary and not the host country for CITES. Switzerland indicated that efficiency is important for all donors and that contribution in monetary terms are not the only way of contributing, noting that the location of the CITES Secretariat allows it to gain from a larger recruitment pool. Switzerland is committed to look into ways of improving and enhancing its support to the United Nations and to CITES and that this should be further discussed at CoP17. A Party supported the distinction made by Switzerland and noted that the FBSC recommendation under document 10.1 in regards to the hosting arrangements should be understood as "alternative hosting country arrangements" and thus differ from the work the Committee had already agreed on under agenda item 9.3. The Chairs of the Standing Committee and of the FBSC confirmed that this recommendation was only related to the host county and not the host institution which has a separate process

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 5 with the following amendments:

- under *Takes note of document SC66 Doc. 10.2*, line 2 should read "break down" instead of "break out"; and
- under Access to GEF funding, point ii) line 1 should read "SC67" instead of "SC65" and point v) line 2 should read "GEF-7" instead of "GEF-6".

The final report of the Finance and Budget Sub-Committee reads as follows:

Agenda item SC66 Doc. 9.2 (Administrative matters)

Takes note of document SC66 Doc. 9.2

- FBSC welcomes the implementation of the new administrative reform and implementation of Umoja.

Agenda item SC66 Doc. 10.1 (Financial reports 2014 and 2015)

Takes note of document SC66 Doc. 10.1

- FBSC notes the report on the costed programme of work for 2014 and 2015 (up to 31 October 2015);
- FBSC notes the information regarding European Union (EU), new Party to the convention during 2015, and recommends to the SC to approve the use of the assessed contribution for part of the year 2015 for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (organizational support and outreach and Sponsored Delegates Project);
- FBSC notes the information on translation costs and recommends to the SC to invite the Secretariat to continue to review and monitor such expenditures for the meetings of the governing bodies (CoP and SC) and the scientific committees;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to prepare a policy on translation of documents to be presented at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- FBSC notes the information provided by the Secretariat on registration fees for observer organizations from other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and natural resource management bodies;
- FBSC notes that registration fees from observers shall be used to offset any deficit in translation costs for the meetings of the governing bodies (CoP and SC) and the scientific committees, as well as to cover any eventual shortfall in funds for the Sponsored Delegates Project, as approved during SC65;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to instruct the Secretariat to undertake a further study on an appropriate fee structure and level of the registration fees to be presented at the 17th Conference of the Parties;
- FBSC takes note of paragraph 4 of the document on further support from the host country to support the CITES Secretariat in manner comparable to other convention secretariats based in Switzerland and the willingness of the host country to further discuss future support with the Secretariat; and
- FBSC recommends to the SC to request the Conference of the Parties, at their 17th meeting, to direct the Secretariat to explore the potential benefits of alternative hosting arrangements for the Secretariat and make a recommendation to the SC, at its 69th meeting, if any changes are beneficial to the Convention and the Parties.

Agenda item SC66 Doc. 10.2 (Proposed budgetary scenarios for 2017-2019)

Takes note of document SC66 Doc.10.2

- FBSC discussed the proposed three alternative budget scenarios for 2017-2019 and requested the Secretariat to break down the UN standard salary costs for 2016 and show it separate for the zero nominal growth scenario.

Other agenda items:

- Access to GEF funding:
- FBSC also discussed agenda item 10.3 on *Access to GEF funding*, which was presented by the Secretariat, and commended the Secretariat for raising awareness of CITES issues;
- FBSC recommends to the SC to direct the Secretariat as follows:
 - i) Invite the GEF Secretariat to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to give awareness-raising and guidance to Parties on accessing GEF funding;
 - ii) Report on progress on its findings at the SC67 for consideration of the risks, benefits, necessity and implications, in order to get further guidance in preparation for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Decision 16.2 b);

- iii) Convey Resolution Conf. 16.2 and Decision 16.2 to the GEF Council, through the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the GEF (Decision 16.2 c);
- iv) Continue, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, to explore a closer working relationship with the GEF to enhance its biodiversity strategy in GEF-6 by strengthening the species-based component (Decision 16.2 d); and
- v) Convey CITES priorities to the GEF for it to take them into account when developing the biodiversity strategy in GEF-7, consistent with the mandate of the GEF (Decision 16.2 e).

In addition, FBSC recommends that SC recommends to CoP17 that it not proceed with Decision 16.2 (a) regarding exploring the necessity and feasibility as well as the legal and other implications of the GEF becoming a financial mechanism for CITES (decision 16.2 a).

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of the Depository Government (Switzerland) and by China and the European Union.

10.4 Wildlife Donor Roundtable and findings and recommendations of the Secretariat SC66 Doc. 10.4

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 10.4 on the results of a Donor Roundtable on Wildlife and Forest Crime held in New York on 7 July 2015 pursuant to Decisions 16.5 to 16.7.

Speakers supported the suggestion to address sustainable use in a new donor roundtable and requested copies of the report mapping international and domestic financing mentioned in paragraph 8 of the document.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 10.4 and supported the Secretariat's idea to organize, pending available resources, a second donor roundtable to explore the potential for scaled-up financial resources to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife, noting that the current roundtable is focused on wildlife trafficking.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Uganda) and Oceania (Australia), by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and by TRAFFIC.

11. Organization of special meetings SC66 Doc. 11

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 11.

Niger, speaking on behalf of the African region, underscored the importance of translation and interpretation, particularly for special meetings on elephants, sharks and great apes. Translation and interpretation are essential to allow for the full participation of range States.

The Standing Committee agreed to recommend that the Conference of the Parties, at its 17th meeting, be invited to include an extra paragraph in Resolution Conf. 17.xx on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2017-2019* amended as follows:

ENCOURAGES donors funding special meetings organized by the Secretariat to include funding provisions for translation of meeting documents and interpretation during special meetings into the working languages of the Convention (especially for meetings held in regions where most Parties use French or Spanish as an official language) and to disburse funds to the Secretariat in sufficient time prior to the special meeting to ensure the timely submissions, distribution and translation of documents and communication of information about travel and accommodation arrangements and provision of on-site interpretation services.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger) and North America (United States of America).

12. Arrangements for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17)

12.1 Preparation for CoP17 SC66 Doc. 12.1

South Africa outlined preparatory work which it had undertaken for CoP17. The city of Johannesburg was selected to host the CoP after a competitive tender. The conference centre is modern, well-equipped and will provide excellent facilities for delegates. An interdepartmental committee has been formed to coordinate the CoP. South Africa is working towards a paperless meeting and is attentive to the accommodation and security requirements for delegates. The first day of CoP17 will appropriately fall on the country's Heritage Day. A high level ministerial session is planned and more details on this will be provided to Parties in due course.

The Standing Committee noted the oral report by South Africa.

There were no interventions.

12.2 Draft agenda SC66 Doc. 12.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 12.2, stressing that it was provisional and would be enlarged with documents submitted by Parties, the permanent CITES committees and the Secretariat. The Secretariat highlighted that the last date for the submission of documents was 27 April 2016.

The Standing Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for CoP17 annexed to document SC66 Doc. 12.2.

There were no interventions.

12.3 Draft working programme SC66 Doc. 12.3

Noting that SC65 had decided to maintain the basic meeting structure of CoP16 for CoP17, the Secretariat outlined the proposal in document SC66 Doc. 12.3.

The Standing Committee approved the draft provisional working programme for CoP17 annexed to document SC66 Doc. 12.3.

There were no interventions.

12.4 Rules of Procedure SC66 Doc. 12.4

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 12.4 and presented two possible amendment options to the rules of procedure.

Regarding the possible amendments to Rules 26.1 and 30, a majority of Parties expressed support for the two-thirds majority option described in option one and three Parties supported the simply majority option described in option two. One Committee member recalled that this issue was discussed and CoP16 and expressed doubts about the necessity to reopen a discussion that weakens the legal stability of the Rules of procedure.

The Standing Committee agreed to make no changes to Rules 26.1 and 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and to refer back to the interpretation of these rules as agreed by the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Uganda), Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Europe (Hungary and Norway), North America (United States of America), Oceania (Australia) and by the Next Host Country (South Africa), by China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, Mexico, Viet Nam, and by TRAFFIC.

12.5 Guidance on the submission of credentials: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 12.5

China, as chair of the intersessional Working Group on submission of credentials, introduced document SC66 Doc. 12.5. One Committee member proposed the inclusion of wording for accepting the credentials of officials working in an acting capacity. Another Committee member supported the checklist and the adoption of the draft Guidance for submission of credentials.

The Standing Committee endorsed the comments in paragraphs 7 and 8 of document SC66 Doc. 12.5, including the draft *Guidance for submission of credentials of representatives of Parties to meetings of the Conference of the Parties* with the second paragraph under “3. Credentials must be signed by an authorized signatory, and his/her name and title must be clearly shown” of the draft Guidance amended as follows:

~~In exceptional circumstances, the Credentials Committee will recommend acceptance of credentials granting powers to the Representative, any Alternative Representative or Advisers of a Party if they are issued by an alternate signatory (in a temporary or acting capacity). In this case, the formal authority of the alternate signatory to sign on behalf of the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs must be clearly indicated in the credentials, or in an accompanying decree or other official document.~~

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Europe (Norway), North America (United States of America) and of the Depositary Government (Switzerland).

12.6 Selection of nominees for chairmanship of the committees *No document*

The Secretariat introduced the agenda item and reminded the Committee that a selection panel had been established to agree on nominees for the chairmanship of the committees at CoP17 as detailed in Notification to the Parties No. 2015/045 of 3 August 2015. The Secretariat called on all Parties to suggest possible candidates to the selection panel members before the closing date on 24 January 2016.

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to put forward nominations for the chairmanship of committees at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties before the deadline of 24 January 2016.

There were no interventions.

12.7 Sponsored Delegates Project SC66 Doc. 12.7

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 12.7, noting that approaching 200,000 USD had been raised so far for the Sponsored Delegates Project, including contributions from two philanthropic foundations – the first donation to the Sponsored Delegates Project from such a source. They Secretariat called for all potential donors to redouble their efforts to find funds for the Project. A speaker announced that they were considering proposing the adoption of a Resolution on the Sponsored Delegates Project at CoP17.

The Standing Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Secretariat in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 as follows:

The Standing Committee encouraged, via its regional representatives, Parties and all other organizations interested in providing financial support and wishing to help achieve the goal of full participation of all Parties in CoP17 through the Sponsored Delegates Project, to contact the CITES Secretariat.

The Standing Committee encouraged potential donors to make their donations to the Secretariat well in advance of CoP17.

The Standing Committee recommended to Parties and other potential donors who are considering providing financial support to delegations from developing countries to attend CoP17, to do so through the Sponsored Delegates Project.

The Standing Committee further noted that the European Union is considering proposing a draft resolution on the Sponsored Delegates Project to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

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

13. United Nations General Assembly resolutions on Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife and Sustainable Development Goals..... SC66 Doc. 13

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 13, drawing attention to the UN General Assembly Resolution 69/314 on *Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife* that recognizes the role of CITES as an international legal instrument for conservation of wildlife and its linkages with the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption, as well as the work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).

Several interventions noted that the UNGA resolution on tackling illicit wildlife trafficking included reference to both conservation and sustainable use. They noted the contribution that sustainable use of wildlife makes towards poverty eradication and of the benefits of trade to the livelihoods of local people, with reference to both consumptive and non consumptive use. Reference was also made to the SDGs and in particular Goal 15 and in this context to both sustainable use and combating illegal wildlife trade. Others referenced the importance of CITES to both resolutions, as well as making reference to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, other conventions and the UNEA resolution.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 13.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary and Norway), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by El Salvador, and by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP, and by Conservation Force and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

14. Implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 SC66 Doc. 14

Brazil introduced document SC66 Doc. 14, highlighting that Parties could be more active in the prevention of the extinction of Appendix-I species, requesting studies on the conservation status of the most endangered Appendix-I species and calling for greater synergies between the CITES Strategic Vision and Aichi Biodiversity Target 12.

Parties thanked Brazil for highlighting this issue. Stressing the need to avoid duplication of work, Parties noted that mechanisms were already in place to measure the contribution of CITES to Aichi Biodiversity Target, as outlined in document SC66 Doc. 30.2. A Standing Committee member supported the request for studies on the conservation status of the most endangered Appendix-I species, subject to the availability of funding. IUCN drew the attention of the Committee to its national red listing process as an important tool helping Parties meet Aichi Biodiversity Target 12.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 14 and encouraged Brazil to submit its proposal to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties ensuring that its proposal complements existing initiatives and taking into account the volume of work that the proposal will entail. The Standing Committee encouraged Brazil to circulate its draft proposal to the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committee and to the Secretariat.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Norway and Portugal), of North America (United States of America) and of Oceania (Australia), by Israel and New Zealand, and by IUCN.

15. World Wildlife Day

15.1 Report of the Secretariat on World Wildlife Day 2015 SC66 Doc. 15.1 (Rev. 1)

and

15.2 Celebration of World Wildlife Day: Report of the working group *No document*

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 15.1 , noting that a theme was first introduced to the celebration of the World Wildlife Day in 2015 and that the Secretariat benefited from the support of the Working Group on World Wildlife Day established at the last meeting of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat highlighted the high-level events in New York and the great success of social media campaigns. It drew the Standing Committee's attention to the fact that it has been mostly the developing countries that have observed the day and that the Secretariat does not have a budget to facilitate the global observance of the day.

Botswana, as chair of the Working Group on World Wildlife Day, provided an oral report on the communication with the Secretariat on the selection of the theme for World Wildlife Day 2016, noting that the main global focus this year will be on African and Asian elephants and their plight due to poaching and trafficking.

The Secretariat then provided an update on planned activities to celebrate World Wildlife Day 2016 including a high level event at UN Headquarters in New York and the launch of the International Elephant Film Festival on that day

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 15.1 and the oral report by the Chair of the Working group on World Wildlife Day; and further noted the request for more Parties, particularly developed countries, to participate in World Wildlife Day and the need for additional funding.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), by El Salvador, Ethiopia, Israel, and by UNDP and UNEP.

16. Cooperation with other organizations

16.1 Overview of cooperation with other organizations *No document*

and

16.2 Options to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions SC66 Doc. 16.2

The Secretariat provided an overview of its cooperation with other organizations and introduced document SC66 Doc. 16.2, highlighting the different themes of existing synergies and their positive results, but also explaining that such actions required staff time and requesting the Committee for broad guidance about how much effort the Secretariat should put into such activities.

Some speakers welcomed cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions, highlighting reporting, capacity-building and the possibility for cost-saving efficiencies as areas for further work. Others cautioned that such cooperation must add value and not detract from the core work of the Secretariat. The need for better coordination at national level was noted by many speakers.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 16.2 and agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the draft decisions amended as follows:

Directed to the Parties

17.xx *The Parties are encouraged to participate in activities to strengthen synergies at the national level among biodiversity related conventions.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.xx *The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore, as appropriate, any options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies on activities related to the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work and the Standing Committee shall report, as necessary, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Europe (Norway and Portugal), Oceania (Australia) and North America (United States of America) and by Israel, New Zealand and UNEP.

16.3 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:

Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 16.3

Canada, as chair of the Working Group on Cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), introduced document SC66 Doc. 16.3, highlighting the draft of an overarching Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) contained in the annex to the document.

Several Parties expressed support for cooperation between CITES and FAO and the draft MoU.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 16.3 and the comments made by Standing Committee members and by Parties during the plenary session and instructed the Secretariat to continue liaising with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to use the draft Memorandum for Cooperation in the Annex to document SC66 Doc. 16.3 as a basis for discussion.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), of Europe (Norway and Portugal), of North America (United States of America) and by Canada.

16.4 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and

Ecosystems Services: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 16.4

Mexico, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), introduced document SC66 Doc. 16.4. Speakers expressed their full support for the recommendations and appreciation of Mexico's efforts. Malaysia, as host of the up-coming 4th session of the Platform's Plenary (IPBES-4), welcomed all participation by CITES authorities and the Secretariat.

The Standing Committee agreed that, at present, there is no need for a Resolution which specifically recognizes the relationship between CITES and IPBES and further agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the draft decisions as follows:

Directed to the Parties

16.13 (Rev. CoP17)

- a) *Parties should consider promoting actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES and to strengthen the science-policy interface at the national and international levels, including through the governing body of IPBES, as appropriate; and*
- b) *Parties are invited to provide inputs to the Secretariat in order to provide timely responses to IPBES in regard to CITES participation.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.14 (Rev. CoP17)

The Standing Committee shall establish a working group on IPBES, including the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to assist its efforts to ensure that:

- a) *there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES as well as a contributor to IPBES;*
- b) *communication between CITES and IPBES for the conveyance of government requests is effective;*
- c) *work of IPBES takes into account the needs of national scientific and management authorities to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, and related trade decisions; and*
- d) *CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines.*

Any inputs to IPBES developed by the intersessional working group shall, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee, be conveyed to IPBES by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee shall consider the need for drafting a resolution which specifically recognizes the relationship between CITES and IPBES.

The Standing Committee shall report at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

16.15 (Rev. CoP17)

The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) *assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17) ;*
- b) *subject to external funds, participate as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and*
- c) *report regularly to the Standing Committee on their activities under paragraph a) above.*

Directed to the Secretariat

16.16 (Rev. CoP17)

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *under the policy guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, and in cooperation with the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on IPBES, established pursuant to Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17), continue to track and contribute to the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies;*
- b) *subject to external funds, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES;*
- c) *explore with other biodiversity-related conventions possible means for facilitating cooperation between the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the IPBES Secretariat;*

- d) *seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat; and*
- e) *report regularly to the Standing Committee, as well as at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the results of this work.*

During the discussion of this item interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia) and Europe (Norway and Portugal) and by Malaysia and Mexico.

16.5 International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime..... SC66 Doc. 16.5

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 16.5 on the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), which provides an overview and summary of activities that have been conducted under the auspices of ICCWC since the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC65).

Parties welcomed the ICCWC indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime, noting its use for information sharing and capacity-building in tackling illegal trafficking. They also supported the ICCWC toolkit and the organization of a second Global Meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Networks during CoP17. Some Parties highlighted their participation in ICCWC activities as part of their broader efforts in combating wildlife crime. Parties noted that improved law enforcement is essential to achieve the goals to ensure that trade is sustainable and legal. Several donors renewed their commitment to continue funding ICCWC.

The Standing Committee strongly supported the work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC); noted document SC66 Doc. 16.5; encouraged Parties to make full use of the “ICCWC indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime”, developed by the Secretariat on behalf of ICCWC, to measure and monitor the effectiveness of their national law enforcement responses to illegal trafficking in wildlife, and to initiate actions as appropriate, to ensure that these responses are adequate; and encouraged Parties to provide financial support to strengthen the Consortium to ensure that it continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law enforcement community by implementing its mission and global programme.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), of Asia (Indonesia), of Europe (Hungary and Norway), of North America (United States of America), of Oceania (Australia), and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), and by India and Peru.

17. Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures: Report of the working group..... SC66 Doc. 17

South Africa, as Chair of the Standing Committee’s intersessional Working Group on Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures, introduced document SC66 Doc. 17, requesting that parts of the work of this working group be transferred to the captive-breeding working group. Standing Committee members supported the recommendations outlined in the document; expressed concerns about illegal trafficking with environmental consequences; and called for more comprehensive cooperation against illegal wildlife trafficking.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 17 and the important issues that emanated from the review of the consultancy report that are contained in paragraph 7 of this document; and noted that no revised or new resolutions are proposed by the Working Group.

The Standing Committee agreed to consider the recommendation in paragraph 8 c) under agenda item 41.1 on *Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens*.

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

18. CITES and livelihoods: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 18

Peru introduced document SC66 Doc. 18 on behalf of the co-Chairs of the working group on CITES and livelihoods. The co-Chairs submitted a new draft decision on *CITES and Livelihoods*, which was not

included in the working document. In addition, an oral update was provided about a plan to organize a workshop on CITES and livelihoods in South Africa in early 2016.

The working group was commended for its work to date, and in particular on the development of the CITES and Livelihoods handbook. The Committee members and observers emphasized the importance of livelihoods as a key pillar of the Convention. Support was also expressed for the continued effort to undertake and collect additional case studies on the impact of CITES-listing to the livelihoods of local communities. Linkages with the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and with the “theory of change” developed by the IUCN Sustainable Trade and Livelihoods specialist group were noted.

The Standing Committee noted the progress reported in document SC66 Doc. 18; welcomed the upcoming workshop of the CITES and Livelihoods Working Group; and encouraged Parties and other organizations to undertake the case studies mentioned in paragraph 10 of document SC66 Doc. 18, or adapt their ongoing work to apply the Handbook for the application of CITES and livelihoods toolkit and guidelines, and share their experience with the CITES and Livelihoods Working Group.

The Standing Committee agreed that it would consider later in the week the draft decisions proposed by the working group once they have been circulated as an in-session document.

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 2 as amended in the plenary session and thus agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the following draft decisions:

Directed to Parties

17.xx *Parties are invited to:*

- a) *promote the use of the CITES and livelihoods toolkit, guidelines and handbook to carry out rapid assessments of the impact of the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities, the implementation of activities which mitigate any negative impacts; and*
- b) *incorporate issues related to CITES and livelihoods into their national socio-economic and development plans.*

17.xx *Developing country Parties are encouraged to communicate with their national Ministries of finance, development, or other relevant Ministries, to seek the provision of financial support to the work in 17.xx above.*

17.xx *Developed country Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and public and private donors/investors are encouraged to provide financial and in-kind resources in support of the work in 17.xx above.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx *The Secretariat shall seek external funding from interested Parties, and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to support the work described in Decision 17.xx above.*

17.xx *Subject to the availability of external financial resources, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase successful livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations;*
- b) *continue to update the relevant section on the CITES website to publish experiences and case studies related to CITES and livelihoods submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations;*
- c) *cooperate with relevant UN agencies, international and regional organizations to facilitate capacity-building activities that support Parties to implement the Convention as an important part of enabling livelihoods; and*

- d) *report at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee and at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the work above and other progress made with regard to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.6.*

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America), and Oceania (Australia).

19. Wildlife trade policy reviews SC66 Doc. 19

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 19, noting that no additional wildlife trade policy reviews had been undertaken and highlighting the links between the wildlife trade policies and the National Biodiversity Action Plans (NBSAP), IPBES and the SDGs.

The Republic of Korea expressed support for this work and suggested sharing information on illegal trade occurring domestically.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 19.

During the discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the Republic of Korea.

20. Capacity-building

20.1 Proposal for consolidating resolutions and decisions on capacity-building SC66 Doc. 20.1 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc.20.1 (Rev. 1), which summarizes the effort to collect the different references to capacity-building in CITES Resolutions and Decisions, and the analysis on how they might be rationalized and consolidated. In suggesting specific actions, the Secretariat introduced a draft decision on capacity building to be considered at CoP17. The Secretariat also announced the plan of the European Union to support capacity building activities specifically in preparation for CoP17.

The Committee members noted the limitations of the electronic capacity-building tools, considering that not all countries had stable internet access, and called for a balanced approach with other types of capacity-building tools and materials. In addition, one member emphasized the need for national level capacity-building over a regional approach, particularly in providing training for customs officers, judges, and legislators on CITES-related legislation. Two Committee members made specific proposals to amend the draft decision on capacity building, one of which was submitted during the session, while the other was to be transmitted after the session.

The Standing Committee noted the recommendations of the Secretariat in paragraph 12 of document SC66 Doc. 20.1 (Rev. 1) related to the draft decisions and invited the Secretariat to submit its draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting, taking into account the comments and proposals made by Parties during the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt and Niger), of Asia (Kuwait), of North America (United States of America), and of Oceania (Australia), and by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and UNEP.

20.2 Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 20.2

Australia, as Chair of the Working Group on Needs Assessment for Strengthening the Implementation of CITES, introduced document SC66 Doc.20.2. A brief review was given on the information submitted by Parties in response to the needs assessment questionnaire, which was circulated through Notification to the Parties No. 2014/013 of 26 March 2014 and No. 2014/035 of 4 August 2014, and which received responses from 46 Parties. It was suggested that while the Needs Assessment Working Group had completed its mandate, there is a need to regularly monitor the needs of Parties. The use of the new implementation report was suggested as a tool in this regard. During the oral report, an editorial correction was also made in the Annex of document SC66 Doc.20.2, which was implemented and made available during the session as document SC66 Doc. 20.2 (Rev.1).

