

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 the Executive Summaries

The executive summary of the fifth session in document SC66 Sum. 5 was adopted with the following amendment. Under agenda item 16.2, in the draft decision directed to the Standing Committee, the word “and” should be deleted between “activities” and “related”.

The executive summary of the sixth session in document SC66 Sum. 6 was adopted with the following three amendments. Under agenda item 22, the word “noted” should be replaced by “adopted”. Under agenda item 23, the words “IUCN’s ‘extinct’” should be replaced by “the following”. For the English version only, the words “and neighbouring countries” should be deleted in the third paragraph of page 5 under agenda item 28.

48. Great apes (Hominidae spp.)

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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 joined 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).

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 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.

56. Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) SC66 Doc. 56

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.

57. Tortoises and freshwater turtles

57.1 Report of the Secretariat SC66 Doc. 57.1

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.

57.2 Report of the Animals Committee SC66 Doc. 57.2

The Standing Committee requested that the study contained in document AC28 Doc. 15 be communicated to the Parties.

58. Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*): Opportunities for international collaboration within the CITES framework SC66 Doc. 58

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.

Reports of in-session working groups

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

The Standing Committee adopted a revised version of document SC66 Com. 1 as follows:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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'.

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.

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.

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. 11 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.

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.

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

On the basis of document SC66 Com. 8, the Standing Committee agreed to submit a revised version of Resolution 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.