

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

MORNING

Adoption of Executive Summaries

The executive summary of the first session in document SC66 Sum. 1 was adopted with the following amendments. Under agenda item 5.2, the following text should be inserted after “circulated”: “, as soon as possible following the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.”. Under agenda item 10.4, the following text should be added at the end of the paragraph: “, noting that the current roundtable is focused on wildlife trafficking.”

The executive summary of the second session in document SC66 Sum. 2 was adopted with the following amendment: the word “and” should be inserted between agenda items 41.2 and 32.

The executive summary of the third session in document SC66 Sum. 3 was adopted with the following amendment: at the top of page 3, the reference to document SC66 Doc. 41.1 should be replaced by document SC66 Doc. 47.1.

The executive summary of the fourth session in document SC66 Sum. 4 was adopted without amendments.

28. Application of Article XIII (continued) ..... SC66 Doc. 28

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.

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

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.

30. National reports

30.1 Submission of national reports ..... SC66 Doc. 30.1

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.

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

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.

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

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.

### 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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

32. Enforcement matters

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

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.