One Committee member stressed the essential role of the needs assessment exercise for determining and meeting the individual capacity challenges of each Party.

The Standing Committee noted the Secretariat's summary of Parties' responses to the questionnaire on Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES in the Annex to document SC66 Doc. 20.2; and agreed that the implementation report be utilised as a mechanism by which the Secretariat regularly gather information about Parties' capacity and needs.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting developing countries and countries in transition to provide to the Secretariat precise information on their capacity-building needs; and to report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting on the answers received.

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

21. Report of the Chair of the Plants Committee..... SC66 Doc. 21

The alternate representative of Asia of the Plants Committee (Kuwait) introduced document SC66 Doc. 21 on behalf of the Chair of the Plants Committee.

The Standing Committee noted the report.

There were no interventions.

22. Review of Resolutions: Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 22

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 22. Committee members welcomed the Secretariat's proposal to number the operative paragraphs of the resolutions and reminded the Secretariat that, according to the Decision 16.49, the Standing Committee should review any proposals from the Secretariat to correct non-substantive errors or minor editorial faults in current Resolutions and decide whether they should be referred to the Conference of the Parties.

The Standing Committee adopted the non-substantive errors corrected by the Secretariat and endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to number the operative paragraphs of all valid Resolutions after the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America).

23. Extinct or possibly extinct species SC66 Doc. 23

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC66 Doc.23 on behalf of both Chairs of the Animals and the Plants Committees. There was overall support for the amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on *Criteria for Amendment of Appendices I and II* as proposed by the Animals and Plants Committees although there were differing views expressed on the possible adoption of the IUCN definition of 'extinct species'. Some expressed concern about the fact that the IUCN definition may change in time and CITES would not have any control over such change, while it would be affected by it. Some supported the exclusion of species included in the Appendices as a result of higher taxa being listed. Finally, the Secretariat also noted that it is not possible to know and confirm the total number and identity of extinct species that were listed along with the listings of higher taxa done in 1975.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the revisions to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) in the Annex to document SC66 Doc. 23 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting with the following amendment. Annex 5 should read as follows:

Possibly Extinct

A species is considered to be 'possibly extinct' when: ~~exhaustive surveys in known or suspected habitat, and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historical range have failed to record an individual. Before a species can be declared possibly extinct, surveys should take place over a time-frame appropriate to the species' life cycle and life form. it complies with the following~~

definition, which reads: "A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A taxon is presumed Extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form."

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), of Asia (Indonesia and Japan), of Europe (Hungary and Norway), and of North America (United States of America), by New Zealand and by Durham University and Humane Society International.

24. Periodic review of the Appendices SC66 Doc. 24

The document was introduced by the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Alternate Representative of Asia of the Plants Committee (Kuwait) on behalf of the Chair of the Plants Committee, highlighting the activities that the Committees undertook since CoP16 concerning species of fauna and flora selected for the periodic review, and presenting a draft revision of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16) on *Periodic review of species in Appendix I and II*. The Chair of the Animals Committee informed that Decision 16.124 (Periodic review of *Cuora galbinifrons* and *Mauremys annamensis*) had been completed, and that the implementation of Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP16) on *Review of the Appendices: Felidae* had been completed but for one species, lion (*Panthera leo*).

Kenya and Namibia, who had agreed to undertake the review of the lion, expressed their interest in completing this review in collaboration with the Animals Committee, with IUCN providing summary information of its recent Red List assessment of the species, and emphasising the importance of implementing regional and national lion conservation strategies.

The Standing Committee noted the progress of the Scientific Committees regarding the periodic review of species and further noted the outcomes of the Scientific Committee's review of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16) on *Periodic review of species included in Appendices I and II*, which will be submitted by the Animals and Plants Committees to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America), by Kenya, Malaysia and Namibia and by IUCN.

25. Annotations: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 25

The United States of America, as chair of the Working Group on Annotations, introduced document SC66 Doc. 25, requesting the Committee to determine whether definitions of terms in annotations should be permanently located in the Interpretation section of the Appendices or to include them in existing Resolutions or finally to include them in a single new Resolution.

There was general support for the suggestion that the definitions should be located in the Interpretation Section of the Appendices. One speaker stressed the need to keep exactly the same terms used in the definitions established in the different relevant Resolutions. One also pointed out the need to clarify the legal force of the definitions being located in that section, since the Appendices are a legally part of the Convention.

The Standing Committee noted the wide support among Parties present for the inclusion of the definitions of annotations in the interpretation section of the Appendices.

The Standing Committee endorsed the proposed amendments to Resolutions Conf. 5.20 (Rev. CoP16) on *Guidelines for the Secretariat when making recommendations in accordance with Article XV*, Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* and Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP16) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III* located in Annexes 1 through 3 and requested the Secretariat to submit a document at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties proposing that the Parties adopt the amendments.

The Standing Committee agreed to reconvene the Working group on annotations as an in-session working group with the mandate to address unresolved issues in Annex 4 and other outstanding issues.

When reporting back to the Standing Committee, the Working group sought the Committee's confirmation that definitions of terms in annotations are not part of a substantive annotation and are included in the Interpretation section of the Appendices for reference and ease of location. Additionally, the Working group

asserted that the development and amendment of such definitions follows the processes previously agreed by the Parties and laid out in Resolutions Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16), 9.25 (Rev. CoP16), and 11.21 (Rev. CoP16). On the basis of language suggested by Canada, the Working group also revised one of the operative paragraphs in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP16) to make it clearer under what circumstances a Party might consider not using an annotation for a plant species included in Appendix II or Appendix III, or an animal species included in Appendix III.

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 12 as follows:

The Standing Committee agreed that definitions of terms in annotations should be permanently located in the Interpretation section of the Appendices. Definitions of terms in annotations are not part of a substantive annotation and are included in the Interpretation section of the Appendices for reference and ease of location. The development and amendment of such definitions follows the processes previously agreed by the Parties and laid out in Resolutions Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16), 9.25 (Rev. CoP16), and 11.21 (Rev. CoP16).

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a document proposing the amendments below to Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II* for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

USE OF ANNOTATIONS IN THE APPENDICES I AND II

RECOGNIZING that annotations are increasingly used in the Appendices for a number of purposes;

AWARE that certain types of annotations are for reference only, whereas others are substantive and are intended to define the scope of the inclusion of a species;

CONSIDERING that the Parties have developed specific procedures for transfer, reporting and review for certain special cases of amendment of the Appendices, such as those relating to ranching, quotas, certain parts and derivatives, and trade regimes;

AWARE also that certain types of annotations are an integral part of a species listing, and that any proposal to introduce, amend or delete such an annotation must follow the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16), adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994) and amended at its 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th meetings (Santiago, 2002; Bangkok, 2004; The Hague, 2007; Doha, 2010; Bangkok, 2013);

RECALLING that an annotated listing of an animal or plant species in any of the three Appendices always includes the whole live or dead animal or plant, and any specimen included by an annotation;

RECALLING further that the Conference of the Parties had agreed at its second and fourth meetings that a listings of a plant species in Appendix II or Appendix III, and an animal species in Appendix III, without an annotation should be interpreted as including the whole live or dead animal or plant and all readily recognizable parts and derivatives, and that this view has not been changed by any subsequent decision of the Conference of the Parties;

CONSCIOUS that criteria for the submission of proposals to amend the Appendices that include annotations, and procedures for reviewing the implementation of such annotations, need to be clearly defined to avoid implementation and enforcement problems;

RECOGNIZING that the Parties have adopted a number of definitions of terms and expressions in annotations, and that those definitions are included in several resolutions;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

AGREES that:

- a) *the following are reference annotations and are for information purposes only:*
 - i) *annotations to indicate that one or more geographically separate populations, subspecies or species of the annotated taxon are in another Appendix;*

- ii) the annotations 'possibly extinct'; and
 - iii) annotations relating to nomenclature;
- b) the following are substantive annotations, and are integral parts of species listings:
- i) annotations that specify the inclusion or exclusion of designated geographically separate populations, subspecies, species, groups of species, or higher taxa, which may include export quotas; and
 - ii) annotations that specify the types of specimens or export quotas;
- c) reference annotations may be introduced, amended or deleted by the Conference of the Parties, or by the Secretariat, as required, to facilitate the understanding of the Appendices;
- d) substantive annotations relating to species in Appendix I or II may be introduced, amended or deleted only by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Article XV of the Convention;
- e) substantive annotations relating to species in Appendix III may be introduced, amended or deleted only by the Party or Parties that submitted the species for inclusion in Appendix III;
- ef) substantive annotations relating to geographically separate populations in Appendix I or II should be in compliance with the split-listing provisions contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) Annex 3; and
- fg) substantive annotations used in the context of transferring a species from Appendix I to Appendix II should be in compliance with the precautionary measures contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) Annex 4;

AGREES that no proposal for transfer of a species from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to an annotation relating to specified types of specimens shall be considered from a Party that has entered a reservation for the species in question, unless that Party has agreed to remove the reservation within 90 days of the adoption of the amendment;

AGREES that a proposal to include a plant species in Appendix II, or to transfer a plant species from Appendix I to Appendix II, shall be interpreted to include all readily recognizable parts and derivatives if the proposal does not include an annotation specifying the types of specimens to be included;

AGREES further that, for a plant species included in Appendix II or Appendix III, and an animal species included in Appendix III, the absence of an annotation relating to that species shall indicate that all readily recognizable parts and derivatives are included;

ENCOURAGES Parties, when considering proposing the inclusion of a species in the Appendices with a substantive annotation, to take into account the following:

- a) an inclusionary annotation, which specifies the types of specimens to be included under the listing, should be used in cases where only a few types of specimens need to be included under the listing;
- b) an exclusionary annotation, which specifies the types of specimens to be excluded from the listing, should be used where only a few types of specimens need to be excluded from the listing;
- c) an annotation that is a combination of inclusionary and exclusionary language, which specifies the types of specimens to be excluded from the listing, but also references a subset of those types of specimens that are excepted from the exclusion; or which specifies the types of specimens to be included in the listing, but also references a subset of those types of specimens to be excluded; should be used as circumstances dictate; and
- d) an annotation may not be necessary in cases where there is a risk to wild populations of the species from many types of specimens in trade or where the types of specimens in trade are easily transformed, likely to change frequently, or likely to change over time;

RECOMMENDS ~~that~~ the following guidance and principles for annotations:

- a) *Parties submitting proposals that contain substantive annotations:*
 - i) *ensure that the text is clear and unambiguous;*
 - ii) *consider the conservation impact of excluding certain specimens from CITES provisions; and*
 - iii) *consider the enforceability of the annotations;*
- b) *two main principles be followed as standard guidance when drafting future annotations for medicinal plants:*
 - i) *controls should concentrate on those commodities that first appear in international trade as exports from range States; these may range from crude to processed material; and*
 - ii) *controls should include only those commodities that dominate the trade and the demand for the wild resource;*
- c) *if a proposed annotation relates to specified types of specimens, the applicable provisions of the Convention for import, export and re-export of each type of specimen should be specified;*
- d) *as a general rule, Parties avoid making proposals to adopt annotations that include live animals or trophies; and*
- e) *annotations that specify the types of specimens included in the Appendices should be used sparingly, as their implementation is particularly challenging, especially where there are identification problems or where the purpose of trade has been specified; and*

URGES that Parties submitting proposals that contain substantive annotations consult with the Secretariat, the Standing Committee, and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee, to ensure that the annotation is appropriate and can be readily implemented.

DIRECTS:

- a) *the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, to agree on interim definitions between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in cases where significant differences in the interpretation of terms in annotations exist among trading countries and are causing implementation difficulties, and then include these definitions in its report to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;*
- b) *the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties on any the interim definitions of terms in annotations agreed by the Standing Committee;*
- c) *the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee, for at least four years following the adoption of a proposal to transfer species from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to a substantive annotation, any credible information it receives indicating a significant increase in the illegal trade in or poaching of such species; and*
- d) *the Standing Committee to investigate any such reports of illegal trade and to take appropriate action to remedy the situation, which may include calling on the Parties to suspend commercial trade in the affected species, or inviting the Depositary Government to submit a proposal to amend the annotation or to retransfer the species to Appendix I; and*

AGREES that, for species transferred from Appendix I to II with an annotation specifying that only certain types of specimens are subject to the provisions relating to species in Appendix II, specimens that are not specifically included in the annotation shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly; and

RECOMMENDS that the definitions of terms and expressions used in annotations in the Appendices be applied by the Parties.

The Standing Committee requested the working group to continue its discussions concerning paragraph f) under RECOMMENDS in the operative text² and the outstanding issues raised in document SC66 Doc. 25 regarding Annotation #3, Annotation #14, Annotation #11, and Annotation #12, and submit a document for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt and Niger), of Asia (Kuwait), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia and Guatemala), Europe (Portugal) and of North America (United States of America), by Canada and by Humane Society International.

26. National laws for implementation of the Convention

26.1 Report of the Secretariat and decisions to be taken

by the Standing Committee SC66 Doc. 26.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 26.1, referred to information document SC66 Inf.19, and provided an oral update on Parties' legislative progress. As a general remark, it was noted that Parties are not moving fast enough in the adoption of the appropriate measures and that there is a need to increase efforts to ensure that CoP Decisions and Committee recommendations are fully implemented before CoP17.

With regard to the 17 priority countries identified in paragraphs 13 and 15 of document SC66 Doc. 26.1, Algeria, Comoros, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania had provided updated information on their legislative progress, including appropriate legislative timetables. With regard to the other five countries identified in those paragraphs (Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Somalia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), no response had yet been received and the Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to the Recommendation in paragraph 27, that the Committee consider appropriate measures, including a recommendation to suspend trade and a warning, noting that two Parties are already subject to a trade suspension (Djibouti and Somalia).

Members of the Committee expressed support for the Secretariat's work under the National Legislation Project and its recommendations in paragraphs 27 to 31, stressing the need for firm deadlines. Another member of the Committee regretted the lack of sufficient progress and supported the idea of a legal round table to discuss a possible revision of Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15). A representative also pointed out that inadequate legislation undermined the Convention's effectiveness.

Several Parties described their efforts to enact legislation, or to assist other countries to do so. Algeria and the Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed their commitment to enact legislation and Kenya explained that it is making progress to enact implementing legislation. Niger requested how concerned countries could be better assisted by an expert group to develop appropriate measures. The Secretariat explained that the countries have very capable local legal experts that are knowledgeable of their legal systems and political context and that speak their language. Those experts are better suited to assist in the drafting of CITES-related legislation.

The Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species from those Parties that required attention as a priority and have failed to adopt appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention or agree an appropriate legislative timetable as required under Decision 16.33. Parties affected by this compliance measure are: Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. This recommendation takes effect 60 days after the conclusion of SC66.

The Standing Committee agreed to issue a warning to other Parties that required attention as a priority that are making progress, but have not yet adopted the appropriate measures, advising these Parties that they are in non-compliance and reminding them of the need to accelerate their efforts to enact adequate legislation by SC67. Parties affected by this compliance message are: Belize, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Pakistan and Paraguay.

² f) Unless specified otherwise in the annotation, when an annotation specifies the types of specimens included in the Appendices, CITES controls also apply to these types of specimens when they appear in trade as finished products packaged and ready for retail trade;

The Standing Committee agreed to send a public notification through the Secretariat to all Parties advising that this matter has been brought to the attention of all Parties whose legislation is in Category 2 or 3 under the National Legislation Project and which have been party to the Convention for more than five years as of March 2013 and that, up to the present meeting, there has been no satisfactory response or action.

The Standing Committee agreed to postpone the review of the legislative progress of all other Parties and dependent territories concerned by Decision 16.33 that have not adopted appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention to its 67th meeting.

Subject to the availability of external funding, the Standing Committee invited the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant institutions, to organize a Legal Round Table Discussion to discuss:

- a) a possible revision of Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) and new CoP17 NLP decisions;
- b) explore efficient approaches to further assist Parties in strengthening their national legal frameworks for the effective implementation of CITES and combating illegal wildlife trade; and
- c) identify ways to raise awareness and provide support to the judiciary in a timely manner.

Outcomes of this discussion will be reflected in the report of the Secretariat to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

The Standing Committee invited Parties and donors organizations to second staff to the CITES Secretariat to support the implementation of the National Legislation Project. The Standing Committee encouraged them to direct any technical or financial assistance they might be able to provide to Parties that have an identified or possible need for drafting assistance, and that a preference be given to enabling the relevant CITES Management Authority to contract a local legal expert for such work.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt and Niger), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), of Europe (Hungary, Norway and Ukraine), of North America (United States of America), of the Previous Host Country (Thailand) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), and by Algeria, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Kenya, and by TRAFFIC, Born Free Foundation, the Species Survival Network (SSN), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

27. Exports and imports of CITES specimens subject to national decisions SC66 Doc. 27

The United States introduced document SC66 Doc.27, suggesting an amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) concerning permits and certificates issued under court orders for all CITES-listed species, and recommending that the Committee request the Depositary Government to present it to CoP17.

Standing Committee members supported the proposal, noting that the Standing Committee, rather than the Depositary Government, should present the amendment.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the following new section to be added to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) as follows:

XVI. Regarding permits and certificates issued under court orders

RECOMMENDS that:

- i) Exporting Parties should not proceed with any export of specimens of any CITES-listed species without evidence of legal origin of specimens of the species, and for species listed in Appendix I or II, without evidence of a non-detriment finding.
- ii) Upon receiving credible information or intelligence, importing countries should reject shipments of specimens of species accompanied by export permits issued under court order without the

required CITES findings. The importing Party should contact the exporting Party to seek confirmation that a non-detriment finding by the Scientific Authority and a legal acquisition finding by the Management Authority were made.

iii) Upon receiving credible information or intelligence, the Secretariat should contact the importing and exporting Parties involved in the potential trade of specimens accompanied by court ordered permits and inform them of the relevant provisions of the Convention.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Norway and Portugal), of North America (United States of America) and of the Depositary Government (Switzerland).

28. Application of Article XIII..... SC66 Doc. 28

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 28, outlining the findings of its mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in November 2015 and expressing its appreciation to the Government of DRC for the support provided during the visit. The Secretariat recognized progress made in certain areas and grouped main concerns in five areas:

- a) quota management and issuance of export permits;
- b) management of exports of *Psittacus erithacus*;
- c) illegal trade;
- d) challenges in CITES implementation in areas affected by conflict (*Prunus africana*); and
- e) trade in *Pericopsis elata*.

The DRC provided further information concerning the measures they have taken and stated that it has taken note of the weaknesses identified in the report and the finding of the Secretariat's mission. They announced to the Committee a moratorium on the export of *Psittacus erithacus* to allow the country to present a management plan for the species by the end of the year. They also requested a special transitory provision to authorize trade in 2016 of the 1,600 specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* already collected and ready for export. Regarding exports of *Pericopsis elata*, DRC requested an extension to trade the stockpiles harvested in 2014 and 2015 until 31 October 2016.

Members of the Committee welcomed the report of the Secretariat and expressed support for the recommendations, but suggested that the situation of the exports of *Pericopsis elata* be discussed under agenda item 43. A regional representative congratulated DRC for its efforts and stressed that range States cannot resolve the problems alone and need support. Some representatives also expressed concerns about the authorization to trade 1,600 specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* and one requested that trade not be authorized unless the CITES documents issued by DRC are authenticated by the Secretariat.

A member of the Committee recommended to revise paragraph c), under 'Regarding application of Article XIII' of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) to include an expeditious consultation process with the Chair of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee recommended that:

Regarding quota management and issuance of export permits

- a) Subject to the availability of external funds, the DRC establish an efficient information system to:
 - i) verify the legal origin of specimens in trade;
 - ii) control and monitor quotas to ensure they are not exceeded;
 - iii) issue CITES electronic permits and annual reports;

- iv) ensure that export permits and re-export certificates be endorsed, with quantity, signature and stamp, by an inspecting official, such as customs, in the export endorsement block of the document; and
 - v) prepare annual reports that contain information on trade that have effectively occurred.
- b) DRC amend CITES implementing legislation to prevent specimens that have been obtained in contravention of national law to be legalized. Notably, the options provided in Articles 27 and 29 of the 'Arrêté ministériel No. 056 CAB/AFF-ECNPF/01/00 of 28 March 2000' that legalize the practice of modifying and renewing the CITES permits should be abolished.
 - c) DRC be strongly encouraged to only issue export permits shortly before the time of intended export.
 - d) Export permits and re-export certificates only be endorsed, with quantity, signature and stamp, by an inspecting official, such as customs, in the export endorsement block of the document.
 - e) Notifications to the Parties No. 2013/051 and No. 2014/017 be considered as no longer valid.

Regarding management of exports of Psittacus erithacus

- a) All Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *Psittacus erithacus* from the Democratic Republic of Congo forthwith, except for an export in 2016 of 1,600 specimens already collected and ready for export, but subject to confirmation of authenticity of export permits by the Secretariat, until it:
 - i) develops a scientifically-based field survey to establish the population status of the species in the country;
 - ii) develops a National Management Plan for the species and commences implementation of the Plan; and
 - iii) provides a copy of the survey and Management Plan to the Secretariat.
- b) A quota be established by DRC, in consultation with the CITES Secretariat, provided the steps referred to above are first completed.

Regarding illegal trade:

- a) DRC provide information to the Secretariat on any theft of CITES permits, certificates or security stamps, and, in doing so, provide full details of the permits certificates or stamps stolen.
- b) DRC be encouraged to provide to the Secretariat the results of any investigations conducted by the competent national authorities to determine the origin of the fraudulent documents, the identities of individuals involved in detected smuggling, and the results of any legal proceedings against those people.

Regarding collaboration amongst national CITES authorities

- a) DRC be encouraged to establish a national CITES committee to strengthen collaboration between Management and Scientific Authorities as well as with customs and other enforcement authorities in DRC in managing and regulating the trade in CITES specimens and in controlling and investigating information regarding illegal trade.
- b) The Government of DRC be encouraged to consider relocating the CITES Management Authority to more secure premises.

The Secretariat is encouraged to conduct a technical mission to the Lao People's Democratic Republic under Article XIII to determine whether the provisions of the Convention are not being effectively implemented.

Subject to available resources, the Secretariat is encouraged to provide technical assistance to address compliance matters in both DRC and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in order to assist both countries come into compliance with CITES requirements. In doing so, the Secretariat is encouraged to reach out to UN and other entities to provide such assistance. Donors are encouraged to provide financial assistance for the mission to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, for capacity-building and technical support.

The Secretariat is encouraged to continue to monitor progress made by DRC and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in implementing the Convention and their national legislation, and any recommendations adopted at the present meeting, and to report at its 67th meeting.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit a revision to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Compliance and enforcement* in the section "Regarding of application of Article XIII" as follows:

- c) if major compliance matters concerning particular Parties are brought to the attention of the Secretariat, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee and as expeditiously as possible, work with the Parties concerned to try to solve the matter and offer advice or technical assistance as required.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger), of Europe (Portugal), of North America (United States of America), and the Next Host Country (South Africa) and by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

29. National Ivory Action Plans process..... SC66 Doc. 29 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 29 (Rev. 1) and provided an update on the implementation of national ivory action plans (NIAPs) in eight Parties of 'primary concern' (China – including Hong Kong SAR, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam) eight Parties of 'secondary concern' (Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Nigeria) and three Parties of 'importance to watch' (Angola, Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic).

The Secretariat noted that the administration of the NIAPs process had involved significant human resources and that the ongoing coordination of NIAPs by the Secretariat in accordance with any recommendations or decisions adopted at the present meeting, the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC67) or CoP17, will only be possible if additional capacity is available, and hence will be subject to the provision of further external resources as required.

The members of the Standing Committee and observer Parties expressed the view that NIAPS played a key role in identifying important measures to be taken at national level to tackle elephant poaching and ivory trafficking, commended the efforts taken by Parties implementing NIAPs and acknowledged the achievements that had been made. A number of speakers thanked the Secretariat for its work and for the support that was provided by the Secretariat's consultants. The need to enhance efforts and maintain the momentum underway to combat elephant poaching and ivory trafficking was also emphasized. Some Parties implementing NIAPs provided an update on the activities that had been delivered and expressed their need for additional resources and on-ground implementation support. Three of the Parties that were assessed as having 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs highlighted their ongoing commitment to continue their national efforts to combat illegal ivory trade.

Speakers expressed support for the recommendation made by the Secretariat to use the updated ETIS and MIKE data that will be prepared for CoP17 to identify whether Parties that have 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs remain of 'primary concern, with one Party requesting that the Secretariat make available the criteria used in the ETIS analysis to categorize the countries that are implicated in illegal ivory trade.

The Standing Committee agreed that it would consider later in the week the amendments proposed by the European Union to the recommendations of the Secretariat in paragraph 49 of document SC66 Doc. 29 (Rev. 1) once they have been circulated as an in-session document.

This being done, the Standing Committee adopted a revised version of document SC66 Com. 1 as follows:

- a) The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 29 (Rev. 1) and its Annexes, and considered the reports submitted by Parties and the evaluation and recommendations of the Secretariat.
- b) Considering the Secretariat's evaluation of progress reports submitted by Parties of 'primary concern' (as provided in Annex 1), the Standing Committee agreed that China (including Hong Kong SAR), Kenya, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam have 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs.
- c) The Standing Committee commended China (including Hong Kong SAR), Kenya, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam for substantially achieving their NIAPs, and encouraged these Parties to complete the implementation of any NIAP actions that have not yet been 'substantially achieved'; encouraged these Parties to report on any further measures taken to implement their NIAPs and, if appropriate, any other initiatives or policy developments to combat elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016, so that the Secretariat can make the reports available to the Standing Committee at SC67.
- d) The Standing Committee noted that comprehensive MIKE and ETIS data is not yet available to determine whether Parties that have 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs remain of 'primary concern', and further noted that such information will be available at CoP17.
- e) The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to identify Parties of 'primary concern', 'secondary concern' and 'importance to watch', based on an analysis of the MIKE and ETIS reports that will be prepared for CoP17, and to make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.
- f) The Standing Committee noted that the in-session report of the MIKE and ETIS subgroup (SC66 Com. 9) states that it may be too soon at CoP17 to identify the impact of NIAP implementation in the ETIS categorization of Parties of 'primary concern', 'secondary concern' and 'importance to watch' as the MIKE and ETIS reports prepared for CoP17 will be based on bias-adjusted seizure data for 2012-2014, and requested the Secretariat to make a recommendation to CoP17 to identify those Parties that have 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs by CoP17 as Parties 'with commendable progress'.
- g) Noting that Nigeria, as a Party of 'secondary concern', and Angola and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as Parties of 'importance to watch', did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation that allowed for their progress to be reflected in document SC66 Doc. 29 (Rev. 1) prepared by the Secretariat for the present meeting, the Standing Committee recommended that Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Nigeria, Angola and the Lao People's Democratic Republic until such time as these Parties submit a progress report on NIAP implementation confirming that some progress has been made towards NIAP actions.
- h) The Standing Committee requested Malaysia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, as Parties of 'primary concern', Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Nigeria, as Parties of 'secondary concern', and Angola, Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as Parties of 'importance to watch', to:
 - i) Enhance efforts to progress the implementation of NIAP actions, and continue the implementation of their NIAPs between SC66 and SC67;
 - ii) Report on the further measures taken to implement their NIAPs to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016 in a format provided by the Secretariat, so that the Secretariat can make the reports available to the Standing Committee at SC67 and convey any recommendations it may have. In that respect, particularly encourage:
 - A) Mozambique to provide information on further measures taken to progress actions rated as 'challenging' or 'unclear' in Annex 1 of document SC66 Doc. 29 (Rev. 1), including a clear timeframe for the completion of these actions;
 - B) United Republic of Tanzania to provide further information on any prosecutions of offenders involved in the poaching of elephants and/or ivory trafficking, any forensic samples collected from ivory seizures, and on the amendment of legislation including CITES regulations for Zanzibar.

- i) The Standing Committee agreed to consider the progress reports submitted in accordance with recommendation h) ii), and any recommendations of the Secretariat, and decide at SC67 whether the 14 Parties outlined in SC66 Doc. 29 (Rev. 1) – p. 10 recommendation h) have ‘substantially achieved’ their NIAPs, have made progress but not yet ‘substantially achieved’ their NIAPs, or have made insufficient progress and require compliance measures.
- j) The Standing Committee noted that the Secretariat will advise on any future development and implementation of NIAPs, including any recommended procedural improvements and simplifications as appropriate, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt, Niger and Uganda), of Asia (Indonesia and Japan), of Europe (Hungary and Norway), of North America (United States of America), of the Depositary Government (Switzerland) and of the Previous Host Country (Thailand), by China, Congo, the European Union, Kenya, Malaysia, Viet Nam and the United Arab Emirates, and by the Centre for Conservation Biology and TRAFFIC.

30. National reports

30.1 Submission of national reports SC66 Doc. 30.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc.30.1 and gave an oral update on those Parties identified in paragraph 7 as having failed, without providing any justification, to provide annual reports for the period 2011-2014. It advised the Committee that annual reports had been submitted by 19 of the 33 Parties listed in that paragraph.

The Secretariat recommended to follow the Committee’s usual practice of giving the concerned Parties 60 days from the present meeting to submit their missing reports. After that date, should the Committee agree, the Secretariat would issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties until the missing reports were provided.

The Secretariat reported orally on the implementation of Decision 16.46, noting that the final implementation of that Decision depended on the conclusion of the work of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements. The Secretariat noted further that it had been unable to prepare revised *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*. As a way forward, it proposed to circulate to those Parties that provided comments as an answer to Notification to the Parties No. 2015/058 of 2 November 2015 a document reconciling all the comments received.

The Standing Committee agreed that Bhutan, the Central African Republic, Congo, Grenada, Guinea, Mali, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Panama, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years, without having provided adequate justification. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties until they have provided the missing reports.

The Standing Committee urged Albania, Armenia, Belize, Benin, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Brunei Darussalam, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gambia, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mauritius, Monaco, Nigeria, Oman, Saint Lucia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda and Ukraine to submit their missing annual reports for the years 2013 and 2014.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to circulate the revised *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* to Parties that provided comments and to present these guidelines for adoption by the Standing Committee at its 67th meeting.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary, Portugal and Norway) and of North America (United States of America).

30.2 Special reporting requirements: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 30.2

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as Chair of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements, introduced document SC66 Doc. 30.2 and its nine annexes. Noting that the document is the result of an open and inclusive process, the Chair requested the establishment of an

in-session working group to review the recommendations related to the adoption of an annual illegal trade report and the draft species-specific reporting template and guidelines.

The Standing Committee agreed to reconvene the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements as an in-session working group with the membership listed in paragraph 3 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2 and asked the working group to take into account the comments made on that document during the plenary session. The Standing Committee agreed to the participation of New Zealand to the in-session working group in lieu of Australia.

At a later session, the United Kingdom reported back to the plenary on the in-session work of the working group. He noted that there was a clear agreement among the Parties present at the working group meeting that making either the implementation report, or the illegal trade report subject to compliance measures would be problematic. It was however noted that the Parties should be encouraged to respond to the illegal trade report, which it is anticipated will contribute valuable information to the understanding of trends in illegal trade. It was also noted that experience in implementing the illegal trade report may lead to a need to review the format in due course, and the question of compliance may be worth returning to in light of experience in implementing the proposed report. In particular, it would be useful if the Secretariat could provide an overview of the number of Parties providing illegal trade information, and justifications provided for not responding to the data request.

A Standing Committee member requested that the annual illegal trade report template should make clear that some data fields are not compulsory. Parties would then have to explain why some data were not completed.

The Standing Committee requested governing and advisory bodies of the Convention to carefully consider the mandate of any working group as they are established, to ensure that these mandates are clear and explicit about what is agreed, as this will help to frame the requests for information that such working groups can make.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting:

Decision 17.xx: DIRECTS the Secretariat to maintain a list of reporting requirements and continue to make the information available on the CITES website in a timely and easily accessible manner.

The Standing Committee adopted the draft implementation report in Annex 1 to document SC66 Doc. 30.2 and agreed that the new implementation report should not be subject to compliance procedures.

The Standing Committee noted the revisions to the indicators proposed to measure progress with the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008–2020 which are used in the implementation report and listed in Annex 2 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2.

The Standing Committee noted the mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008–2020 objectives and the Aichi Targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020 provided in Annex 3 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of external funds, to prepare a version of the implementation report which can be made available using the CITES Online Reporting System, and requested the Secretariat make that available for use by Parties at least a year in advance of the deadline set for submission of reports to the 18th Conference of the Parties.

The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat, subject to the availability of external funds, to work (with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, or others as necessary) to improve the CITES Online Reporting System as suggested in Annex 4 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2 and to improve knowledge about the use and administration of the system amongst Secretariat staff.

The Standing Committee invited CITES Parties to use the CITES Online Reporting System for the new implementation report, species based reports and other reports or questionnaires, in order to facilitate data storage and increase data accessibility and use.

The Standing Committee noted that the opportunity for Parties to submit their reports or responses to notifications or questionnaires offline should be maintained for the foreseeable future to ensure that Parties with poor internet connectivity are not disadvantaged.

The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat, subject to the availability of external funds, to make summary analyses of reports available to Parties.

The Standing Committee adopted a new annual illegal trade report, based on the proposal in Annex 5 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2. In doing so, the format of a new illegal trade report should, as far as possible, use terms consistent with those used in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* to ensure ease of completion and use by Parties. The Standing Committee agreed that the new annual illegal trade report should be mandatory, but not subject to compliance procedures.

The Standing Committee noted that some of the information in the illegal trade report format in Annex 5 might not be available from some Parties and requested that the guidance to Parties should indicate this. If Parties are unable to provide certain data, they should provide a rationale.

The Standing Committee agreed that reporting on illegal trade in great apes should be part of the annual illegal trade report.

The Standing Committee commended the efforts of International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), and in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to analyse seizure data and invited ICWC to consider issues of data storage and access.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting:

Decision 17.xx: DIRECTS the Secretariat, in advance of the 18th Conference of the Parties, and subject to the availability of external funds, to prepare an analysis, including, if possible, a regional breakdown, of progress towards the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 based upon the reports of Parties under Article VIII paragraph 7 (a) and (b), and other information as appropriate.

The Standing Committee adopted the guidance in Annex 7 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2, and requested the Secretariat to make sure that the Chairs of the Standing Committee, Plants Committee and Animals Committee are provided with a copy of the guidance by email, and that the guidance be made more widely available via a Notification to Parties.

The Standing Committee adopted the draft template in Annex 8 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2 as a starting point for a species-specific reporting template, and requested that the Secretariat make it available to working groups as needed.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to help working groups to use the guidance and report template in Annexes 7 and 8 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2, rather than creating a specific overview group.

The Standing Committee agreed to include three further points for the draft guidance in Annex 7 of document SC66 Doc. 30.2:

- i) Testing draft questionnaires with a small number of Parties, preferably from different regions, may help to make sure that questions are clear and that the questions will elicit the information desired.
- ii) In using the draft format, working groups should critically review if all of the questions are needed, and if any are not needed they should be removed for a particular questionnaire. If information beyond the proposed format is to be requested, this should be kept to the minimum necessary to implement a working group's mandate – the temptation to request information that would be 'nice to have', or 'interesting' should be resisted.
- iii) Provision of a draft completed report or 'model answers' might help Parties to be clear about the sort of information that is sought through specific questions.

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

30.3 Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants and harmonization of reporting..... SC66 Doc. 30.3

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc.30.3, outlining the recommendation adopted at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC22, Tbilisi, October, 2015) for Parties to continue to report trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants at the species level consistent with the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, when possible, taking into account data entry capacity. The Committee was also invited to report on its findings at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and submit draft wording to amend Resolutions concerned, where appropriate.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 30.3.

The Standing Committee recommended that Parties continue to report trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants at the species level consistent with *the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* when possible, taking into account data entry capacity and in consideration of conservation priorities such as the value in species level reporting for new species in trade.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to incorporate the above recommendation into the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*.

The Standing Committee agreed to report on these findings at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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

31. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

31.1 Implementation of recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees SC66 Doc. 31.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 31.1, drawing attention to its recommendations in paragraphs 14 to 19, but regretting the overall low rate of responses or information from range States concerning their implementation of recommendations of the Animals Committee. Two range States, Thailand (for *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus*) and Togo (for *Kinixys homeana* and *Chamaeleo gracilis*), had submitted information late, just before the start of SC66.

During ensuing discussions, Cameroon, Malaysia, Mozambique, Thailand and Viet Nam, all range States mentioned in the document, provided additional information on their actions to implement species-specific recommendations. Other interventions expressed general support for the recommendation of the Secretariat. The Secretariat also indicated that additional measures concerning Cameroon and trade in *Hippopotamus amphibius* would be required, with IUCN providing updated information on the status of the species in the country. Mozambique informed that similar to Cameroon, it was undertaking research on hippopotamus management in the country in response to significant trade recommendations, and that it would share the results with the Secretariat and the Standing Committee when concluded.

Regarding Cameroon/*Hippopotamus amphibius*, the Standing Committee endorsed a quota of 10 trophies for 2016 and agreed to reconsider this matter at its 67th meeting.

Regarding Tajikistan/*Testudo horsfieldii*, the Standing Committee agreed that no further action is required on this case.

Regarding Thailand/*Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus*, the Standing Committee agreed to reconsider this matter at its 67th meeting.

Regarding Solomon Islands/*Tridacna derasa*, *T. crocea*, *T. gigas*, *T. maxima*, and *T. squamosal*, the Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend trade in specimens of *Tridacna derasa*, *T. crocea*, *T. gigas*, *T. maxima*, and *T. squamosa* from Solomon Islands until that country demonstrates compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, for these species, and provides full information to the Secretariat regarding compliance with the recommendations of the Animals Committee.

The Standing Committee agreed to the proposed actions in each case as outlined in Annex 1 of document SC66 Doc. 31.1, with the exception of Togo/*Kinixys homeana* and Togo/*Chamaeleo gracilis* that will be reconsidered by the Standing Committee at its 67th meeting.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report back at its 67th meeting on the potential illegal trade of *Macaca fascicularis* in Cambodia and Viet Nam.

The Standing Committee noted the information on flora presented in paragraph 13 of document SC66 Doc. 31.1.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America) and Oceania (Australia), the Previous Host Country (Thailand), by Cameroon, Canada, Israel, Malaysia, Mozambique and Viet Nam, and by IUCN, Humane Society International and WCS.

31.2 Review of Standing Committee recommendations to suspend trade made more than two years ago SC66 Doc. 31.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 31.2. UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) outlined the content and main findings of its study in Annexes 1 and 2. New information had come to light regarding two species of tortoises in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, leading to a modification of UNEP-WCMC's recommendation for these two species, for which it now proposed to maintain the existing trade suspensions.

Several interventions were made in support of the species/range States specific recommendations in document SC66 Doc. 31.2, with the exception of two *Phelsuma* species from Madagascar for which it was argued to maintain the existing trade suspensions. Furthermore, the Russian Federation confirmed that for 2015 and 2016, a zero catch quota was in place for *Huso huso* in the Caspian Sea which was likely to be extended for longer periods, and that since 2015, the Russian Federation had adopted heavier penalties for the illegal catch of sturgeons.

Several Parties pointed to the need to provide technical and financial support to range States affected by trade suspensions to assist them in taking remedial actions that would allow the lifting of the suspensions.

The Standing Committee noted the information contained in UNEP-WCMC's report.

The Standing Committee agreed to all the recommendations in Annex 1, with the exception of *Phelsuma standingi* and *Phelsuma breviceps* for Madagascar and *Cuora galbinifrons* and *Heosemys annandalii* for the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Standing Committee requested Madagascar to communicate to the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website its zero export quota for all relevant species included in Table 1 of Annex 1 of document SC66 Doc. 31.2.

The Standing Committee encouraged the Solomon Islands to request technical assistance from the Secretariat to help them implement the recommendations for relevant species in Table 2 of Annex 1 of document SC66 Doc. 31.2.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America), by Canada, Madagascar, the Russian Federation, and by UNEP-WCMC, Humane Society International and WWF.

31.3 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees SC66 Doc. 31.3

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC66 Doc. 31.3.

There was support for the amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) as proposed in the document, as well as for the accompanying draft Decisions.

The Standing Committee noted the report of the Animals and Plants Committee and the proposed modifications to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* (in Annex 3 of document SC66 Doc. 31.3) as well as the four Decisions (in Annex 5 of document SC66 Doc. 31.3) which will be transmitted for adoption to the Conference of the Parties in fulfilment of Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP1) and the associated terms of reference for an evaluation of the review of significant trade.

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

32. Enforcement matters

32.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 32.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 32.1 on enforcement matters. The document highlighted a number of activities and developments on enforcement matters that took place since SC65, including that the Secretariat strengthened its cooperation with the transport industry to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife, the importance of increased use of tools and services available to the enforcement community such as INTERPOL Notices, secure information exchange mechanisms such as ENVIRONET, and Wildlife Incident Support Teams (WISTs).

Parties expressed appreciation for the activities that were conducted on enforcement matters and agreed that the issue of corruption is increasingly relevant and of great importance.

The United States of America requested that the Secretariat raise the issue of illegal take of and trade in marine turtles as outlined in document SC66 Inf. 7 in its report on enforcement matters that will be prepared for CoP17. One other speaker supported this request.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties, at its 17th meeting, a draft decision requesting the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), subject to external funding, to develop guidelines that could be used to promote adequate integrity policies, and assist Parties to mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain as it relates to CITES-listed specimens.

The Standing Committee encouraged all Parties to increasingly draw upon INTERPOL notices as a tool to bring those involved in illegal trafficking in wildlife to justice.

The Standing Committee requested all Parties to encourage authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement to join the ENVIRONET restricted forum.

The Standing Committee encouraged all Parties affected by significant poaching of CITES specimens, or that have made a large-scale seizure of such specimens, to reach out to the Secretariat to request the deployment of a Wildlife Incident Support Team, should expert support be needed.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to include the issue of illegal take of and trade in marine turtles in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal), of North America (United States of America), of Oceania (Australia) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa).

32.2 Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of Appendix-I, -II and -III species: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 32.2

Switzerland, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on the disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of Appendix-I, -II and -III species, introduced document SC66 Doc. 32.2.

Several speakers supported the recommendations contained in the document. One Party suggested minor editorial changes to the recommendations. IUCN noted that it is developing guidelines for disposal of confiscated species and offered to share a close-to-final draft with the working group at the end of February 2016.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the consolidated Resolution in Annex 1 of document SC66 Doc. 32.2 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting with the following amendments:

In the preamble:

ALSO RECOGNIZING that Parties have experienced problems with the disposal of ~~dead~~ specimens of Appendix-I species that have been obtained as a result of confiscation, accidental death or otherwise;

Under *Regarding the disposal of confiscated and accumulated dead specimens*

- b) *as a general rule, confiscated dead specimens, including parts and derivatives, of Appendix-II and Appendix-III species be disposed of in the best manner possible to achieve the purposes of the Convention, and steps be taken to ensure that the ~~person~~ Party responsible for the offence does not receive financial or other gain from the disposal and that such disposal does not stimulate further illegal trade*

Under *Regarding costs associated with confiscated specimens*

- b) *Where such legislation does not exist and the country of origin or last re-export wishes a confiscated live specimen to be returned, that country shall cover the cost of return or shall seek financial assistance to facilitate the return ~~and shall not automatically assume liability for the costs of confiscation, custody, storage and destruction or other disposal;~~ and*

In the last operative paragraph:

REPEALS the Resolutions, or parts thereof, listed hereunder:

- ~~a) Resolution Conf. 2.15 (San José, 1979) – Exchange of Confiscated Appendix I Specimens;~~
- ~~b) Resolution Conf. 3.9 (New Delhi, 1981) – International Compliance Control – paragraph c) ii);~~
- ~~c) Resolution Conf. 3.14 (New Delhi, 1981) – Disposal of Confiscated or Accumulated Specimens of Appendix I Species;~~
- ~~d) Resolution Conf. 4.17 (Gaborone, 1983) – Re-export of Confiscated Specimens;~~
- ~~e) Resolution Conf. 4.18 (Gaborone, 1983) – Disposal and Return of Illegally Traded Appendix II Specimens;~~
- ~~f) Resolution Conf. 5.14 (Buenos Aires, 1985) – Improving the Regulation of Trade in Plants – paragraph f); and~~
- ~~g) Resolution Conf. 7.6 (Lausanne, 1989) – Return of Live Animals of Appendix II or III Species.~~
- ~~a) Resolution Conf. 9.9 – Confiscation of specimens exported or re-exported in violation of the Convention;~~
- ~~b) Resolution Conf. 9.10 – Disposal of confiscated and accumulated specimens; and~~
- ~~c) Resolution Conf. 10.7 – Disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices.~~

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the two draft decisions directed to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee in Annex 3 of document SC66 Doc. 32.2 as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat is requested to:

- Develop a questionnaire to be distributed to Parties or gather information by other means, such as a workshop or oral interviews, which would review the use and usefulness of the annexes for Parties in disposal of confiscated live animals and plants as well as evaluate current practice;
- Conduct an analysis of available data on the disposal of confiscated live animals and plants collected through *inter alia* the biennial reports or other special reports; and
- Submit this information to SC 69 for its consideration.

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee, at its 69th meeting, should evaluate the results of the activities conducted by the Secretariat under decision 17.xx and consider revising Resolution 17.xx accordingly.

The Standing Committee invited the Conference of the Parties to decide on the continuation and mandate of the working group at its 17th meeting.

During the discussion of the agenda item interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia), of Europe (Norway and Portugal), of North America (United States of America) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by IUCN and by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

32.3 Implementation and enforcement of the Convention as it relates to the trade in species listed in Appendix I: Report of the working group..... SC66 Doc. 32.3

The United States of America, as Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional Working Group on Implementation and enforcement of the Convention as it relates to the trade in species listed in Appendix I, introduced document SC66 Doc.32.3 which was discussed in conjunction with agenda item 41.

The Standing Committee agreed that the recommendation in paragraph 12 of document SC66 Doc. 32.3 would be considered under agenda item 28 on *Application of Article XIII*.

32.4 Illegal trade in Bahamian Rock Iguanas (*Cyclura rileyi*): Report of the contact group SC66 Doc. 32.4

The United States of America, as Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional Contact Group on Illegal trade in Bahamian Rock Iguanas (*Cyclura rileyi*), introduced document SC66 Doc. 32.4 which was subsequently discussed in conjunction with agenda item 41.

The Standing Committee noted that the recommendations related to the implementation of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime in paragraphs 9b) and 9c) of document SC66 Doc. 32.4 are currently being implemented.

32.5 Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) – illegal trade: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 32.5

Kuwait, as Chair of the Working Group on cheetahs, introduced document SC66 Doc. 32.5, highlighting the intersessional work conducted by the working group, including analysis of information submitted by Parties through a questionnaire, and recommendations and draft decisions developed during a workshop, held in Kuwait in November 2015, addressing the challenges to combat illegal trade in cheetahs. The Chair of the Working Group also proposed some amendments to the document.

Speakers from a wide range of Parties, including range, transit and destination States for illegal trade in cheetahs, expressed support for the recommendations and the draft decisions presented by the Working Group. The workshop on illegal trade in cheetahs was also widely appreciated and

recognized. Niger proposed a recommendation requesting ICCWC and other entities, to support Parties in addressing illegal trade on internet.

The Standing Committee adopted the following recommendations:

Regarding public awareness and education

- a) Cheetah range States and Parties implicated in the illegal trade in cheetahs are encouraged to urgently develop and launch national public awareness campaigns to reduce illegal offer of, and demand for illegally traded cheetahs, using the communication tools and approaches most effective for their communities and by, inter alia: publicizing law enforcement outcomes; explaining the conservation impacts of the illegal trade; mobilizing social media; using key occasions (e.g. World Wildlife Day) and engaging key influencers; and establishing partnerships with NGOs as appropriate.

Regarding enforcement

- b) Range states of cheetahs and countries involved in the illegal trade chain are encouraged to:
 - i) Further strengthen national and regional enforcement actions concerning the illegal trade in cheetahs involving all relevant enforcement agencies, and take them into account when developing work programmes and undertaking law enforcement operations;
 - ii) Make use of existing systems for exchange of information provided by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, or as appropriate, establish mechanisms to ensure regular, timely and effective communication between these countries regarding illegal trade in cheetahs;
 - iii) As soon as appropriate bring information on poaching and illegal trade in cheetahs, including parts and derivatives, to the attention of relevant authorities in source, transit and destination countries for appropriate enforcement actions and follow-up;
 - iv) Request support from ICCWC partners and subject to available funding, conduct joint operations between East Africa and the Middle East, targeting known or suspected smuggling routes; and
 - v) Also request that ICCWC and other relevant partners encourage and support Parties in their enforcement operations targeting illegal trade in cheetah specimens conducted via e-commerce.

Regarding cooperation and information exchange

- c) The Secretariat, subject to available resources and in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, is invited to explore the establishment of a closed cheetah user group for relevant national competent authorities in order to facilitate the exchange of non-nominal information on illegal trade in cheetah specimens.

Regarding disposal of confiscated live cheetahs

- d) Range, transit and destination countries involved in the illegal trade in live cheetahs are encouraged to collaborate on the humane disposal of confiscated live cheetahs through the use of existing and, where required and as appropriate, the establishment of national or regional rescue centres, paying particular attention to maximizing the contribution of the specimens to conservation of the species in the wild; and
- e) Parties are requested to inform the Secretariat of facilities available for the disposal of confiscated live cheetahs to be published in the CITES cheetah toolkit and on the website.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.xx *The Secretariat shall, pending the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee and relevant experts, commission the development of a CITES cheetah trade resource kit that compiles relevant information and tools, and addresses inter alia: identification of live cheetahs and parts and derivatives thereof; monitoring and controlling trade in cheetahs; protocols to be followed in case of seizures (e.g. handling, DNA sampling, reporting for data collection such as studbooks); guidance on the immediate and long-term disposal of live animals (e.g. decision trees based on relevant CITES Resolution, veterinary care, contact details of experts or potential rescue centres, advice on procedures, reporting on disposal activities); lists of suitable housing facilities for live cheetahs; and other relevant materials.*
- 17.xx *The Secretariat shall submit a draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit to the Standing Committee at its 69th or 70th meeting for its review and recommendations. The Secretariat shall make the final version of the kit available in relevant languages and various forms (e.g. hard copy, electronic, smart phone application, web-based), and regularly revise the web-based version to ensure that it remains accurate, up to date and reflecting best practice.*
- 17.xx *Where appropriate, the CITES Secretariat is requested, subject to available resources, to engage with relevant social media platforms, search engines and e-commerce platforms to address illegal international trade in cheetah through these platforms, and raise awareness of the conservation plight of cheetahs.*
- 17.xx *The Secretariat, subject to available resources, is invited to assess the feasibility of creating a forum on the CITES website for Parties, experts, NGOs and other stakeholders to exchange and share information on cheetahs.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 17.xx *The Standing Committee shall review the draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit produced in compliance with Decision 17.xx at its 69th or 70th meeting, and formulate comments and recommendations to the Secretariat for its finalization and dissemination.*

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.xx *The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of Decisions 17.xx and 17.xx, including its findings and recommendations, as appropriate, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
- 17.xx *The Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on progress on all of the recommendations, and progress in halting illegal trade in cheetahs.*

During the discussion of this agenda item interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Niger), of Asia (Indonesia), of Europe (Portugal), of North America (United States of America) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by Ethiopia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe, and by the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

33. Introduction from the sea: chartering SC66 Doc. 33

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 33, outlining the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in response to the request of SC65 regarding Decision 16.48, which asks the Standing Committee to review the provisions on chartering in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16). In addition to the two replies to the Secretariat's request for information reported in document SC66 Doc. 33, the Secretariat provided an oral update on information submitted by Japan orally in the side-lines of SC66. Japan also agreed to submit this information in writing after SC66. Among the three responses, there was no case where the special provisions had been applied.

One Party pointed out that the lack of responses by Parties could be due to the length of bilateral negotiations needed to conclude chartering agreements. Several Parties supported the recommendation by the Secretariat to extend Decisions 16.48, 16.49, 16.50 and 16.51 at CoP17 with a view to re-visit the topic at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee and that the Secretariat will in the meantime approach relevant Parties bilaterally to learn about their experiences in implementing the provisions.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 33 and agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the renewal of Decisions 16.48 to 16.51.

During the discussion of the agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), of Europe (Portugal) and of North America (United States of America) and by Brazil.

34. Traceability

34.1 Overview by the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 34.1 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc.34.1 (Rev. 1), which summarizes the different references to traceability in CITES Resolutions and Decisions, and which highlights the need to provide an umbrella framework and guide discussion to ensure coherence and convergence. Such an approach would allow for activities to be mutually supportive and provide Parties with solutions that prevent adoption of incompatible systems.

Parties recognized the importance of traceability as an element that ensures legality and sustainability of trade in CITES-listed species, and of having a common understanding on the subject matter. They welcomed the document and the draft decision in this regard. Two speakers commented on the need for flexibility, viability and a clear definition of scope when considering an umbrella framework, so as to accommodate the Parties' individual situations and conditions.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 34.1 (Rev. 1) and agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the draft decisions on traceability as follows:

DIRECTS the Standing Committee to:

1. *Establish a working group on traceability systems in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat to:*
 - a) *Recommend a working definition of traceability systems to assist Parties in work related to the implementation of such systems;*
 - b) *Encourage that the development by Parties of traceability systems be mutually complementary, supportive and standardized, as appropriate, and that they also meet the unique needs of any CITES-listed species;*
 - c) *Provide general guidance on a governance structure to administer and oversee the development of traceability systems using lessons learned from the development of the global CITES permits and certificates system;*
 - d) *Develop, subject to the availability of external resources, and use umbrella guidelines, and recommend standards, as appropriate, to develop traceability systems for different species that are mutually supportive and that generate standardized data;*
 - e) *Describe the CITES value chain, subject to the availability of external resources, using Unified Modelling Language and identify points throughout the value chain where species must be located, identified and its application defined;*
 - f) *Collaborate with the working group on e-permitting to ensure links between CITES permits and certificates and traceability identifiers;*
 - g) *Collaborate with United Nations and other relevant organizations involved and that have experience in the development and use of traceability standards and systems; and,*
 - h) *Draft a Resolution on traceability for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*

INVITES Parties to:

1. *Support the working group in its work on traceability;*

2. *Advise the working group on the development of projects and new information related to traceability;*
3. *Adhere, whenever possible, to international standards and norms related to traceability systems in the development of these systems;*
4. *Use data, as appropriate, generated from traceability systems in activities related to non-detriment findings and monitoring programmes; and,*
5. *Collaborate in the provision of capacity-building programmes that promote South-South and North-South cooperation in the development of traceability systems.*

DIRECTS the Secretariat, subject to the availability of external funding, to:

1. *Develop a portal on the CITES website on traceability to make available:*
 - a) *Recommendations by the working group on a definition on traceability, general traceability guidelines, and other relevant information;*
 - b) *Information on new projects on traceability;*
 - c) *Information on global organizations working on traceability standards and systems; and,*
 - d) *Relevant documents, research papers and guidelines on traceability;*
2. *In collaboration with the Standing Committee working group established under Decision 17.xx and UN/CEFACT, commission a report by a global organization or expert with experience in the development of standards related to traceability, to:*
 - a) *Describe a possible governance model for use in CITES traceability systems;*
 - b) *Map and describe using Unified Modelling Language or a similar tool, the CITES supply and value chain;*
 - c) *Identify and recommend appropriate information exchange protocols and standards for use in CITES traceability systems;*
 - d) *Describe a generic CITES traceability standard for use as a common model; and*
 - e) *Report on the conclusions of the report at the 69th meeting or the Standing Committee.*

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), of Europe (Portugal) and of the Depositary Government (Switzerland), by China and Mexico, and by TRAFFIC.

34.2 Socio-economic considerations in the development of a global traceability information system for reptile skins SC66 Doc. 34.2

Mexico introduced document SC66 Doc.34.2. Explaining that this document was a follow-up to what was presented at the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee, Mexico provided an update on the project that pursues biometry and other possibilities for providing an economically viable traceability solution for reptile skins, including the pilot testing that will take place in a number of countries.

Parties recognized the value of collecting information about a wide range of different traceability projects being undertaken within the CITES context, and stressed the need to ensure that these initiatives consider such issues as target and scope, stakeholder consultation, cost-effectiveness, adaptability to different conditions, and data ownership. Parties called upon the future traceability working group (recommended under agenda item 34.1) to provide an umbrella mechanism for such initiatives.

The Standing Committee agreed to refer the recommendations in document SC66 Doc. 34.2 to the in-session working group on snake trade and conservation management.

Following adoption of document SC66 Com. 6 in relation to agenda items 54.1, 54.2 and 34.2, the Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 34.2 submitted by Mexico and, in particular, its contribution to the discussions of the implementation of Decision 16.105.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia and Japan), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), of Europe (Portugal), of North America (United States of America) and of the Depository Government (Switzerland).

35. Electronic permitting: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 35

Switzerland, as Chair of the working group on electronic permitting, introduced document SC66 Doc. 35. An update was given of the activities of the Working Group

The working group was commended for its work to date, and speakers welcomed the plan to develop the Electronic Permit Information eXchange for CITES permits and certificates. Parties highlighted the usefulness of the various efforts toward the development and implementation of the electronic management systems for CITES trade, including electronic permitting, as well as its integration into the Single Window environments, as an important step for ensuring legality and traceability in trade in CITES-listed species.

The Standing Committee agreed to request the Conference of the Parties to instruct the Standing Committee to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Information Technologies and Electronic Systems to work in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat to:

- i) *Further develop the Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) as a central registry of CITES permits and certificates to facilitate validation of CITES permit data by CITES Authorities and Customs officials;*
- ii) *Work with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in collaboration with the Secretariat, to continue development of and assist CITES Parties, through the establishment of joint projects, to use the CITES module in ASYCUDA;*
- iii) *Develop joint capacity building programmes with the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the context of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation;*
- iv) *Work with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the development of electronic trade documentation and learn from IPPC's efforts to develop an electronic phytosanitary certificate which is based on UN/CEFACT standards;*
- v) *Publish the results and lessons learned of the pilot project by France and Switzerland to make CITES trade fully electronic on the CITES website;*
- vi) *Communicate with national lead ministries responsible for the development of Single Window environments to raise awareness of CITES and to ascertain the availability of financial support to assist CITES Management Authorities to develop CITES e-permitting systems;*
- vii) *Monitor work related to the development of traceability systems for specimens of CITES-listed species to facilitate their harmonization with CITES permits and certificates; and*
- viii) *Continue to work with the UN/CEFACT and the WCO and other relevant organizations to ensure that CITES e-permitting toolkit continues to be aligned with international trade standards and norms.*

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and Europe (Portugal) and by China, Peru and the Republic of Korea.

36. Use of taxonomic serial numbers..... SC66 Doc. 36

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc.36, noting that no information from Parties was received as requested in Decision 16.56. The Secretariat suggested that the discussion on the need for a unique identifier for the purposes of data management and exchange for CITES-related trade transaction be continued under the suggested Working Group on traceability.

Parties noted the importance of assessing the merits and challenges of the use of taxonomic serial numbers. Considering the linkage with the discussion on e-permitting and traceability systems, Parties agreed that the discussion be continued within the suggested Working Group on traceability as well as in the Working Group on e-permitting. One Party noted that a Notification was not issued to seek information regarding Decision 16.56, and requested that the Secretariat pursue the implementation of Decisions 16.56 and 16.57.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 36 and the Secretariat's oral report and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties seeking the information called for in Decision 16.56 and to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary), of North America (United States of America) and of the Depositary Government (Switzerland) and by Canada.

37. Purpose-of-transaction codes on CITES permits and certificates:
Report of the working group..... SC66 Doc. 37

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional Working Group on Purpose-of-transaction codes on CITES permits and certificates, introduced document SC66 Doc. 37, explaining that it had not been possible for the working group to conclude its mandate, but that work needed to be continued. This was supported.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 37.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the revised Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP16) as follows:

The Standing Committee shall re-establish an intersessional joint working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties, with the following terms of reference:

- a) *the working group shall be composed of Parties from as many of the six CITES regions as possible, and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with expertise in the issuance of CITES documents and use of purpose-of-transaction codes for evaluation within the permit issuance process and trade data analysis;*
- b) *the working group shall, communicating through electronic media, focus on clearly defining purpose-of-transaction codes to encourage their consistent use, and consider the possible elimination of current codes or the inclusion of new ones;*
- c) *in evaluating the use and definition of purpose-of-transaction codes, the working group shall take into account any difficulties of implementation by Parties and the potential resource implications of inclusion of any new codes or deletion of current purpose-of-transaction codes; and*
- d) *the working group shall submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16), or to any revision thereof, at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall report, with its recommendations, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by Israel.

38. Physical inspection of timber shipments..... SC66 Doc. 38

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc.38, informing that the administrative delays caused by the implementation of the new Umoja system have been resolved and the initial payments were made to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), that should be able to deliver the study by July 2016.

Members of the Committee encouraged cooperation to continue and emphasized the need to ensure that the compilation of timber identification material can be used by enforcement authorities. Another member of the Committee acknowledged the challenges for inspectors in identifying timber and stressed the significance of initiatives such as the TRAFFIC study on forensic methods to verify the origin of wood. The member also expressed their wishes to move as expeditiously as possible on implementation.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 38.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America).

39. Inclusion of CITES-listed species in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System..... SC66 Doc. 39

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc.39. Noting that no new information was available to update the Committee, the Secretariat suggested that the agenda item be closed, and Parties may wish to reopen the issue when CITES-relevant proposals are made for the next edition of the WCO Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS code) is considered in mid-2019.

One Committee member encouraged the Parties to collaborate with the WCO and to submit relevant proposals for the next HS code considerations.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 39.

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

40. Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use SC66 Doc. 40

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 40, informing that Slovakia, South Africa and the United States of America responded to the Notification to the Parties No. 2015/042 of 30 July 2015. None of these Parties reported any problems with implementation of the system set out in paragraphs c) to j) of Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. Cop16). The Secretariat also reported that South Africa advised that it has a system in place to replace lost or damaged tags.

One Member of the Committee commended South Africa and Slovakia and informed that they do not have difficulties in the implementation of the system. Zimbabwe informed the Committee of the additional domestic measures adopted. Another member requested the Secretariat to take into account Zimbabwe's improvements.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 40 and encouraged all Parties to comply with Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America) and by Zimbabwe.

41. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens

41.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 41.1

41.2 Report of the Animals Committee..... SC66 Doc. 41.2

and

32. Enforcement matters

32.3 Implementation and enforcement of the Convention as it relates to the trade in species listed in Appendix I: Report of the working group..... SC66 Doc. 32.3

and

32.4 Illegal trade in Bahamian Rock Iguanas (*Cyclura rileyi*):

Report of the contact group SC66 Doc. 32.4

Agenda items 41.1 and 41.2 were taken together. The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 41.1 and the Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC66 Doc. 41.2. These were discussed in conjunction with documents SC66 Doc. 32.3 and 32.4, which were introduced at the same time and with the recommendation in paragraph 8 c) of document SC66 Doc. 17.

Speakers agreed that more attention needed to be paid to the control of trade in specimens claimed to have been bred in captivity or ranched and most agreed with the need to propose some sort of compliance mechanism. Concerns were expressed particularly about the confusing and challenging nature of the wording of current CITES Resolutions, insufficient checks on the legal origin of the breeding stock used in captive breeding facilities and about the establishment of captive breeding facilities outside the country of origin of the specimens and species concerned. Speakers broadly welcomed the existence of the *Guidance for inspection of captive-breeding and ranching facilities* and *Guidance for use of CITES source codes* contained in annexes 3 and 4 of document SC66 Doc. 41.1. In relation to the case studies in annex 1 of document SC66 doc. 41.1, some speakers wished the Standing Committee to take further action. Attention was drawn to document SC66 Inf. 13. The United Arab Emirates requested that the following statement be included in the Summary Record:

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing document SC66 doc. 41.1 and the work done regarding trade in specimens claimed to be derived from captive breeding or ranching which was highlighted in document AC27 Doc. 17 (Rev.1) and its annex.

Referring the annex 1 of document 41.1 on example 11, UAE would like to clarify that the trade data on export of Indian Starred Tortoise from a source C date back to the 1990s before UAE joins CITES, and note that there is no captive breeding programs for the Indian Starred Tortoise and all of the trade operation after 1999, the year that UAE joined CITES, are of re-export only. Furthermore, UAE would like to highlight the stronger implementation of the national legislative measures on the trade of CITES listed species as well as the breeding operations of species under CITES which are well controlled and regulated by federal laws.

Therefore, we request the Standing Committee to note these points and the removal of UAE from the example highlighted in the annex 1 of document 41.1.

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group with the following mandate:

- In light of the comments made in documents SC66 Doc. 32.3 and 32.4 and of the comments made during the plenary discussion, to revise the text of the draft decisions in document SC66 Doc. 41.1 and to revise the text of the draft resolution on *Review of trade in specimens reported as produced in captivity* in the annex to document SC66 Doc. 41.2.
- To propose wording for a specific reference to Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) in the revision to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.

The membership of the working group was agreed as follows: Canada, China, Colombia, European Union, France, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand (Chair), Niger, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Viet Nam; the Chair of the Animals Committee; and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), TRAFFIC, the Lewis & Clarke College and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

During subsequent discussions, minor amendments were made to the working group's suggested text for a draft resolution on a *Review of trade in animal species reported as produced in captivity*. The Committee did not agree to the working group's proposals in relation to the case studies in annex 1 of document SC66 doc. 41.1, but Colombia made the following declaration for the record:

The European Union and Colombia held bilateral discussions during SC66 regarding trade of Caiman crocodilus fuscus skins from Colombia.

Colombia has been taking measures to prevent the illegal trade of Caiman crocodilus fuscus skins, and wishes to cooperate with the Parties to ensure the legal origin of the traded species.

In this sense, and aiming to strengthen the purpose of the Convention, Colombia has agreed with the European Union to undertake the following actions:

1. By 28 February 2016, Colombia will inform the Parties about regulations and mechanisms which enable the Colombian CITES Management Authority to monitor and control exports of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* specimens, with a special attention being given to procedures that ensure that regulations are not circumvented on the occasion of the cutting of the skins.
2. By 31 May 2016, Colombia will inform the Parties about:
 - the population status and, if available, about studies, which are the basis to implement any future ranching programme of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus*;
 - perspectives and developments to establish a ranching programme, starting with selected pilot sites.
3. Colombia will establish a relevant export quota based on a non-detriment finding for ranched specimens originating from pilot sites as referred to under recommendation 2 by 31 May 2016.
4. Colombia will establish and implement a marking system for ranched specimens, which allow differentiating ranched and captive-bred specimens.
5. Colombia will clarify whether the current Colombian legislation prohibits the exports of skins over a certain size.
6. If such a prohibition exists, clarify whether existing legal measures enable seizing and confiscating illegally acquired skins. If this is not the case, adopt measures to seize skins larger than the size limit established by the Colombian legislation and ensure that these skins remain under control of the Colombian authorities. Such measures should be adopted by 28 February 2016 and implemented by 31 May 2016.
7. Colombia will report in writing its progress to SC67.
8. Colombia will request the Secretariat to issue a notification to the Parties informing progress made in the implementation of these measures.

The Secretariat confirmed that it will continue to liaise with Panama over the use of source codes used for exports of specimens of *Oophaga pumilio* and *Dendrobates auratus*.

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 10 with the following amendments:

- deletion on page 2 of the whole section entitled "**Recommendation on exports of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* from Colombia**"
- deletion on page 3 of the section entitled "**Recommendation on exports of poison arrow frogs from Panama**"

In the draft resolution on **Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity**:

- under "**Stage 3 – Review and recommendation by the Animals and Standing Committee**", in paragraph g), the word "if" should be added in line 3 between the words "determine" and "trade"
- under "**Stage 4 – Measures to be taken regarding the implementation of recommendations**", in paragraph o), the words "or Plants" should be deleted in line 3 and the "s" of "Chairs" in the same line should be deleted
- "**Regarding capacity-building, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating the review process**", should be preceded by the words "**Stage 5**"

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to comment on Annexes 3 and 4 of document SC66 Doc. 41.1 before 12 February 2016.

The Standing Committee agreed that the declaration made by Colombia on *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* would be included in the summary record of this meeting.

Based on the revised version of document SC66 Com. 10, the Standing Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting:

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall review ambiguities and inconsistencies in the application of Article VII paragraphs 4 and 5, Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.), Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15), Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) as it relates to the use of source codes R, F, D, A and C, including the underlying CITES policy assumptions and differing national interpretations that may have contributed to uneven application of these provisions, as well as the captive breeding issues presented in SC66 Doc. 17, submit the review to Parties and stakeholders for comments through a notification, and submit its conclusions and recommendations along with the comments of Parties and stakeholders to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretariat under Decision 17.xx and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall review the differences in the nature of non-detriment findings made for specimens with source code W, R and F and provide guidance for Parties, to be sent to the Secretariat for inclusion in the section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website referred to in Resolution Conf. 16.7.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, engage in a capacity-building project using materials prepared under Decisions 16.63 a) vii) and 15.52 a). This project should involve all regions and a variety of taxa. The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on the work undertaken under the present Decision.

In line with Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16), the Standing Committee asked the Secretariat to estimate resource implications of the decisions above for the Animals Committee, Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in order that they be fully considered by CoP17.

The Standing Committee agreed to recommend to CoP17 that Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in Specimens of Appendix-II species* be amended to include the following new preambular paragraph:

Noting that Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) recommends that any Party having entered a reservation with regard to any species included in Appendix I treat that species as if it were included in Appendix II for all purposes, including documentation and control.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit draft Resolution Conf. 17.xx on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* reading as follows:

REVIEW OF TRADE IN ANIMAL SPECIMENS REPORTED AS PRODUCED IN CAPTIVITY

CONSIDERING that the Convention provides, in Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5, for special treatment of animal specimens that are bred in captivity as defined in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev);

NOTING that, in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 4, animal specimens of Appendix-I species bred in captivity for commercial purposes shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix II and that therefore they shall be traded in accordance with the provisions of Article IV;

NOTING that, in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 5, the certification from the Management Authority of the State of export that it is satisfied that the specimen of an animal species was bred in captivity or is part of such an animal or was derived therefrom shall be accepted in lieu of any of the permits or certificates required under the provisions of Article III, IV or V;

RECOGNISING that specimens in trade are derived from a variety of captive production systems, which are attributed to different source codes as defined by Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16);

RECOGNISING that captive breeding, and other captive production systems, can have a number of benefits compared with direct harvests from the wild;

CONCERNED that the incorrect application of source codes and/or misuse or false declaration of source codes can reduce or negate such benefits where they exist, have negative implications for conservation and undermine the purpose and effective implementation of the Convention;

FURTHER CONCERNED that in addition to inadvertent misuse of source codes, there is growing evidence of cases of illegal trade in wild-caught specimens of CITES-listed species, through fraudulent claims that wild-caught specimens are captive bred;

FURTHER CONCERNED that in some cases there are doubts as to the legal origin of the parental stocks of captive bred specimens including specimens that are bred outside their natural range;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the intent of the Review Of Trade In Animal Specimens Reported As Produced In Captivity is to ensure that such trade is conducted in accordance with provisions of the Convention and to identify remedial actions where needed to ensure trade is not detrimental to the survival of wild species and to advance the purpose and effective implementation of the Convention;

EXPECTING that the implementation of recommendations and actions resulting from the Review Of Trade In Animal Specimens Reported As Produced In Captivity will improve the capacity of the Parties to properly assess that specimens are genuinely produced by the captive production system claimed;

AFFIRMING that the Review of Trade in Animal Specimens Reported as Produced in Captivity should be transparent, timely and simple;

NOTING the Guide to CITES compliance procedures found in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (CITES compliance procedures);

NOTING further that there are existing mechanisms to address urgent issues of non-compliance with the Convention, including Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Compliance and enforcement), and that this resolution complements these existing mechanisms;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

DIRECTS the Animals and Standing Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat, relevant experts and in consultation with Parties, to review biological, trade and other relevant information regarding animal species subject to significant levels of trade using source codes C, D, F or R, to identify problems associated with the implementation of the Convention and to develop solutions in accordance with the following procedure.

Stage 1 – Identification of species-country combinations for review

- a) *Within 90 days after each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretariat shall produce a summary from the CITES Trade Database of annual report statistics of species traded, derived from the five most recent years, under source codes C, D, F or R and will undertake, or appoint consultants to undertake, an analysis of such data to identify species-country combinations for review using the following criteria:*
 - i) *significant increases in trade in specimens declared as captive-produced (source codes C, D, F and R);*
 - ii) *trade in significant numbers of specimens declared as produced in captivity;*

- iii) *shifts and fluctuations between different captive-production source codes;*
 - iv) *inconsistencies between source codes reported by exporting and importing Parties for specimens declared as produced in captivity;*
 - v) *apparent incorrect application of captive production codes such as: 'A' for animal species or 'D' for Appendix-I species that have not been registered in compliance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15);*
 - vi) *trade from non-range States of specimens produced in captivity with no evidence of lawful acquisition of parental breeding stock (i.e., no recorded imports).*
- b) *The Secretariat shall also compile any other relevant information made available to it, with respect to concerns about captive production, including any cases identified from the Review of Significant Trade under Resolution Conf. 12.10, referred to it by Parties or available in relevant reports.*
 - c) *The Secretariat shall provide the outcome of the analyses in a) and a compilation of information from b) to the first regular meeting of the Animals Committee following a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Animals Committee may select a limited number of species-country combinations for review; urgent enforcement matters identified at this stage should be referred to the Secretariat and the Party concerned and subsequently reported to the Standing Committee.*
 - d) *In exceptional cases, outside steps a)-c) above, and where new information provided to the Secretariat indicates that urgent action may be needed concerning problems relating to the implementation of provisions under the Convention for captive production of specimens, the Secretariat:*
 - i) *shall verify that the proponent has provided a justification for the exceptional case, including supporting information;*
 - ii) *shall produce a summary and analysis of trade from the CITES Trade Database in relation to the species-country combination; and*
 - iii) *provide the information from i) and ii) above, as soon as possible to the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate, for their inter-sessional review and decision on whether to include the species-country combination in the next stage of the review process.*

Stage 2 – Consultation with countries and compilation of information

- e) *The Secretariat shall, within 30 days after the relevant meeting of the Animals Committee, notify the country or countries concerned that species produced in captivity in their country have been selected for review, and provide them with an overview of the review process and an explanation for the selection. The Secretariat shall ask the country or countries to provide information, within 60 days, in response to general or specific questions, developed by the Animals Committee, to determine if the correct source codes have been used, under the applicable Resolutions, for specimens claimed to be produced in captivity.*
- f) *The Secretariat shall also commission, if requested by the Animals Committee, a short review of the species concerned, in consultation with relevant countries and specialists, to compile and summarise known information relating to the breeding biology and captive husbandry and any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild.*

Stage 3 – Review and recommendation by the Animals and Standing Committee

- g) *The Animals Committee shall, at their second meeting following a regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, review the responses from Parties, any review commissioned by the Secretariat and any additional relevant information, and determine if trade is in compliance with Article III and Article IV of the Convention, as well as Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5. If trade is in compliance, the species-country combination will be excluded from the review and the Secretariat will inform the country or countries of this outcome within 60 days.*

- h) *Where a species-country combination is retained within the review and the Animals Committee identifies concerns appropriately within its remit, the Animals Committee shall, in consultation with the Secretariat, formulate draft recommendations directed to the relevant Party which are time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent and which, if appropriate, aim to promote capacity building and enhance the ability of the country to implement relevant provisions of the Convention.*

The Secretariat shall transmit these draft recommendations and supporting information, from the Animals Committee to the next meeting of the Standing Committee for their review, revision if necessary, and endorsement;

- i) *Where a species-country combination is retained within the review and the Animals Committee identifies concerns that are more appropriately considered by the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall refer the issue to the next meeting of the Standing Committee, including any observations from the Animals Committee.*
- j) *The Secretariat shall, within 30 days of the meeting of the Standing Committee in h) and j), transmit the combined recommendations of the Standing and Animals Committees to the country or countries concerned and also provide the country or countries with relevant guidance, such as on the correct application of source codes, and means by which their capacity to deal with captive production issues might be enhanced.*

Stage 4 – Measures to be taken regarding the implementation of recommendations

- k) *The Secretariat shall monitor progress against the recommendations, taking account of the different deadlines, and, following consultation with the Chairs and members of the Standing and Animals Committees, determine whether the recommendations referred to above have been implemented;*
- i) *where the recommendations have been met, the Secretariat shall, following consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, notify the Parties that the species-country combination was removed from the review process; or*
- ii) *when the recommendations are not deemed to have been met (and no new information is provided), the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairs and members of the Standing and Animals Committees, recommend to the Standing Committee appropriate action, which may include, as a last resort, a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with that State³; or*
- iii) *where the recommendations are not deemed to have been met or have been partially met, and there is new information suggesting the recommendation may require updating, the Secretariat shall request the Chair and members of the Standing and Animals Committees to prepare a revised recommendation, keeping in mind the principles that recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should promote capacity building. The Secretariat shall provide the revised recommendation to the countries within 30 days of its drafting;*
- l) *The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on its evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations, including the rationale for its evaluation, and a summary of the views expressed by the Animals Committee. The Secretariat shall additionally report on any further actions taken by the Animals Committee in the case of countries where new information has resulted in revised recommendations;*
- m) *For countries where recommendations are not deemed to have been met, the Standing Committee shall decide on appropriate actions and make recommendations to the country or countries concerned, keeping in mind that these recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should, if appropriate, promote capacity building. In exceptional circumstances, where the country under consideration provides new information on the implementation of the recommendations to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee shall consult intersessionally with the Animals Committee through the Chair prior to making a decision on appropriate action;*

³ *In addition, Resolution Conf. 14.3 shall be amended; there should be a reference in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (footnote 1 to paragraph 30) to this new resolution.*

- n) *The Secretariat shall notify the Parties of any recommendations or actions taken by the Standing Committee;*
- o) *Any recommendation by the Standing Committee to suspend trade in the affected species with the country concerned should be withdrawn only when that country demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair and members of the Animals Committee, compliance with the provisions of the Convention with respect to the captive production of specimens; and*
- p) *The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, shall, where appropriate, review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, consult with the relevant country, evaluate the reasons why this is the case, and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation.*

Stage 5 – Regarding capacity building, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating the review process

DIRECTS the Secretariat, for the purpose of monitoring and facilitating the implementation of this Resolution and the relevant provisions of the Convention:

- a) *To report at each meeting of the Standing and Animals Committee on the implementation, by the countries concerned, of the recommendations made by the Standing and Animals Committee; and*
- b) *To maintain a record of species-country combinations that are included in the review process set out in this Resolution, including a record of progress with implementation of recommendations;*

DIRECTS the Secretariat to include training on this review process of specimens produced through captive production as part of its capacity-building activities related to the implementation of the Convention;

DIRECTS the Standing and Animals Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat, to periodically evaluate the outcomes of this Review by, for example, examining a sample of past species-country combinations to assess whether the desired result was achieved. Based on these evaluations, the Standing and Animals Committees should propose revisions to the review process as necessary. In these periodic evaluations, feedback should be sought from countries that have been through the review process.

During the discussion of these items, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), of Europe (Norway and Portugal), of North America (United States of America) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by Bolivia, Canada, China, the European Union, Israel, New Zealand, Panama, the United Arab Emirates, by IUCN, CAICSA S.A.S, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council (also on behalf of IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare), Lewis and Clark College (IELP), Pro Wildlife, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC (also on behalf of IUCN, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF).

42. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

42.1 Registration of facility A-US-524 (Hyacinth Macaw Aviary, Inc.) for hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) SC66 Doc. 42.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 42.1. The Plurinational State of Bolivia explained its objection against the registration of the captive breeding facility Hyacinth Macaw Aviary, Inc., and asserted that invalid permits had been used to export the breeding stock from Bolivia to the United States of America (USA). Noting that Bolivia had not communicated about the issue for 15 months, the USA argued that the registration of the facility had followed due process, and should remain in place.

Various interventions followed, some favouring the withdrawal of the registration and others asking for conciliation between Bolivia and the USA. However, noting that Bolivia was seeking an immediate decision on the matter, the Chair called for a vote.

The Standing Committee voted on a proposal to delete facility A-US-524 (Hyacinth Macaw Aviary, Inc.) for hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*). The deletion of this facility was approved by 5 votes in favour, 4 against and 6 abstentions.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Africa (Egypt), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia and Dominica), of Europe (Hungary and Norway), and of North America (United States of America) and by Bolivia (Plurinational State of).

42.2 Registration of the operation “Nouvelle découverte”
breeding *Astrochelys radiata* SC66 Doc. 42.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 42.2, noting the absence of Mauritius at the meeting. Madagascar, which had objected to the registration of *Nouvelle découverte*, explained that it was seeking more information on the legal origin of the breeding stock, and clarifications about the monitoring of the animals at the facility, noting that none of the *Astrochelys radiata* kept there were registered with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). Madagascar expressed its wish to collaborate with Mauritius to resolve these matters.

While deploring that Mauritius was not present, several interventions encouraged further mediation and collaboration between Madagascar and Mauritius, and a postponement of decision regarding the registration until the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee invited Madagascar and Mauritius to continue their deliberations with the support of the Secretariat and noted that this issue will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.⁴

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Asia (Indonesia), of Europe (Norway), of North America (United States of America) and of the Depository Government (Switzerland) and by Madagascar.

43. African teak (*Pericopsis elata*) SC66 Doc. 43

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) introduced document SC66 Doc. 43 and referred to the relevant paragraphs on African teak of document SC66 Doc. 28. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo expressed its agreement with the information reported by the Secretariat on the 2015 quota and requested an extension until 31 October to export the stocks harvested in 2014 and 2015. He further explained that the 2014 export quota was exhausted but reported that 19,000 m³ were harvested that year as a result of the transition towards a new forest management system. He stressed that this timber is ready for export and pointed out the problems created by the uncertainty regarding the status of these stocks for timber operators that cannot maintain commitments with local communities. As a result, he requested the Committee to authorize the export of these stocks, noting that this decision would allow the country to regularize the situation by 2017.

Parties and observers commended the DRC for the progress made in establishing the 2015 quota based on management and inventory. However, some expressed concern about authorizing an exceptional transitional export quota of timber of African teak that would be added to the export quota volume agreed for the year 2015 and, that had been logged in 2014. It was proposed that an audit be done and an inventory completed before authorizing the export of those stockpiles.

Private sector representatives emphasized the need for clarity in the rules on quotas to avoid impacts on operators, while noting the proposal would not affect the volume exported in 2016.

The Secretariat further clarified that the proposal makes a difference between harvest quota and export quota and that Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) allows for exceptional authorization of export in one year of specimens that were obtained in a previous year. The Secretariat suggested language for the recommendation to the effect that DRC has until 31 October 2016 to export the stocks harvested in 2014 and 2015 and duly communicated to the Secretariat before 31 January 2016 within the limits established in export quota for 2015-2016, and that no additional or transitional quota will be authorized.

⁴ The Secretariat notes that under Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) the next step of the registration process requires discussion at SC67.

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group on African teak (*Pericopsis elata*) with the mandate to draft recommendations on African teak (*Pericopsis elata*) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the following membership: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hungary and the United States of America.

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 14 with the following amendment:

- in paragraph c), insertion of “for *Pericopsis elata* (Afromosia)” after the word “certificate” and before “issued by the DRC”.

The final recommendations of the Standing Committee read as follows:

- a) The Standing Committee agreed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has until 31 October 2016 to export the stocks of *Pericopsis elata* (Afromosia) corresponding to 19000 m³ (round wood equivalent) harvested in 2014 and 2015.
- b) As an exception to paragraphs 20 and 21 of Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev CoP 15), the export of these stocks is exceptionally authorized under the 2015 export quota (31905 m³ round wood equivalent). No retroactive increase in this quota nor any transitional quota is authorized.
- c) Parties should not accept any CITES export permit or certificate for *Pericopsis elata* (Afromosia) issued by the Democratic Republic of the Congo unless its authenticity has been confirmed by the Secretariat.
- d) Furthermore, the Democratic Republic of the Congo should implement the measures presented in their NDF report (document PC22 Doc. 12.1 and Annex). In particular, the Standing Committee encouraged the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop and make use of the database mentioned in the NDF report, which would allow for:
 - the monitoring and management of volumes of *Pericopsis elata* harvested and exported by the country, and
 - the systematic conversion of volumes of processed products into round wood equivalent volumes, based on an appropriate conversion rate.

The recommendation above refers to the information system that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is encouraged to build in order to increase transparency of the operations.

- e) The Standing Committee requested the Democratic Republic of the Congo to report on its progress to SC67.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America), by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union, and by Center for International Environmental Law, Forest Resources Management and the International Wood Production Association.

44. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

44.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 44.1

and

44.2 Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 44.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 44.1, which summarizes the progress made with activities in the implementation of relevant Decisions and Recommendations on Asian big cats.

China, as the Chair of the Working Group on Asian big cats, introduced document SC66 Doc. 44.2, highlighting the intersessional work conducted by the working group and noting that the working group did not reach consensus on several issues. The Chair of the Working Group therefore requested that the working group reconvene in the margins of the present meeting.

A number of speakers expressed concern about the ongoing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, and emphasized the need for meaningful progress to be made at the present meeting. One Party stated that it noted the concerns expressed about Decision 14.69, but pointed out that it remained a valid Decision that was adopted by the Parties. Viet Nam informed the meeting about a number of national measures it had implemented, including the adoption of a new penal code, demand reduction campaigns targeting tigers, and a Memorandum of Understanding between Viet Nam and China that makes provision for the strict monitoring of the border between these two Parties. There was overall support for the Working Group on Asian big cats to meet in-session, as requested by the Chair of the Working Group.

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to ensure that adequate control measures are in place to secure Asian big cat specimen stockpiles, and to ensure strict application of these measures.

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to take note of India's Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA), the guidelines of the India Central Zoo Authority on the disposal of animal carcasses in zoos, and the standard operating procedures for disposal of tiger and leopard carcasses and body parts issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority of India, as good examples of practices and controls that could be put in place to prevent Asian big cat parts and derivatives from entering illegal trade, and to manage or dispose of specimens from Asian big cats; and to consider implementing similar measures, as appropriate.

The Standing Committee welcomed Operation Protection of Asian Wildlife Species II (Operation PAWS II), initiated and coordinated by INTERPOL across 17 Parties with support from ICCWC and multiple donors.

The Standing Committee encouraged China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam to continue and further strengthen their engagement in operational enforcement activities within framework of the INTERPOL Project Predator Tiger Crime Initiative, and any similar future initiatives.

The Standing Committee agreed to reconvene the Working Group on Asian big cats as an in-session working group with the mandate to review paragraph 58e) of document SC66 44.1 and the recommendations of document SC66 Doc. 44.2

The membership of the working group was agreed as follows: China (Chair), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Viet Nam, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Asiatic, Born Free Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency, Elephant Action League, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Panthera, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Protection Society of India and World Wildlife Fund.

At a later session, the Chair of the Working Group on Asian big cats introduced document SC66 Com. 11.

Speakers welcomed the progress made and expressed support for the recommendations and draft decisions in document SC66 Com. 11. Speakers also called for enhanced efforts to ensure the effective implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16). India highlighted its successful efforts to strengthen conservation of wild tiger populations, and informed the meeting that its tiger population increased to 2226 in 2014, an increase of 30 percent since the last estimate in 2010. It also informed the meeting about initiatives that have been taken by the Government of India, including the monitoring of tigers, capacity-building and cross border collaboration with other Parties.

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 11 as follows:

- a) The Standing Committee encouraged Parties that have started DNA registration, photographic identification, and other types of identification databases of captive Asian big cats to share the available information with relevant countries, upon request, for law enforcement purposes and encourages the Secretariat and Parties with financial resources and technical expertise to assist, through in-country activities, Parties that have yet to establish national registries or identification databases for Asian big cats to do so.

- b) The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to fully support the establishment of the Southeast Asia regional DNA database of protected species and the continuing work of this forensics group and to similarly support the development of complementary DNA databases for other regions.
- c) Where appropriate, the Standing Committee encouraged Parties to adopt an effective approach to prevent online advertising and trading of illegal products of Asian big cats through websites, social media and other Internet services, working closely with the relevant private sector companies and nongovernmental organizations.
- d) The Standing Committee encouraged Parties, working closely with involved communities and/or key groups, to conduct and/or support systematic and comprehensive research on demand for illegal products of Asian big cats and/or factors driving poaching of their wild populations, for deeper understanding and recognition of their actual status, impacts and nature of the illegal activities and key consumers, upon which pertinent actions could be recommended.
- e) The Standing Committee requested that the Secretariat provide a report on progress made in implementation of these recommendations at the 69th and 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- f) The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

17.xx *Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to Parties requesting additional capacity and resources to effectively implement Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. Cop16). Parties are also encouraged to implement the relevant recommendations attempting to address the issue of resources from relevant international forums and tools, including but not limited to the Zero Poaching Symposium outcomes and Zero Poaching toolkit and the relevant GTI/GTF processes addressing resources that are needed to combat poaching, trafficking and illegal trade.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx *Subject to external funds, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *in consultation with range and consumer States, and in cooperation with partner organizations in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and, as appropriate, other experts and organizations, continue the review of implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16) and associated decisions and prepare a report providing its findings and recommendations for the 69th and 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, in consideration of:*
 - i) *legislative and regulatory measures;*
 - ii) *national law enforcement;*
 - iii) *demand reduction, education and awareness;*
 - iv) *prevention of illegal trade in parts and derivatives from Asian big cat captive facilities; and*
 - v) *management of national and privately-held stocks of parts and derivatives*
- b) *report to the 69th and 70th meeting of the Standing Committee on progress with regard to the implementation of this Decision and, on the basis of the report, formulate recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.xx *The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decision 17.xx at its 69th and 70th meetings and determine whether any further time-bound, country specific actions are necessary to ensure implementation of Decision 17.xx.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *conduct a review of the number of Asian big cat captive facilities in the territories of Parties and the number of Asian big cats kept in these facilities;*
- b) *liaise with ICCWC and other partners, as appropriate, to review legal and illegal trade in Asian big cats from or through such facilities, identifying those which may be of concern; and*
- c) *undertake a mission to those Parties with facilities of concern with the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the operations and activities undertaken by them.*

Directed to the Parties

17.xx *All Parties identified as being of concern in Decision 17.xx to welcome a mission from the Secretariat to visit such facilities.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx *The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of the Decisions 17.xx to the Standing Committee, with recommendations as necessary.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.xx *The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decision 17.xx at its 69th and 70th meeting and determine whether any further time-bound, country specific actions are necessary to ensure implementation of Decision 17.xx.*

Directed to all Parties with Asian big cat captive facilities

17.xx *All Parties with Asian big cat captive facilities are requested to:*

- a) *review national management practices and controls that are in place for Asian big cat captive facilities, to ensure that these management practices and controls are adequate to prevent Asian big cat specimens from entering illegal trade from or through such facilities;*
- b) *ensure strict application of all management practices and controls implemented to regulate the activities of Asian big cat captive facilities, including with regard to the disposal of specimens from Asian big cats that die in captivity; and*
- c) *report to the Secretariat on progress with regard to the implementation of this Decision.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx *The Secretariat shall report at the 69th and 70th meeting of the Standing Committee on progress with regard to the implementation of Decision 17. xx.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.xx *The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decision 17.xx at its 69th and 70th*

meeting and determine whether any further specific time-bound actions are necessary to ensure implementation of Decision 17.xx.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) work with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) partner organizations, in particular INTERPOL, to further build upon the work already conducted through initiatives such as Operation PAWS II, by supporting key Parties affected by trafficking in Asian big cat specimens, to initiate, plan and carry out joint intelligence-driven national and transnational investigations, to disrupt and dismantle the criminal groups involved in trafficking in Asian big cat specimens; and
- b) report at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee on progress with regard to the implementation of this Decision.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia), of Europe (Hungary), of North America (United States of America), by the European Union, India and Viet Nam, and by the Global Tiger Forum, Global Tiger Initiative Council and Wildlife Protection Society of India.

45. Bushmeat: Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 45

The Chair of the Animals Committee, in the role of Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on bushmeat, introduced the report of the Working Group contained in document SC66 Doc. 45, outlining outstanding issues on differences around whether to use of the term "bushmeat" or "wild meat," and whether to include a definition of bushmeat in the preambular text and, if so, what definition to use.

Several speakers supported the recommendations contained in document SC66 Doc. 45. One Party supported the draft decision with amendments. Speakers further expressed mixed views on the inclusion of a definition of bushmeat and on exchanging the term "bushmeat" with "wild meat."

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the revised Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat* to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting with the following amendments:

In the preamble:

RECOGNIZING that the harvest of and poaching and illicit trade in bushmeat constitute the may be detrimental greatest threat to the immediate survival of certain wildlife species and may be one of a number of pressures impacting an even greater number of species, for example the gorilla, chimpanzees, elephants and crocodiles, in Africa in general, but especially in Central Africa, and also in all other countries in the world;

RECOGNIZING that CITES aims to ensure the protection of listed species of wild fauna and flora against overexploitation through international trade;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines* provides a summary of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and urges the Parties to make use of the Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, also taking into account scientific, trade and enforcement considerations determined by national circumstances, as well as the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees when adopting non-detriment-making processes and making CITES non-detriment findings;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 16.7 on *Non-detriment findings*, where the Conference of the Parties provides recommendations and non-binding guiding principles to support CITES Scientific Authorities in considering whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of the species;

In the final paragraph in the operative text:

RECOMMENDS that the CITES Secretariat continue working with other partners in the CPW and ICCWC to ensure that the harvest of and international trade in bushmeat products derived from CITES-listed species is legal, sustainable and traceable.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following revised draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting:

Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), and other organizations as appropriate, develop guidance materials, activities and tools aimed at enhancing Parties' capacity to regulate such trade, and shall report on these efforts at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary) and North America (United States of America), by Canada, and by the Zoological Society London (speaking also on behalf of Wildlife Conservation Society).

46. Ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and rosewoods and palisanders (*Dalbergia* spp.) from Madagascar

46.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 46.1

and

46.2 Report of Madagascar SC66 Doc. 46.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 46.1 and Madagascar followed presenting document SC66 Doc. 46.2.

The Committee welcome the progress made by Madagascar regarding the implementation of the Convention for species of rosewood, palisanders and ebony. However, concerns were raised about the lack of progress made regarding the implementation of CITES for species of palisander from Madagascar. The Committee noted that despite the significant support that has been provided to Madagascar by the Secretariat and other organizations, there are still serious concerns about continued illegal logging and exports of *Dalbergia* spp. and of *Diospyros* spp. While a zero export quota has been in place since August 2013, it does not seem to be sufficiently nor effectively implemented on the ground in Madagascar. Serious concerns were expressed regarding the continuation of illegal harvest and exports of these species from Madagascar; the Committee noted that there currently seems to be an imbalance between efforts made by the Party to combat illegal timber trade from its territory, and efforts made to negotiate the return of stocks seized abroad. Wide support was expressed to the recommendations by the Secretariat and amendments proposed by the European Union.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to consolidate the recommendations proposed by the Secretariat and by the European Union and circulate them as an in-session document.

The Standing Committee adopted a revised version of document SC66 Com. 13 as follows:

The Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar until:

- i) Madagascar submits a report to the Secretariat by 25th July 2016, demonstrating that the country has significantly increased enforcement actions at the national level. Madagascar should in particular report about seizures, prosecutions and sanctions, in line with point 5 of the action plan adopted at CoP16 and recommendations b) and c) adopted during SC65, as well as implementation of the recommendations of the WIST mission presented in paragraphs 11 and 12 of SC66 Doc. 46.1.
- ii) the Secretariat assess the report by Madagascar and evaluate in particular how the actions implemented by Madagascar fulfil the requirements presented under point 5 of the action plan

adopted at CoP16 and recommendations b) and c) adopted during SC65.

- iii) the Secretariat shares its assessment of Madagascar's report with the Standing Committee at SC67; and
- iv) the CITES Standing Committee has approved the results of a stockpile audit and use plan to determine what components of the *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. stockpiles have been legally accumulated and can be legally exported.

The Standing Committee advised Madagascar that, if it does not make significant progress by the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC67) in implementing the actions outlined in paragraph a), it will consider additional compliance measures, which may include a recommendation to all Parties to suspend commercial trade in specimens of all CITES-listed species from Madagascar.

The Standing Committee drew the attention of Madagascar and relevant Parties to the options outlined in paragraph 35 of document SC66 Doc. 46.1 concerning the disposal of seized illegal consignments of timber from Madagascar, and particularly option a) in paragraph 35.

The Standing Committee encouraged interested Parties to organize an international workshop on rosewood and palisanders and CITES in order to strengthen the global implementation of the Convention for trade in *Dalbergia* spp.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a revised version of Decision 16.152 or a new set of Decisions for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention for trade in Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.), and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.).

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt and Niger), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), of Europe (Norway), of North America (United States of America) and of the Depositary Government (Switzerland), by the European Union and Madagascar, and by the Species Survival Network, the World Resources Institute and the World Wildlife Fund.

47. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

47.1 Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade SC66 Doc. 47.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 47.1, drawing attention to its recommendations and the report in Annex 1 on the status of elephant populations, levels of illegal killing and the trade in ivory. With regard to this report, Kenya, as Chair of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee, provided an update on the Steering Committee's activities since SC65, during which funding had been received from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. The IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group indicated that it was considering the issue of the taxonomy of *Loxodonta africana/cyclotis*, and its possible impacts for CITES, while the IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group regretted the lack of MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) data submitted by range States of the species.

A wide-ranging discussion ensued during which broad acceptance was expressed for the conclusions and recommendations as proposed by the Secretariat, with clear preferences expressed in the few instances where the Secretariat had provided several options for going forward. Several interventions called for more systematic sampling and forensic analysis of confiscated ivory to ascertain its age and origin. Some range States asked for prior consultation regarding the analysis of the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) data that is being prepared for CoP17. Uganda provided updated information on its elephant conservation action plan, and an NGO offered its support to the Secretariat for preparing guidelines and tools concerning the management of ivory stockpiles.

In support of the analysis by the programme Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and by the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), the Standing Committee urged all Parties to report comprehensive and accurate data as required by the MIKE and ETIS monitoring systems by 31 January 2016, and to conduct and release the results of elephant population surveys according to MIKE standards in a timely manner. It

requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to this effect and noted Kenya's request to issue a separate Notification to the Parties on large ivory seizures.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal to incorporate Decision 14.78 (Rev. CoP16) in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) for consideration at CoP17.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to CoP17 the following draft decision:

17.xx *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:*

- a) *convene a meeting of representatives from Parties concerned with the development and implementation of National Ivory Action Plans, in cooperation with partner organizations in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and, as appropriate, other Parties and experts, to:*
 - i) *review the development and implementation of National Ivory Action Plans and, inter alia, exchange experiences and best practices;*
 - ii) *identify opportunities, including opportunities that promote long-term collaboration among enforcement authorities, for cross-border collaboration and regional cooperation, joint actions, and resource mobilisation; and*
 - iii) *discuss shared challenges and technical assistance needs.*
- b) *report on the implementation of the present decision to the Standing Committee at its 69th or 70th meeting, with recommendations as appropriate.*

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to consider the matter of trade in pre-convention ivory in its reporting at CoP17.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for consideration at CoP17 to consolidate the provisions directed to the Parties in Decision 16.83 and recommendations g) to k) in paragraph 36 of document SC66 Doc. 47.1 and incorporate them in the section *Regarding the traceability of elephant specimens in trade* in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16).

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report on trade in live Asian elephant at CoP17.

As part of the Secretariat's proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) for consideration at CoP17, the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for using country-specific data from the ivory stock declarations of Parties in MIKE and ETIS analysis.

The Standing Committee agreed to propose a decision, for consideration at CoP17, to request the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to provide guidance, in accordance with the provisions of Resolutions Conf. 9.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16), on "best practices" for the management of legal and illegal ivory stockpiles.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to draft a report on its behalf and in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee summarizing the actions decided and determinations made by the Standing Committee regarding Decisions 16.78-16.81 and 16.83 at its 64th, 65th and 66th meetings. This report would underscore the implementation by the Standing Committee of Decision 16.82.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Africa (Botswana, Niger and Uganda), of Europe (Hungary and Norway), of North America (United States of America), and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by India, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, and by IUCN, the Centre for Conservation Biology, Durham University, Stop Ivory and WWF.

47.2 Report of the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup..... *No document*

The Standing Committee noted that the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup would meet in the margins of the present meeting and would report back later in the week.

Later in the meeting, Uganda, as Chair of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, introduced document SC66 Com. 9. Concerning the National Ivory Action Planning process, he stressed that the ETIS report that will be presented at CoP17 to assess the degree of involvement of countries in illicit trade in ivory will be based on seizure data covering the period 2012-2014, while in most instances, implementation of National Ivory Action Plans only began in 2014. It would therefore be difficult to measure the impact of NIAP implementation at CoP17 on the basis in the ETIS data analysis.

The Standing Committee noted this report of the Subgroup in document SC66 Com. 9 (see text below).

1. The MIKE and ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee convened on the margins of SC66 on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th January 2016. The meetings of the Subgroup were attended by Botswana, Japan, Thailand, Uganda (Chair), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, TRAFFIC, members of the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) present at SC66 and the Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat provided a report on progress in MIKE implementation. The Subgroup noted this report.
3. TRAFFIC provided a report on progress in ETIS implementation. The report included proposed minor changes to ETIS data classification and analysis. The MIKE and ETIS Subgroup noted the report of TRAFFIC and recommended that the proposed changes to data analysis be reviewed by the MIKE and ETIS TAG at its next meeting.
4. With regard to the designation of countries of primary concern, secondary concern and importance to watch in the illegal ivory trade, TRAFFIC clarified that ETIS only provides technical analyses and does not make recommendations on actions regarding the designation of countries in those categories, and that the Parties are the decision-making authority in this regard.
5. Considering the National Ivory Action Planning (NIAP) process initiated at SC63 and CoP16 by decisions of the Parties, TRAFFIC informed the Subgroup that the component of the ETIS report that will be presented at CoP17 that assesses the degree of involvement of countries in the illicit ivory trade (i.e. the cluster analysis), will be based on bias-adjusted seizure data covering the period 2012-2014. Noting that, in most cases, implementation of National Ivory Action Plans only began in 2014, it will be difficult to measure the impact of NIAP implementation in the ETIS results to CoP17. This may only be possible when ETIS has the requisite data to assess the years 2014-2016, which will cover the entire period of implementation of the NIAPs since CoP16.
6. In this regard, the Subgroup emphasized the importance of timely submission of seizure data to ETIS as outlined in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) and in SC66 Doc. 47.1.
7. The Subgroup also noted that some countries may remain as primary concern, secondary concern or of importance to watch, regardless of the impacts of NIAP implementation, due to factors that shape the illegal ivory supply chains from source to destination countries.
8. TRAFFIC pointed out that new information arising from the genetic analysis of ivory seizures, which provide information on the source of confiscated ivory, may result in new countries being identified as being of concern in the illegal ivory trade.
9. The Subgroup also considered and adopted a data access and release policy for ETIS, and agreed that the policy should be incorporated into the revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) that will be prepared for CoP17. In the interim, the Subgroup indicated that access and release of ETIS data should already be guided by the policy as approved by the Subgroup. The approved ETIS data access and release policy, which reflects the *status quo* that has been in effect since the inception of ETIS in 1998, is as follows:

ETIS Data Access and Release Policy

Definitions

Information is hereby defined as the outcomes and outputs of ETIS data analysis, including summaries and aggregates in different forms, trends and other analytical presentations, and the relationships and factors which comprise underlying trade dynamics.

Data is hereby defined as the facts gathered through ETIS processes on individual seizures, including that collected using the CITES 'Ivory and elephant product data collection form' or other mechanisms used for obtaining elephant product seizure data. It also includes data that is part of the subsidiary databases within ETIS, and any other data that have been primarily collected under ETIS auspices to facilitate ETIS analyses.

Access to ETIS Information and Data

Summaries and the aggregates of data provided by ETIS, and the analyses of such data, constitute information and will be considered to be in the public domain once they are published on the CITES website or otherwise publicly distributed.

The detailed data on individual seizure cases submitted to ETIS are owned by the data providers, which in most case are the CITES Parties. Any data relating to a CITES Party will be accessible to that Party for information and review purposes, but will not be released to any third party without the consent of the Party concerned. Data may also be released to contractors (e.g. statisticians) or other researchers (e.g. MIKE ETIS Subgroup-approved research collaborations) under appropriate non-disclosure agreements.'

10. In accordance with the terms of reference of the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group, as approved by the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup at SC65, the Secretariat presented nominations for new subregional members of the TAG as proposed by the African elephant range States. The Secretariat also submitted a nomination for one of the members of the TAG in the global category. The Subgroup approved these nominations. As a result, the current composition of the MIKE and ETIS TAG is as follows:

Member category	Nominated
Subregional (Central Africa)	Leonard Mubalama
Subregional (Eastern Africa)	Chris Thouless
Subregional (Southern Africa)	Russell Taylor
Subregional (West Africa)	Emmanuel Hema
Subregional (South Asia)	Raman Sukumar
Subregional (Southeast Asia)	Li Zhang
Global	Eleanor Jane Milner-Gulland
Global	Hugo Jachmann
Global	Esmond Martin
Global	Ken Burnham
Co-opted (AfESG chair)	Holly Dublin
Co-opted (AsESG chair)	Vivek Menon
Co-opted (ETIS statistician)	Fiona Underwood

11. On behalf of the Standing Committee, the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup would like to express its appreciation to the outgoing members of the TAG for their services to the Convention. The Subgroup would also like to welcome the new members joining the TAG.

There were no interventions.

47.3 Disposal of ivory stocks: the growth of ivory destructions SC66 Doc. 47.3

Kenya, on behalf of Benin, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, and stating to speak on behalf of 25 African elephant range States, introduced document SC66 Doc. 47.3. Several Parties expressed support for the destruction of confiscated ivory, as described and recommended in the document. Others did not endorse such an approach when involving legally obtained ivory.

The Standing Committee noted the actions taken since the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee by China, Ethiopia, Hong Kong SAR, India, Kenya, Mozambique, the Republic of Congo, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United States, in destroying ivory stockpiles.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana, Niger and Uganda), of Asia (Japan), of Europe (Norway), of North America (United States of America) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia and New Zealand, and by Humane Society International, Safari Club and the Species Survival Network.

47.4 Decision-making mechanism for authorizing ivory trade

47.4.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 47.4.1

and

47.4.2 Proposal by Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Kenya..... SC66 Doc. 47.4.2

The Secretariat and the UNEP Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 47.4.1. Burkina Faso, on behalf of Kenya and Ethiopia, introduced document SC66 Doc. 47.4.2.

Most interventions expressed support for the recommendation to suspend further efforts to implement Decision 16.55, and seek guidance from the Conference of the Parties on how this matter should be dealt with.

The Standing Committee noted that the Working Group has been unable to conclude its work under Decision 16.55 and agreed to seek advice from the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting whether the mandate under Decision 16.55 (and formerly Decision 14.77) should or should not be extended.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Africa (Botswana, Niger and Uganda), of Asia (Japan), of Europe (Norway), of North America (United States of America) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Israel and Zimbabwe, and by UNEP, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, the Species Survival Network and Wildlife Conservation Society,

47.5 Review of Resolution Conf. 10.9 on *Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II: Report of the working group*..... *No document*

Botswana, as Chair of the Standing Committee Working Group on the implementation of Decision 16.160, explained that the working group had not been able to conduct its business due to resource constraints and difficulties with translations, and that more time would be needed to address the mandate and involve all elephant range States. Regret was expressed that no working document had been prepared on the issue.

The Standing Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the continuation of Decision 16.160 until the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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

47.6 Update on the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) SC66 Doc. 47.6

Botswana introduced document SC66 Doc. 47.6. Commenting on the Initiative, interventions were made to support the combat against elephant poaching an illegal ivory trade, and the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan. Japan and South Africa highlighted the fact that they noted, rather than welcomed, the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI).

The Standing Committee noted and welcomed the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI); noted that the EPI member States encourage other range States to join the EPI member states in working towards the above objectives; and encouraged non-range States, International Organizations and NGOs that have not yet done so to contribute their technical and financial support, in order to facilitate the African Elephant Action Plan's speedy implementation.

The Standing Committee noted the following actions delivered through the Elephant Protection Initiative: development of a standardized ivory Inventory Protocol and Inventory Technology; development of Standards and Guidelines for National Elephant Action Plans; nine inventories of ivory stockpiles in accordance with the requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) completed or underway; development of five National Elephant Action Plans to facilitate the national level implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan; and the commitment of growing levels of funding for the implementation of National Elephant Action Plans.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by representatives of Africa (Botswana and Niger) and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Kenya, and by Save the Elephants.

48. Great apes (Hominidae spp.)

48.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 48.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 48.1, which highlights the status of the implementation of the relevant decision and recommendations on great apes.

Parties recognized the need for a study on the status of great apes. One speaker commented on legislative and regulatory loopholes that might facilitate illegal trade and financial burdens for Parties related to confiscated live animals, and the need for support to range States in this regard. One speaker stressed that the assumption that there is a limited international trade, might appear from the lack of detected international trade, and indicated also that it had information suggesting links between organized crime and illegal trade in great apes. The Chair of the Standing Committee encouraged that such information should be shared with the Secretariat.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 48.1 and asked the Secretariat to report on the status of great apes at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary), and by UNEP, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Global Eye and TRAFFIC.

48.2 Revision of Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16) on Conservation of and trade in great apes SC66 Doc. 48.2

Uganda expressed a request to withdraw document SC66. 48.2 in the view of holding further consultation among relevant range States.

The Standing Committee noted that Uganda withdrew document SC66 Doc. 48.2.

There were no interventions.

49. Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)..... SC66 Doc. 49

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 49, providing information on a project funded by the Secretariat and implemented by the IUCN Groupers & Wrasses Specialist Group on Humphead Wrasse that had been delayed due to Umoja implementation.

One Party supported the recommendation of the Secretariat to postpone the discussion on the issue until SC69 to allow for the completion of the IUCN Groupers & Wrasses Specialist Group's project and give Parties time to thoroughly review the reports originating from the project. It was also suggested that the Secretariat could investigate further on any reported violations of the Convention in regard to the species. Another Party used the opportunity to inform the Committee about its domestic activities to improve the management of Humphead Wrasse.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 49 and agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting a proposal to renew Decisions 16.139, 15.87 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.140.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report back on this issue at its 69th meeting.

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

50. Pangolins (*Manidae spp.*)

50.1 Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 50.1

and

50.2 Report of the First Pangolin Range States Meeting SC66 Doc. 50.2

The European Union as the Chair of the Working Group on Pangolins, introduced document SC66 Doc. 50.1, highlighting the recommendations made by the Working Group to address the escalating illegal trade in pangolins.

The United States of America introduced document SC66 Doc. 50.2, highlighting the outcomes of the First Pangolin Range State Meeting.

There was a general support for the recommendations in document SC66 Doc. 50.1, and the submission of a draft resolution to CoP17 as proposed by the Working Group on Pangolins. One speaker pointed out that some of the content of the draft resolution might be more appropriate to be presented in the form of draft decisions for consideration at CoP17.

Many speakers raised concern about the impact of illegal and unsustainable trade on the conservation of both African and Asian pangolin species. Some speakers suggested that the transfer of all pangolin species to Appendix I should be considered at CoP17. Other speakers urged caution regarding the listing of all pangolin species in Appendix I, referring to the limited data available on the status of wild populations.

The Standing Committee agreed to reconvene the Working group on pangolins as an in-session working group with the mandate to draft a resolution on pangolins.

The Standing Committee encouraged range and consumer States who have not yet replied to the questionnaire sent out by the Secretariat through Notification to the Parties No. 2014/059 to do so.

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 4 and thus agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the draft resolution on *Conservation of and trade in pangolins* in document SC66 Com. 4 with the following amendments:

- in the second paragraph of the preamble, replace *Manis* by *Manidae*; and
- in the seventh paragraph of the preamble, replace the last word “lacking” by “needed”.

The final text of draft resolution Conf. 17.xx on *Conservation of and trade in pangolins* reads as follows:

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN PANGOLINS

CONCERNED that all eight species of pangolins, family Manidae, are considered critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable, by the combined effects of habitat degradation, overexploitation and illegal trade;

RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties decided in 1994 to include all species of pangolins, Manidae spp., in Appendix II, and to amend this listing in 2000 with the annotation: “a zero annual export quota has been established for Manis crassicaudata, M. culionensis, M. javanica and M. pentadactyla for specimens removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes”;

MINDFUL that the trade in specimens, parts and derivatives of Manidae of wild origin has been the subject of the Review of Significant Trade in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13);

CONCERNED that these measures have not prevented declines of pangolin populations due to illegal or unsustainable trade;

COMMENDING the efforts made by some range States and Parties to address the illegal and unsustainable trade in pangolins and their parts and derivatives;

ENCOURAGING all stakeholders to take note of the recommendations of the final report of the First Pangolin Range States Meeting held 24 to 26 June 2015 in Da Nang, Viet Nam;

RECOGNIZING that pangolin populations in the wild are difficult to research, manage and monitor, and that more comprehensive data on the population size and conservation status of pangolin species is needed;

RECOGNIZING also that pangolin populations are vulnerable to over-exploitation due to their low reproduction rates and ease of capture;

RECOGNIZING further that in recent years, the illegal trade in pangolin specimens and parts and derivatives has increased significantly to meet international demand;

RECALLING also that in Resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) on the Disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices, the Conference of the Parties urges Management Authorities, in consultation with Scientific Authorities and other bodies concerned, to develop action plans to deal with seized and confiscated live specimens, and RECALLING the importance for Parties to develop such plans for pangolins;

RECALLING that, in accordance with provisions in Resolution 10.16 (Rev.) on Specimens of animal species bred in captivity, pangolin breeding facilities should be able to demonstrate the legal origin of any founder stock and ability to successfully breed pangolins to at least the F2 generation in a controlled environment;

RECALLING further that in Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on Traditional Medicines, the Conference of the Parties recommends Parties to work closely with groups of traditional-medicine practitioners and consumers in developing public education and awareness programmes towards the elimination of illegal use of endangered species, and developing awareness of the need to avoid over-exploitation;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES all Parties to:

- a) adopt and implement comprehensive national legislation or, where applicable, review existing legislation, that makes provision for deterrent penalties to address illegal trade in native and non-native pangolin specimens;*
- b) ensure strict enforcement controls to address illegal trade in pangolin specimens;*

- c) *further strengthen national inter-agency cooperation and international cooperation and to enhance collective efforts as range, transit and destination States, to deliver coordinated activities and law enforcement responses to combat illegal trade in pangolin specimens;*
- d) *carry out capacity-building activities with particular focus on:*
 - i) *methods and techniques to detect and identify illegally traded pangolins, including from alleged captive breeding operations;*
 - ii) *best practice protocols for safe handling, care and rehabilitation, and release back into the wild of live confiscated pangolins specimens; and*
 - iii) *promoting the understanding of legal provisions concerning trade in and use of pangolins; and*
- e) *promote the development of techniques, including the application of forensic science, for identifying parts and derivatives of pangolins in trade;*

URGES Parties with pangolin breeding facilities to ensure that such facilities have in place effective management practices and controls to prevent parts and derivatives from entering illegal trade, including through the registration of breeding facilities, and regular monitoring and control;

ENCOURAGE Parties on whose territories stocks of parts and derivatives of pangolins exist, to ensure that adequate control measures are in place to secure these stocks, and to ensure strict application of these measures;

STRONGLY ENCOURAGES consumer, transit and range States to raise awareness among the law enforcement community, including the judiciary, local communities, relevant business sectors such as courier companies and consumers about the conservation status of pangolins and the threats posed to their survival by illegal trade;

ENCOURAGES range States to work with local communities to develop non-consumptive livelihood programs and educational programs and material to assist local communities in sustainably managing pangolin populations;

ENCOURAGES consumer States to conduct research on the uses of pangolin specimens and on consumers and their motivations for consumption of pangolin parts and derivatives, implement measures to reduce the demand for illegal pangolin specimens on the basis of the results of such research, and to initiate targeted communication campaigns;

CALLS UPON range States to work with appropriate bodies to develop and implement in situ pangolin management and conservation programmes which include the making of non-detriment findings for trade in the species, population assessments, monitoring, and management and conservation measures;

CALLS UPON all governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to support the efforts of range, transit and consumer States concerned with the illegal trade in pangolin specimens, parts and derivatives in fighting it, including through the provision of capacity building interventions, technical assistance, operational support, funding support, educational interventions, law enforcement support and cooperation, as may be needed.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the draft decision in document SC66 Com. 4 with the following amendments:

- under paragraph a), in line 5, instead of “Resolution xx”, the text should read “Resolution Conf. 17.xx”; and
- under paragraph a), in line 5, insert “parts and derivatives” after “pangolin specimens”.

The final text of the draft decision on *Pangolins* reads as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *liaise with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) partner agencies and regional enforcement networks such as the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and other relevant enforcement networks to convey the concerns expressed in Resolution Conf. 17.xx about the illegal trade in pangolin specimens, parts and derivatives, and to request them to take these into account when developing work programmes;*
- b) *Subject to external funding, prepare in cooperation with relevant organisations and in consultation with range and implicated States at least two months before SC69 a report on:*
 - i) *the national and global conservation status of African and Asian pangolin species;*
 - ii) *available information about levels of legal and illegal trade including data from Parties biennial reports;*
 - iii) *relevant information on enforcement actions taken, including seizures, forensic analysis of seized specimens, arrests, prosecutions and judgments relating to illegal trade in pangolins as well as disposition of seized specimens;*
 - iv) *inventory of current captive pangolin populations, including breeding data and mortality rates, in zoos, rehabilitation centres and other captive facilities and new developments on captive breeding activities; and*
 - v) *new developments regarding specific demand management, education and awareness raising measures concerning pangolins.*

The Secretariat shall distribute the report in draft to range and implicated States for any comments. The final report shall be made available to SC69. On the basis of the report and the comments received from the range and implicated States, the Secretariat shall formulate recommendations for consideration by SC69, as well as draft decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Niger), of Europe (Portugal and Norway) and of North America (United States of America), by China, India and Zimbabwe, and by IUCN, IFAW, the Zoological Society of London and Save Vietnam's Wildlife.

51. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)

51.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 51.1

and

51.2 Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 51.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 51.1, noting that the number of rhinoceroses killed illegally remains at alarmingly high levels despite considerable efforts to combat it.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as Chair of the Working Group on Rhinoceroses, introduced document SC66 Doc. 51.2, and highlighted that the Working Group received a wide range of information to consider in the reports provided by the Parties that reported to the present meeting in accordance with the provisions of the recommendations adopted by SC65. The Chair of the Working Group on Rhinoceroses also highlighted the need for the further development of best practice in support of demand-reduction.

Parties recognized the need for rapid progress to be made to combat the ongoing poaching of rhinoceros and rhinoceros horn smuggling. A number of Parties identified as key countries affected by

rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trafficking provided an update on activities they are conducting to combat it. South Africa made a detailed intervention on activities that have taken place in the country since November 2015 when it submitted its report for the present meeting.

In paragraph 51 of document SC66 Doc. 51.1, the Secretariat stated that the report from Zimbabwe which was made available to Parties as Annex 5 to document SC66 Doc. 51.1 seemed to contain an error. Zimbabwe, in its intervention, addressed this and corrected the total number of black and white rhinoceros mentioned in its report, stating that the correct rhinoceros statistics for Zimbabwe at 31 December 2014 were 498 black rhinoceros and 327 white rhinoceros, and at 31 July 2015 were 484 black rhinoceros and 327 white rhinoceros.

The Standing Committee agreed to reconvene the Working group on rhinoceroses as an in-session working group with the mandate to review all issues raised in documents SC66 Doc. 51.1 and 51.2 and during the plenary session, and to propose a consolidated set of recommendations on rhinoceroses.

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 7 with the following amendments:

- deletion of paragraphs b), m) and o); and
- inclusion of the following paragraph at the end of document SC66 Com. 7:

recommend that the Standing Committee propose an amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) for consideration at the 17th Conference of the Parties thus:

under the first URGES paragraph a)

- a) *all Parties that have stocks of rhinoceros horn to identify, mark, register and secure such stocks and declare these to the Secretariat each year before 28 February, in a format to be defined by the Secretariat*

under DIRECTS the Secretariat to

- d) *make an aggregated summary of the rhinoceros horn stock declarations of Parties available to the IUCN/SSN African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC for analysis and inclusion in their reporting to the Secretariat pursuant to the Resolution;*

The final text of the decisions adopted by the Standing Committee on this agenda item reads as follows:

All Parties

- a) The Standing Committee encouraged all Parties to:
 - i) make every effort to effectively implement Resolution Conf 9.14 (Rev CoP 15) and the strategies and proposed actions developed by the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force, made available to Parties as an Annex to Notification to the Parties No. 2014/006 of 23 January 2014;
 - ii) ensure that national level measures are in place for the management of imported rhinoceros horn trophies, including addressing the issue of alteration and transfer of such trophies, to ensure that rhinoceros horns acquired as legal hunting trophies remain in lawful possession; and
 - iii) consider South Africa's National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), under which a permit is required to possess rhinoceros horn in South Africa, whether it is an individual horn or a number of horns, or any part, product or derivative of a rhinoceros horn, as a possible model that could be drawn upon by Parties to develop national level measures for the management of rhinoceros horn.

India

- b) The Standing Committee encouraged India to remain vigilant in its efforts to combat rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade to further suppress current poaching levels, in particular in Kaziranga National Park.

Mozambique

- c) The Standing Committee noted that Mozambique has failed to comply with the Recommendations agreed by the Committee at SC65 in a timely manner.
- d) The Standing Committee requested Mozambique to enhance its efforts to progress the implementation of its NIRAP, and in particular to achieve the full implementation of the following priority actions outlined in its NIRAP by 30 June 2016:
 - i) finalize the regulations of the new conservation law and secure approval of the Council of Ministers;
 - ii) finalize and secure approval of the revised regulations on the application of CITES provisions in Mozambique;
 - iii) issue an administrative circular by the President of the Supreme Court addressed to all courts about the serious nature of illegal trade in wildlife, in particular as it affects Mozambique, the international obligations of Mozambique to address this, and the need for strict application of legislation and penalties in accordance with new legislation;
 - iv) put in place a system to collect information and follow up on the prosecution of wildlife crime cases in court, to monitor successful prosecutions and penalties applied, as well as failures to prosecute successfully, and key reasons for these successes or failures; and
 - v) carry out an independent audit of Mozambique's current systems for the storage, management and security of confiscated wildlife products, and identify key needs and opportunities for improved management and security and implement its recommendations.
- e) The Standing Committee requested Mozambique to report on the further measures taken to implement the priority actions in recommendation d) paragraphs i) to v), and any other actions taken in its NIRAP, to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016 in a format provided by the Secretariat.

South Africa

- f) The Standing Committee encouraged South Africa to regularly review the measures it has implemented in relation to rhinoceros hunting in order to limit the possible abuse of the permit system and to ensure that these measures remain current and are adapted in a timely manner as may be needed to address any new identified trends.

Viet Nam

- g) The Standing Committee requested Viet Nam to:
 - i) consider the increased use of specialized investigation techniques and initiate investigations and follow up on information gathered from the smugglers recruited by those managing and organizing the illegal trafficking;
 - ii) incorporate specific provisions that apply to CITES-related offences in the new Penal Code, including the possession of CITES specimens acquired in violation of the Convention, and to engage with the Secretariat as may be needed, for legal assistance in the development of legislative measures aimed at tackling illegal trade in wildlife and to ensure effective domestic enforcement and prosecution of arrested offenders;
 - iii) provide a further progress report to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee at SC67. This should build on the previous reports provided to SC65 and SC66, and in particular cover:
 - progress made with the incorporation of CITES-related offences in the new Penal Code and other relevant laws;
 - progress made in accordance with Resolution Conf 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) to ensure that any product purported to be rhinoceros horn is treated as such for enforcement purposes;

- arrests, seizures, prosecutions, convictions and penalties for offences involving the illegal possession and trade of rhinoceros horn detected at border points or domestic markets in Viet Nam, as well as failures to prosecute successfully, and key reasons for these successes or failures;
- activities conducted under existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to enhance international co-operation to combat the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn;
- measures implemented to reduce the demand for rhinoceroses horn in domestic markets, including progress towards adopting a robust programme of standardised surveys of consumers to more accurately assess trends in demand; and
- measures implemented to reduce the engagement of Vietnamese citizens in the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn in other countries.

Zimbabwe

- h) The Standing Committee encouraged Zimbabwe to remain vigilant in its efforts to combat rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade, and to enhance its efforts to suppress escalating poaching levels.

Mozambique and South Africa

- i) The Standing Committee encouraged Mozambique and South Africa to:
- i) conclude the signature of the MoU Implementation Plan, and consultations and sign-off of the 2015/2016 Action Plan and the Terms of Reference as required in the MoU signed by them, described in paragraph 37 of document SC66 Doc. 51.1, as a matter of urgency;
 - ii) progress the draft treaties on extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters submitted to Mozambique by South Africa, as described in paragraph 39 of document SC66 Doc. 51.1, as a matter of urgency; and
 - iii) jointly submit a report to the Secretariat on progress made with the matters outlined in recommendation i) i) and ii), by 30 June 2016, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee at SC67.

South Africa and Viet Nam

- j) The Standing Committee encouraged South Africa and Viet Nam to make every effort to further enhance their bilateral collaboration, to ensure that rhinoceros horn samples from specimens subject to criminal investigation are collected and submitted for DNA analysis, in accordance with relevant legislation regulating the exchange of such specimens.

The Working Group on Rhinoceroses

- k) The Standing Committee requested the Working Group on Rhinoceroses to:
- i) compile a list of relevant studies, workshops, campaigns and other initiatives on reducing demand for rhinoceros horn, taking into account reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Decision 16.85 paragraph c);
 - ii) produce a brief synthesis report covering approaches, methods, best practices and challenges experienced that can assist Parties in further enhancing the effectiveness of their demand reduction strategies; and
 - iii) report on the results of the work conducted, including any findings and recommendations, to the Standing Committee at its 67th meeting.

Secretariat

- l) The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to forward the following draft decision for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

17.xx *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external funding, contract a consultant to:*
- i) *engage with Parties that reported against Decision 16.85 paragraph c) and any other Parties as may be appropriate to identify best practices and challenges experienced by these Parties in their development and implementation of long-term demand reduction strategies or programmes to combat trafficking in wildlife;*
 - ii) *engage with Parties that reported against Decision 16.85 paragraph c) and any other Parties as may be appropriate to identify best practices and challenges experienced by these Parties in their implementation of strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness about the economic, social and environmental impacts of trafficking in wildlife, and to encourage the general public to report wildlife trafficking to appropriate authorities for further investigation;*
 - iii) *conduct a review of existing demand reduction studies and material, and the outcomes of demand reduction workshops and other initiatives that have taken place in recent years;*
 - iv) *conduct a review of existing strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness; and*
 - v) *prepare a report on the basis of the findings made through the activities outlined in paragraphs i) to iv) in this decision, together with recommendations, on how to further enhance the effectiveness of such strategies or programmes to reduce demand for illegal wildlife specimens and to enhance community awareness.*
- b) *report on progress on the implementation of the present Decision at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee.*

Secretariat and the Working Group

- m) The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat and the Working Group on Rhinoceroses to evaluate the reports submitted in accordance with recommendations e), g) iii) and i) iii) above, and report their findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 67th meeting.
- n) The Standing Committee agreed to consider, at its 67th meeting, whether Mozambique has made adequate progress with the implementation of its NIRAP, or has made insufficient progress which requires compliance measures to be taken in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3
- o) The Standing Committee agreed to propose an amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) for consideration at the 17th Conference of the Parties thus:

under the first *URGES* paragraph a)

- a) *all Parties that have stocks of rhinoceros horn to identify, mark, register and secure such stocks and declare these to the Secretariat each year before 28 February, in a format to be defined by the Secretariat*

under *DIRECTS* the Secretariat to

- d) *make an aggregated summary of the rhinoceros horn stock declarations of Parties available to the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC for analysis and inclusion in their reporting to the Secretariat pursuant to the Resolution;*

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Niger), of Europe (Norway), of North America (United States of America), and of the Next Host Country (South Africa), by the European Union, India, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe and by the Born Free Foundation.

52. Saiga antelope (Saiga spp.)..... SC66 Doc. 52

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 52, and provided an update of the conservation and trade status of the saiga antelope, marked by a massive natural die-off in Kazakhstan in 2015 which reduced the species to some 100,000 individuals.

The ensuing interventions generally supported the draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat, and welcomed the ongoing collaboration between CMS and CITES on the conservation of saiga antelopes. CITES and CMS were advised to avoid duplications of effort and reporting. There was also agreement that the Standing Committee should be kept informed about saiga antelopes at each of its regular meetings, and that the draft decisions should be amended accordingly.

The Russian Federation stressed the importance of monitoring stockpiles of saiga horn to ensure that no illegally sourced material was mixed with legal stocks, while China emphasized the need to promote captive breeding and *ex situ* conservation efforts.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 52 and the comments made during the plenary session and welcomed the new Medium Term International Work Programme for the period 2016 to 2020.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the following revised draft decisions:

Directed to range States of saiga antelope (Saiga spp.) (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives

17.xx(1) *The range States of the saiga antelope (Saiga spp.) and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives, as identified by the Secretariat on the basis of CITES trade data, should:*

- a) *fully implement the measures directed to them in the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2016-2020) [MTIWP (2016-2020)], developed in support of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.) and its Saiga Action Plan; and*
- b) *provide information to the Secretariat on the measures and activities they undertook to implement the actions directed to them in the MTIWP (2016-2020).*

17.xx(2) *Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives are encouraged to carefully manage the trade in, and consumption of saiga products and derivatives, for example through promoting the use of alternative products with similar medicinal properties, engaging with traditional Asian medicine industries and consumers of saiga products, education and information campaigns, and developing labelling schemes.*

17.xx(3) *Range States of Saiga spp. and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives are encouraged to address challenges in controlling illicit trade in saiga horns and derivatives thereof by:*

- a) *supporting the development of tools to facilitate the identification, sourcing and aging of saiga horns;*
- b) *ensuring effective stockpile management;*
- c) *promoting training of, and cross-border collaboration amongst enforcement agencies; and*
- d) *tackling new illegal trade channels such as those using social media.*

17.xx(4) *Range States of Saiga spp. and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives are encouraged to collaborate to enhance in situ and ex situ conservation of saiga antelopes, develop joint actions and programmes in support of saiga conservation and restoration, and leverage financial and other resources for undertaking these activities and supporting the implementation of Decisions 17.xx(1) to 17.xx(3).*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx(5) *Based on information submitted by range States and consumer and trading countries, and in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, the CITES Secretariat shall report to, and, as necessary, make recommendations at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee regarding the implementation of Decisions 17.xx(1) to 17.xx(4) and 17.xx(7).*

17.xx(6) *Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat should assist Saiga range States and major trading and consumer States, upon request, in ensuring effective stockpile management and monitoring, including the development of inventories and improving stockpile security.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.xx(7) *The Standing Committee shall consider at its 69th and 70th meetings the report submitted by the Secretariat, and propose its own recommendations for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to Saiga antelope range States, Parties, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Intergovernmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other stakeholders

17.xx(8) *Saiga antelope range States, Parties, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Intergovernmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other stakeholders are encouraged to collaborate in the conservation and restoration of the saiga antelope (Saiga spp.), and support the implementation of the MTIWP (2016-2020) and Decisions 17.xx(1) to 17.xx(4).*

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), of Europe (Hungary), and of North America (United States of America), by China and the Russian Federation, and by the CMS Secretariat, IUCN and Wildlife Conservation Society.

53. Sharks and rays

53.1 Report of the Secretariat and of the Animals Committee SC66 Doc. 53.1

and

53.2 Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 53.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 53.1 and Colombia, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on Sharks, introduced document SC66 Doc 53.2.

Parties noted their appreciation of the work of the Working Group, and especially the Animals Committee and the Secretariat. Some noted that the ongoing work to implement the existing listings was unprecedented in scale. Many Parties also emphasized the important nature of the issues raised by the Animals Committee for discussion at the Standing Committee, in particular the role of regional fisheries management organization (RFMOs) and traceability, and supported the recommendation that a more formal role in addressing relevant matters of the conservation and management of sharks should be given to the Standing Committee in the form of a decision at CoP17. Sri Lanka and Maldives publicized their respective proposals to add all three species of Thresher shark and Silky shark to Appendix II at CoP17 and invited other Parties to support the proposals. One Party emphasized that CITES is a sustainable use convention that allows for sustainable fishing of sharks and emphasized the importance of traceability in that regard. Another Party cautioned against adding further shark species to the Appendices without additional resources for implementation. Several Parties took the opportunity to update the Committee on their domestic activities on the conservation and management of sharks.

The Standing Committee noted documents SC66 Doc. 53.1 and SC66 Doc. 53.2 and the interventions made during the plenary session.

The Standing Committee welcomed the draft recommendations in the Annex of document SC66 Doc. 53.1 and requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Chair of the Animals Committee, to prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting directing the Standing Committee to complete the work directed to it by the Animals Committee in the recommendations in document SC66 Doc. 53.1.

During the discussion of the agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (Portugal) and of North America (United States of America), by Canada, China, India, the Maldives, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, by the Chair of the Animals Committee, and by CMS, IUCN, SSN, TRAFFIC, WCS and WWF.

54. Snake trade and conservation management

54.1 Report of the Secretariat and of the Animals Committee SC66 Doc. 54.1

and

54.2 Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 54.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 54.1 and Switzerland, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on snake trade and conservation management introduced document SC66 Doc 54.2.

Several speakers supported the recommendations contained in the documents. Several Parties further regretted the lack of response from Asian Parties regarding the implementation of Decision 16.106 and encouraged Asian Parties to respond. Indonesia noted it will report to the next Standing Committee on improvements in law enforcement and regulation. A number of Parties suggested considering in the discussion of this agenda item also document SC66 Doc. 34.2 on the socio-economic considerations in the development of a global traceability information system for reptile skins. India highlighted its legislation and work on capacity-building with regards to snake trade and conservation management.

The Standing Committee agreed to reconvene the Working group on snake trade and conservation management as an in-session working group with the mandate to review the draft decisions and draft resolution in documents SC66 Doc. 54.1 and 54.2; and to consider tagging and traceability issues in relation to stockpiles.

The Standing Committee adopted document SC66 Com. 6 with the following amendments:

- the third operative paragraph under **Regarding non-detriment findings (NDF)** should read as follows:

***DIRECTS URGES** Parties and the Secretariat to use the general snake NDF guidance contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 and its updates in capacity-building workshops and relevant training materials*

The final text of draft resolution Conf. 17.xx on *Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes* reads as follows:

CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE OF AND TRADE IN SNAKES

AWARE that certain species of snakes are successfully bred in captivity, collected from the wild and traded in high numbers in and outside range States, inter alia to supply the demand for use as food, skins, traditional medicine, and for the pet trade;

AWARE that the harvesting of snakes, and in the case of some species the initial processing of their skins and other body parts, is of economic importance and contributes important revenue to local communities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that unregulated or unsustainable trade in snakes can pose significant threats to wild populations, and that international cooperation is needed to address these threats urgently;

OBSERVING that the collection of snakes is carried out through an extensive informal network of trappers, hunters and middlemen, and that collection efforts and trade volumes are considerable, especially in Asia;

ACKNOWLEDGING Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) on Specimens of animal species bred in captivity;

ACKNOWLEDGING Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on the Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes;

NOTING Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on Management of nationally established export quotas;

NOTING Resolution Conf. 16.7 on NDFs and its concepts and non-binding guiding principles in considering whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of a species;

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Regarding non-detriment findings (NDF)

ENCOURAGES range States that wish to export species of snakes listed in Appendix II to make use of available guidance, in particular the results of the Cancun workshop on NDFs in 2008, for making non-detriment findings for trade in snakes of wild origin, and guidance on other species as appropriate;

ENCOURAGES also Parties and stakeholders in snake conservation, sustainable use and trade to share their experiences and lessons learned with regard to making NDFs;

URGES Parties and the Secretariat to use the general NDF guidance contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 in capacity-building workshops and relevant training materials;

Regarding management of wild snake populations

ENCOURAGES Parties to establish national harvest, trade and management policies for snake species;

INVITES Parties to identify those snake species that are impacted by international trade and, where appropriate, propose possible CITES listings and implement national management strategies including establishment of export and harvest quotas, size or season restrictions, among others, to further conservation of the species concerned;

ENCOURAGES all Parties to explore ways to enhance the participation of the private sector in the conservation of and sustainable use and trade in snake species;

ENCOURAGES Parties and stakeholders to increase public awareness of the ecosystem services provided by snakes, of the benefits and consequences of non-detrimental and legal trade and the threats to the survival of the species in the wild and livelihoods posed by illegal trade in snakes and their parts and derivatives;

Regarding monitoring and trade controls

ENCOURAGES Parties to use guidance developed for monitoring wild populations and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems;

ENCOURAGES Parties and stakeholders in snake conservation and trade to share their experiences and lessons learned with regard to the application of guidance developed for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems;

ENCOURAGES range States to apply methodologies for differentiating wild and captive-bred specimens of CITES-listed snakes in trade;

URGES Parties to enhance and increase enforcement efforts with regard to existing legislation as a matter of urgency;

URGES Parties with trade in snake parts and derivatives to enhance efforts to better regulate such trade;

URGES Parties to enhance cooperation amongst wildlife-law enforcement agencies at national and international levels concerning control of trade in snakes, and between enforcement agencies and national CITES authorities;

ENCOURAGES Parties to test, and consider the introduction of innovative traceability and enforcement methods in range and consumer States and, as a matter of priority, to strengthen enforcement efforts;

URGES Parties that have snake captive-breeding or ranching facilities in their territories to engage in regular monitoring of such facilities, taking into account the origin of parental stock and whether they were obtained legally and without detriment to wild populations, as well as the practicality and capacity of producing the offspring claimed and for those facilities that breed Appendix I species to register those facilities with the CITES Secretariat in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15);

ENCOURAGES Parties to pursue the development and dissemination of forensic methods to assist Parties in the identification of snake parts and derivatives, and for examination of products labelled as containing parts and derivatives of snakes;

Regarding traceability systems for snake skins

ENCOURAGES Parties to share experiences in the use of traceability systems for specimens of CITES-listed snakes, including the use of identification technologies;

ENCOURAGES Parties to take into account lessons learned from projects on traceability implemented for other CITES-listed species;

RECOMMENDS

- a) *That Parties, prior to the implementation of a traceability system for pythons skins, inventory and tag those skins and provide this information to the Secretariat as a baseline;*
- b) *That Parties ensure that the tagging method used distinguishes between skins of the initial stockpiles from skins harvested at later points in time;*
- c) *That Parties ensure that the inventory of the initial stockpiles contains information on the species concerned, the stage of processing of the skins (crust, dried, etc.) and the corresponding quantities and tag numbers, and also the year of harvest for skins newly entering the stockpiles;*
- d) *That the traceability systems should commence as close to the point of harvest of the animal or production of the skin as possible. It should be made mandatory up to and including finished skins;*
- e) *That the identification of skins should make use of devices that are tamper proof, affordable, uniquely serially numbered and contain the following minimum information: species, country of origin (where relevant regional code), year of harvest or production, unique serial number, source code or technologies that may accomplish the same requirements. In addition, Parties are encouraged to add other information they deem necessary;*
- f) *That the Secretariat should compile such information on available identification technologies and projects to make them available to Parties;*

CALLS UPON governments and intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, non-governmental organizations, the industry and other donors to provide financial support and other assistance to implement this Resolution; and

ENCOURAGES Parties to engage in the development of traceability systems and to explore ways to enhance the participation of the private sector and other stakeholders in this process.

The final text of the draft decisions on *Snake trade and conservation management* read as follows:

Directed to Southeast Asian Parties

xx.xx *RECOMMENDS Southeast Asian Parties engaged in the snake trade:*

1. *to verify the origin of animals traded between countries in the region;*
2. *to ensure the appropriate use of source codes.*

Directed to Parties

xx.xx *ENCOURAGES the following Parties, including:*

1. *Honduras to ensure that measures are in place to address poaching of, and illegal trade in, the Cayos Cochinos boa constrictor (Boa constrictor imperator);*
2. *Benin to implement the following measures for the Ball python (Python regius):*
 - a) *Design and implement a management program for the species;*
 - b) *Make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and*
 - c) *Strengthen national regulations relating to trade control and monitoring, including stricter control policies for production systems.*
3. *Ghana, Togo and Benin to implement the following measures for the Calabar ground boa (Calabaria reinhardtii):*
 - a) *Make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and*
 - b) *Improve systems to monitor harvest, captive breeding, and trade in the species;*
4. *Indonesia to improve enforcement of existing laws and take into account the recommendations provided in the document to more effectively regulate the collection of and trade in the populations of the wild green tree python (Morelia viridis) and the Boelen's python (Morelia boeleni); and*
5. *Honduras, Benin, Ghana, Togo and Indonesia to report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting on the implementation of the elements of this Decision.*

xx.xx *ENCOURAGES Parties, in particular:*

1. *Range States, importing countries, and other Parties to conduct more detailed assessments of those species indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3], for which available information suggests that international trade is "likely to be a threat" (4 species) or "may be a threat" (29 species);*
2. *Range States:*
 - a) *to submit listing proposals for the 4 species categorized as "likely to be threatened by trade" and for the 3 species categorized as "may be threatened by trade" and have an IUCN status (CR, EN, VU), including: Euprepiophis perlacea, Enhydryis longicauda, and Cryptelytrops rubeus; and*
 - b) *to consider including the remaining species categorized as "may be threatened by trade" with listing in the Appendices;*

3. *Range States of Popeia buniana (Malaysia), Popeia nebularis (Malaysia), Cryptelytrops kanburiensis (Thailand and probably Myanmar) and Orthriophis moellendorfi (China and Vietnam)*
 - a) *to assess whether existing legislation, protected areas and current levels of trade are compatible with the conservation of these species in the wild; and*
 - b) *to evaluate the possible listing of these species under CITES (including Appendix III);*
 4. *Parties and range States:*
 - a) *to compile more information on the exploitation levels (i.e. direct harvest and as by-catch) of freshwater and marine aquatic snakes subject to high volumes of international trade, including all species of Elapidae (Hydrophis spp., Kerilia spp., Lapemis spp., Laticauda spp., Thalassophina spp.) and Homalopsidae (Enhydris spp., Erpeton spp., Homalopsis spp.) indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3];*
 - b) *to evaluate the possible listing of these species under CITES (including Appendix III);*
 5. *Exporting countries and other Parties to put in place precautionary management measures, such as establishing closed areas/ seasons, daily seasonal catch quotas, restricting the use of certain types of fishing gear or imposing size-limits, and improved domestic monitoring and reporting mechanisms for aquatic (freshwater and marine) snakes, including all Elapidae and Homalopsidae species indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3]; and*
 6. *Parties to encourage research to improve the understanding of the ecology, biology and conservation needs of Asian snakes, inter alia through supporting relevant scientific institutions and promoting additional field studies.*
- xx.xx *Parties should eliminate the important illegal and unreported trade in specimens, whether live or parts and derivatives, of CITES-listed snake species by:*
- a) *ensuring that CITES permits and certificates are properly issued for trade in these specimens;*
 - b) *including information on trade in these specimens in their CITES annual reports;*
 - c) *ensuring that their annual reports are following the most recent version of the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16);*
 - d) *examining their enforcement efforts regarding trade in these specimens to ensure that adequate steps are taken to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade;*
 - e) *undertaking education and outreach activities directed towards snake farms, buyers and sellers of live snakes, parts and derivatives, product manufacturers, shippers, brokers and staff from government agencies involved in controlling and monitoring this trade to ensure that snake specimens are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES provisions; and*
 - f) *in the case of Parties in Asia, reporting on their efforts in all of these areas to the Secretariat in time for its reporting for the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, in compliance with Decision 16.102, paragraph e).*

Directed to the Animals Committee

- xx.xx *The Animals Committee shall continue to review the guidance on making non-detriment findings, prepared pursuant to Decision 16.102, paragraph a) ii), and new information*

provided on trade, sustainable use and conservation of snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

xx.xx *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the reports and recommendations from the Animals Committee in accordance with Decision xx.xx and any other relevant information;*
- b) *and make recommendation to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat as appropriate; and*
- c) *report on the implementation of Decision xx.xx at COP18 with recommendations for consideration by the Parties, including revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.xx on the conservation, unsustainable use of and trade in snakes, if deemed necessary.*

Directed to the Secretariat

xx.xx *The Secretariat shall communicate individually with Asian Parties to invite them to report on the status of their implementation of Decision xx.xx.*

xx.xx *The Secretariat shall make any relevant information on trade, sustainable use and conservation of snakes available to Parties and the Animals Committee through the CITES website.*

During the discussion of the agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Indonesia), of Europe (Portugal), of North America (United States of America) and of the Depository Government (Switzerland) and by China, India, Malaysia and Mexico.

55. Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.)

55.1 Report of the working group SC66 Doc. 55.1

and

55.2 Report of the Animals Committee..... SC66 Doc. 55.2

Germany, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional Working group on sturgeons and paddlefish presented document SC66 Doc. 55.1 and the Chair of the Animals Committee presented document SC66 Doc. 55.2.

Parties thanked Germany for the excellent chairmanship and voiced their support for different elements in the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev CoP16) contained in the Annex of document SC66 Doc. 55.1. The majority of Parties supported option 2 of the proposals. Other contentious issues were the revision of exemption for household effects and the definition of country of origin. One Party expressed its concern about the singling out of Caspian countries in the resolution, highlighted the existence and work of regional organizations on this matter, and requested the deletion of several references to Caspian countries and Annex 3 of the document.

The Standing Committee agreed to reconvene the Working group on sturgeons and paddlefish as an in-session working group with the mandate to review the draft resolution and other unresolved issues in documents 55.1 and 55.2.

On the basis of document SC66 Com. 8, the Standing Committee agreed to submit a revised version of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* incorporating all the proposed changes in the Annex to document SC66 Doc. 55.1 with the following additional changes:

- deletion of the third and fifth paragraphs of the preamble and deletion of paragraph e) under the first URGES

- replacement of option 2 under RECOMMENDS with the following text:

RECOMMENDS, with regard to regulating trade in sturgeon products, that:”

- a) each importing, exporting and re-exporting Party establish, where consistent with national law, a registration system for ~~caviar processing plants~~ facilities producing caviar, including aquaculture operations that process and package caviar and those facilities that re-package caviar operations, and repackaging plants in its territory and provide to the Secretariat the list of these facilities and their official registration codes and clearly state whether it is a processing or a repacking plant. Where consistent with the national registration system Parties should add ‘P’ to registration numbers for processing plants and ‘R’ for repacking plants. Where appropriate Parties should on a voluntary basis include in their notification of caviar processing aquaculture plants the sturgeon or paddlefish species used in the respective processing plant. The list should be updated when changes occur and communicated to the Secretariat without delay. The Secretariat should ~~distribute~~ include this information ~~via a Notification to the Parties and include it in its register on the CITES website;~~
- the insertion in Annex 1b of the draft revised Resolution of the following text in square brackets, noting that the question of the definition of the country of origin of caviar would be discussed further at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

[Country of origin of caviar: Country in which a registered processing plant harvests roe of Acipenseriformes species to process caviar]

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to verify the content of the proposed Annex 3 of the draft revised Resolution.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to provide further advice on the issue of country of origin of caviar for discussion at the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The final revised text of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* reads as follows:

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN STURGEONS AND PADDLEFISH

NB: Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~. Proposed new text is underlined.

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 10.12 (Rev.), adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 10th meeting (Harare, 1997) and amended at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), and Resolution Conf. 11.13, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting;

AWARE that sturgeons and paddlefish of the Order Acipenseriformes represent a valuable renewable biological and economic resource that in recent years has been affected by such negative factors as illegal fishing and illegal trade, regulation of water flow and decrease in natural spawning sites;

~~*RECALLING the concepts endorsed and the progress made toward conservation of Acipenseriformes in the Caspian Sea under the ‘Paris Agreement’ approved at the 15th meeting of the Standing Committee (Paris, June 2001);*~~

NOTING the need for further research and the importance of scientific monitoring of the status of stocks and an understanding of their genetic structure as the basis for sustainable fisheries management;

~~*CONSIDERING that Eurasian range States of Acipenseriformes species are in need of funds and technical assistance in order to develop regional management and monitoring programmes for conservation, habitat protection, and the combating of illegal fishing and trade;*~~

RECALLING that Article VI, paragraph 7, of the Convention provides that specimens of species listed in the Appendices may be marked to assist in identifying them;

CONSIDERING that the labelling of all caviar in trade ~~would be~~ has proven to be a fundamental step towards the effective regulation of trade in caviar specimens of sturgeons and paddlefish;

NOTING that, in order to assist the Parties in identifying legal caviar in trade, marking should be standardized and that particular specifications for the design of labels are fundamental, should be generally applied and should also take into account marking systems currently in place and anticipated technological advances in marking systems;

CONSIDERING that the trade in caviar from aquaculture operations is steadily increasing worldwide Management and Enforcement authorities should pay special attention to the development of sturgeon aquaculture facilities in their countries;

CONSCIOUS that there is a need for improvement of monitoring of caviar re-exports in relation to the original export and the level of exports in relation to annual export quotas;

~~WELCOMING the establishment of the caviar trade database by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC);~~

RECOGNIZING that Parties take into account domestic markets and illegal trade when issuing export permits, re-export certificates or when setting export quotas;

RECOGNIZING that the setting of export quotas for sturgeon specimens from shared stocks requires transparency;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES the range States of species in the Order Acipenseriformes to:

- a) encourage scientific research and ensure adequate monitoring of the status of stocks¹ to promote the sustainability of sturgeon and paddlefish fisheries through appropriate management programmes;
- b) curtail the illegal fishing of and trade in sturgeon and paddlefish specimens by improving the provisions in and enforcement of existing laws regulating fisheries and export, in close collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, ICPO-INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization;
- c) explore ways of enhancing the participation of representatives of all agencies responsible for sturgeon and paddlefish fisheries in conservation and sustainable-use programmes for these species; and
- d) promote regional agreements between range States of sturgeon and paddlefish species aiming at proper management and sustainable utilization of these species; and
- ~~e) in the case of range States of sturgeons in the Eurasian region, take into account the recommendations in documents CoP12 Doc. 42.1 and SC61 Doc. 48.2 when developing regional conservation strategies and action plans;~~

RECOMMENDS, with regard to regulating trade in sturgeon products, that:

- a) each importing, exporting and re-exporting Party establish, where consistent with national law, a registration system for ~~caviar processing plants~~ facilities producing caviar, including aquaculture operations that process and package caviar and those facilities that re-package caviar operations, and repackaging plants in its territory and provide to the Secretariat the list of these facilities and their official registration codes and clearly state whether it is a processing or a repacking plant. Where consistent with the national registration system Parties should add 'P' to registration numbers for processing plants and 'R' for repacking plants. Where appropriate Parties should on a voluntary basis include in their notification of caviar processing aquaculture plants the sturgeon or paddlefish species used in the respective processing plant. The list should be updated when changes occur and communicated to the Secretariat without delay. The Secretariat should ~~distribute~~ include this information ~~via a Notification to the Parties and include it in its register on the CITES website;~~

- b) *importing countries be particularly vigilant in controlling all aspects of the trade in specimens of sturgeon and paddlefish species, including the unloading of sturgeon specimens, transit, re-packaging, re-labelling and re-exports;*
- c) *Parties monitor the storage, processing and re-packaging of specimens of sturgeon and paddlefish species in Customs free zones and free ports, and for airline and cruise line catering;*
- d) *Parties ensure that all their relevant agencies cooperate in establishing the necessary administrative, management, scientific and control mechanisms needed to implement the provisions of the Convention with respect to sturgeon and paddlefish species;*
- e) *Parties consider the harmonization of their national legislation related to personal exemptions for caviar, to allow for the personal effects exemption under Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Convention and consider limiting this exemption to no more than 125 grams of caviar per person;*
- f) *all caviar from shared stocks subject to export quotas be exported before the end of the quota year (1 March – last day of February) in which it was harvested and processed. For this purpose the export permits for such caviar should be valid until the last day of the quota year at the latest. Parties should not import caviar harvested or processed in the preceding quota year;*
- g) *no re-export of caviar take place more than 18 months after the date of issuance of the relevant original export permit. For that purpose re-export certificates should not be valid beyond that 18-month period;*
- ~~h) *Parties supply to UNEP-WCMC copies of all export permits and re-export certificates issued to authorize trade in caviar, no longer than one month after they have been issued, for inclusion in the UNEP-WCMC caviar trade database;*~~
- ~~i) *Parties consult the UNEP-WCMC caviar trade database prior to the issuance of re-export certificates;*~~
- j) *where available, Parties use the full eight-digit Customs code for caviar, instead of the less precise six-digit code which also includes roe from other fish species;*
- k) *Parties implement the universal labelling system for caviar outlined in Annexes 1 and 2 and importing Parties not accept shipments of caviar whether for commercial or for non-commercial purposes or under the exemption for personal and household effects unless they comply with these provisions;*
- l) *caviar from different Acipenseriformes species not be mixed into a primary container, except in the case of pressed caviar;*

RECOMMENDS further, with regard to catch and export quotas, that:

- a) *Parties not accept the import of caviar and meat of Acipenseriformes species from stocks shared between different range States³ which are listed in Annex 3 to this resolution unless export quotas have been set in accordance with the following procedure:*
 - i) *range States have established export quotas for caviar and meat of Acipenseriformes species for that quota year, which starts on 1 March and ends on the last day of February of the following year;*
 - ii) *the export quotas referred to in subparagraph i) have been derived from catch quotas that are based on an appropriate regional conservation strategy and monitoring regime for the species concerned and are not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild;*
 - iii) *the catch and export quotas referred to in subparagraphs i) and ii) should be agreed amongst all States that provide habitat for the same stock of an Acipenseriformes species. However, where a stock is shared by more than two States, and if one of these States refuses to participate or does not participate in the shared-stock quota agreement meeting convened in accordance with the agreed decision of all these States, the total and country-*

specific quotas for the shared stock may be agreed by the remaining range States. This situation must be substantiated in writing by both sides to the Secretariat for information to the Parties. The State not having participated may only export caviar and meat from its allocated quotas after it has notified the Secretariat that it accepts them and the Secretariat has informed the Parties. If more than one range State refuses to participate or does not participate in the process mentioned above, the total and country specific quotas for the shared stock cannot be established. In case of a stock shared by only two range States, the quotas must be agreed by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, they may call upon a mediator, including the CITES Secretariat, to facilitate the process. They shall have a zero quota until such time as they have reached consensus;

- iv) range States have provided to the Secretariat by 31 December of the previous year, the export quota referred to in subparagraph i) as well as the scientific data used to establish the catch and export quotas under subparagraphs ii) and iii);
 - v) if the quotas have not been communicated to the Secretariat by the deadline indicated in subparagraph iv) above, the relevant range States have a zero quota until such time as they communicate their quotas in writing to the Secretariat and the Secretariat in turn informs the Parties. The Secretariat should be informed by the range States of any delay and shall in turn inform the Parties; and
 - vi) the Secretariat shall communicate the agreed quotas to the Parties through its website within one month of receipt of the information from the range States;
- b) the Secretariat make all the information mentioned in subparagraph iv) available to Parties upon request; and
 - c) if a range State of a shared stock of a species of Acipenseriformes decides to reduce its quotas established in accordance with this Resolution under stricter domestic measures, this shall not affect the quotas of the other range States of this stock;

DIRECTS the Secretariat in cases where range states of shared stocks have agreed on export quotas in the previous year to provide at each to the subsequent meeting of the Animals Committee a written report, based on information submitted by the range States concerned as requested in subparagraph a) iv) above, including references to relevant documents, on its activities related to the conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish;

DIRECTS the Animals Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat, interested Parties, international organizations and relevant experts, to monitor progress on the relevant provisions of this Resolution and to inform the Standing Committee about new developments or problems as and when required; carry out on a three-year cycle starting in 2008, and using information from preceding years, an evaluation of the assessment and the monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species subject to the provisions under RECOMMENDS further, paragraph a), above;

URGES range States to cooperate with the Animals Committee and the Secretariat with a view to implementing the provisions under RECOMMENDS further, paragraph a), and the paragraph DIRECTS the Animals Committee above;

~~DIRECTS the Animals Committee to provide to the Standing Committee its recommendations on actions to be taken based upon the above-mentioned monitoring of progress and three-year cycle evaluation;~~

CALLS UPON range States, importing countries and other experts and appropriate organizations, such as the IUCN/SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Animals Committee, to continue to explore the development of a uniform DNA-based identification system for parts and derivatives and aquaculture stocks of Acipenseriformes species to assist in the subsequent identification of the origin of specimens in trade and the development and application of methods for differentiating wild from aquaculture origin caviar in cases where DNA-based methods are not useful;

CALLS UPON the range States of Acipenseriformes species:

- a) to collaborate in the development and implementation of strategies, including action plans, for the conservation and management of shared *Acipenseriformes* stocks and for ensuring sustainable fishing, and
- b) to seek cooperation with Parties, United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and other expert stakeholders in supporting these strategies;

URGES Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and other donors to assist with securing financial and other resources for the range States of *Acipenseriformes* to develop and implement strategies, including action plans, for the conservation and management of shared *Acipenseriformes* stocks; and

REPEALS the Resolutions listed hereunder:

- a) Resolution Conf. 10.12 (Rev.) (Harare, 1997, as amended at Gigiri, 2000) – Conservation of sturgeons; and
- b) Resolution Conf. 11.13 (Gigiri, 2000) – Universal labelling system for the identification of caviar.

Annex 1

CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar

- a) The uniform labelling system applies to all caviar, from wild and aquaculture origin, produced for commercial and non-commercial purposes, for either domestic or international trade, and is based on the application of a non-reusable label on each primary container.
- b) The following definitions apply in relation to trade in caviar:
 - Caviar: processed unfertilized eggs (roe) of *Acipenseriformes* species.
 - [Country of origin of caviar: Country in which a registered processing plant harvests roe of *Acipenseriformes* species to process caviar.]
 - Harvest: removal of unfertilized eggs (roe) from specimens of *Acipenseriformes* species for further processing to become caviar.
 - Lot identification number: a number that corresponds to information related to the caviar tracking system used by the processing or repackaging plant.
 - Non-reusable label: any label or mark that cannot be removed undamaged or transferred to another container, which may seal the container. If the non-reusable label does not seal the primary container, caviar should be packaged in a manner that permits visual evidence of any opening of the container.
 - Pressed caviar: caviar composed of unfertilized eggs (roe) of one or more sturgeon or paddlefish species, remaining after the processing and preparation of higher quality caviar.
 - Primary container: tin, jar or other receptacle that is in direct contact with the caviar.
 - Processing plant: facility in the country of origin responsible for the first packaging of caviar into a primary container.
 - Repackaging plant: facility responsible for receiving and repackaging caviar into new primary containers.
 - Secondary container: receptacle into which primary containers or groups of primary containers are placed.

- Source code: letter corresponding to the source of the caviar (e.g. W, C, F), as defined in the relevant CITES Resolutions. Note that, among other situations, for caviar produced from a female born in captivity and where at least one parent originated in the wild, the "F" code should be used.
- c) In the country of origin, the non-reusable label should be affixed by the processing plant to any primary container. This label must include, as a minimum: a standard species code as provided in Annex 2; the source code of the caviar; the ISO two-letter code for the country of origin; the year of harvest; the official registration code of the processing plant (e.g. xxxx); and the lot identification number for the caviar (e.g. yyyy), for instance:

HUS/W/RU/2000/xxxx/yyyy

- d) When no repackaging takes place, the non-reusable label referred to in paragraph c) above should be maintained on the primary container and be considered sufficient, including for re-export.
- e) A non-reusable label should be affixed by the repackaging plant to any primary container in which caviar is repackaged. This label must include, as a minimum: a standard species code as provided in Annex 2; the source code of the specimen; the ISO two-letter code of the country of origin; the year of repackaging; the official registration code of the repackaging plant, which incorporates the ISO two-letter code of the country of repackaging if different from the country of origin (e.g. IT-wwww); and the lot identification number, or CITES export permit or re-export certificate number (e.g. zzzz), for instance:

PER/W/IR/2001/IT-wwww/zzzz

- f) When caviar is exported or re-exported, the exact quantity of caviar must be indicated on any secondary container in addition to the description of the content in accordance with international Customs regulations.
- g) The same information that is on the label affixed to the container must be given on the export permit or re-export certificate, or in an annex attached to the CITES permit or certificate.
- h) In the event of inconsistencies between information on a label and a permit or certificate, the Management Authority of the importing Party should contact its counterpart in the exporting or re-exporting Party as soon as possible to establish whether this was a genuine error arising from the complexity of information required by these guidelines. If this is the case, every effort should be made to avoid penalizing those involved in such transactions.
- i) Parties should accept shipments of caviar only if they are accompanied by appropriate documents containing the information referred to in paragraph c), d) or e).

Annex 2

Codes for identification of Acipenseriformes species, hybrids and mixed species

Species	Code
<i>Acipenser baerii</i>	BAE
<i>Acipenser baerii baicalensis</i>	BAI
<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	BVI
<i>Acipenser dabryanus</i>	DAB
<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	FUL
<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i>	GUE
<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	MED
<i>Acipenser mikadoi</i>	MIK

<i>Acipenser naccarii</i>	NAC
<i>Acipenser nudiventris</i>	NUD
<i>Acipenser oxyrhynchus</i>	OXY
<i>Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotoi</i>	DES
<i>Acipenser persicus</i>	PER
<i>Acipenser ruthenus</i>	RUT
<i>Acipenser schrenckii</i>	SCH
<i>Acipenser sinensis</i>	SIN
<i>Acipenser stellatus</i>	STE
<i>Acipenser sturio</i>	STU
<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>	TRA
<i>Huso dauricus</i>	DAU
<i>Huso huso</i>	HUS
<i>Polyodon spathula</i>	SPA
<i>Psephurus gladius</i>	GLA
<i>Pseudoscaphirhynchus fedtschenkoi</i>	FED
<i>Pseudoscaphirhynchus hermanni</i>	HER
<i>Pseudoscaphirhynchus kaufmanni</i>	KAU
<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	ALB
<i>Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus</i>	PLA
<i>Scaphirhynchus suttkusi</i>	SUS
Mixed species (for 'pressed' caviar exclusively)	MIX
Hybrid specimens: code for the species of the male x code for the species of the female	YYYxXXX

Annex 3

Overview about stocks shared by range states and the respective species

(see: AC27 Doc. 21.1)

<u>Shared stock</u>	<u>Range states</u>	<u>Species</u>
<u>Caspian Sea</u>	<u>Azerbaijan</u> <u>Islamic Republic of Iran</u> <u>Kazakhstan</u> <u>Russian Federation</u> <u>Turkmenistan</u>	<u>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</u> <u>Acipenser nudiventris</u> <u>Acipenser persicus</u> <u>Acipenser ruthenus</u> <u>Acipenser stellatus</u> <u>Huso huso</u>
<u>North-West Black Sea and Lower Danube</u>	<u>Bulgaria</u> <u>Romania</u> <u>Serbia</u>	<u>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</u> <u>Acipenser nudiventris</u> <u>Acipenser ruthenus</u>

	<u>Ukraine</u>	<u>Acipenser stellatus</u> <u>Huso huso</u>
<u>Saint John River / Bay of Fundy</u>	<u>Canada</u> <u>United States of America</u>	<u>Acipenser oxyrinchus</u>
<u>Amur / Heilongjian River</u>	<u>China</u> <u>Russian Federation</u>	<u>Acipenser schrenckii</u> <u>Huso dauricus</u>
<u>Azov Sea</u>	<u>Russian Federation</u> <u>Ukraine</u>	<u>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</u> <u>Acipenser nudiventris</u> <u>Acipenser ruthenus</u> <u>Acipenser stellatus</u> <u>Huso huso</u>

* Amended at the 13th, 14th and 16th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ The term 'stock' is regarded, for the purposes of this Resolution, to be synonymous with 'population'.

² At CoP13 it was agreed that this recommendation would not apply to those range States where there is no commercial caviar harvest or export from shared stocks. It was also agreed, however, that the Secretariat or any Party would bring to the attention of the Standing Committee or Conference of the Parties any significant changes in the harvest or export of sturgeon products from such stocks.

³ Quotas do not have to be established for specimens from endemic stocks, i.e. stocks not shared with other countries, and captive-breeding or aquaculture operations. Quotas communicated for such specimens are voluntary quotas

When the report of the Working Group was presented the United States pointed out that it could not accept the definition of country of origin contained in the report.

During the discussion on this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary) and of North America (United States of America), and by the European Union, Germany, and the Russian Federation.

56. Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) SC66 Doc. 56

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 56, which highlights the status of the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations on Tibetan antelope and stated that shahtoosh shawls of modern design and reduced purity continues to be detected in Switzerland. The document also highlights Switzerland's efforts to strengthen enforcement cooperation with transit and destinations countries to combat illegal trade in shahtoosh.

Switzerland informed the meeting that in November 2015 it delivered a presentation about its findings on the illegal trade in shahtoosh at the 26nd INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group meeting held in Singapore, and that a joint strategy was developed by the affected countries at the meeting, to combat this illegal trade. Switzerland also indicated that it will update the Secretariat on the most recent seizures in due course. One range State informed about its efforts to strengthen conservation and enforcement activities, and reported that the wild population of Tibetan antelopes has increased in that country. India during its intervention, indicated that it will report to the Secretariat on follow-up investigations conducted, by March 2016.

The Standing Committee requested India, as the primary country of origin of shahtoosh shawls, to report to the Secretariat by 1 March 2016 on the results of any follow-up investigations that have been conducted based on information received from Switzerland;

The Standing Committee encouraged Germany, India and Italy to review their implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope*, taking into consideration the newly identified trends identified by Switzerland; and

The Standing Committee recommended to the Conference of the Parties, at its 17th meeting, that paragraph b), under 'DIRECTS', of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13) be maintained, and that Decision 16.93 be included in the Resolution.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Hungary) and of the Depository Government (Switzerland), and by China and India.

57. Tortoises and freshwater turtles

57.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 57.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC66 Doc. 57.1, drawing attention to its recommendations regarding reporting to CoP17 in paragraph 14. IUCN provided an oral update of progress with the studies mentioned in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the document, confirming that they should be completed by 15 February 2016.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report back on the implementation of the Decisions on Tortoises and freshwater turtles to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

There were no interventions.

57.2 Report of the Animals Committee..... SC66 Doc. 57.2

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC66 Doc. 57.2. Stressing the high quality of IUCN's study on the making of non-detriment findings for trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles in document AC28 Doc. 15, the AC Chair suggested that the Standing Committee could recommend the communication of this guidance to the Parties in compliance with Decision 16.112.

The ensuing discussions covered items 57.1 and 57.2. Several Parties provided information on their efforts to manage trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, including recent cases of illegal trade in various species.

The Standing Committee requested that the study contained in document AC28 Doc. 15 be communicated to the Parties.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal) and North America (United States of America), by India and Malaysia and by IUCN.

58. Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*): Opportunities for international collaboration within the CITES framework..... SC66 Doc. 58

Mexico introduced document SC66. Doc 58.

China informed the Committee about its domestic actions to combat illegal wildlife trade in general and in totoaba specifically. China reported that during special inspections and undercover investigations only few specimen had been found, but acknowledged the existence of illegal trade and signaled its interest in continuing to work with other Parties on this matter. The United States of America thanked Mexico for the document and welcomed the trilateral discussions with China. The United States highlighted its support to Mexico in combating illegal fisheries. Other Parties welcomed the significant efforts by all involved Parties. It was also highlighted that the case of totoaba is special because through bycatch in illegal fisheries, it also endangers the vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*), another CITES-Appendix I species.

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 58.

The Standing Committee urged Mexico to strengthen implementation of CITES provisions that are applicable to totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*).

The Standing Committee recommended that Parties cooperate with Mexico in sharing any relevant information about illegal trade in totoaba.

During the discussion on this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Portugal) and of North America (United States of America), by China, and by the Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, the Environmental Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, IFAW, the Natural Resources Defence Council, SSN, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and Wildlife Impact.

59. Reports of regional representatives

59.1 Africa..... SC66 Doc. 59.1

59.2 Asia..... SC66 Doc. 59.2 (Rev. 1)

59.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean..... SC66 Doc. 59.3

59.4 Europe..... SC66 Doc. 59.4

59.5 North America..... SC66 Doc. 59.5

and

59.6 Oceania SC66 Doc. 59.6

The representatives of Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America and Oceania presented documents SC66 Doc. 59.1, 59.2 (Rev. 1), 59.3, 59.4, 59.5 and 59.6.

The Standing Committee noted all of the reports received from regional representatives.

During the discussion on this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Uganda), Asia (Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Portugal), North America (United States of America) and Oceania (Australia).

60. Any other business..... *No document*

The Standing Committee noted that Chile had withdrawn its request to address the issue of vicuña during this meeting of the Committee.

There were no interventions.

61. Determination of the time and venue of the 67th and 68th meetings..... *No document*

The Committee noted that its 67th and 68th meetings would take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 23 September 2016, and that its 68th meeting would be held immediately after the close of CoP17, on 5 October 2016.

62. Closing remarks

Following the remarks by members of the Committee, observers representing Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the Secretary-General, the Chair thanked all participants for their cooperation and thanked the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and the interpreters for their work, and closed the meeting at 17h20.