

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



Sixty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Johannesburg (South Africa), 23 September 2016

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLANS PROCESS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. The National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs) process was established in response to the urgent need to address high levels of elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade. NIAPs are an innovative tool used by identified Parties to address elephant poaching and illicit ivory trafficking. To date, 19 Parties identified through data analyses by the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) as being of 'primary concern', secondary concern' or 'importance to watch', were requested by the Standing Committee to develop and implement NIAPs.
3. The origin and evolution of the NIAPs process is described in document [CoP17 Doc. 24 \(Rev. 1\)](#). The present document outlines the developments that have taken place since the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66, Geneva, January 2016), with a particular focus on the [recommendations](#) adopted by the Committee at SC66, with relevance to the present meeting.

Parties that have 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs

4. At SC66, the Standing Committee agreed that five of the eight Parties of 'primary concern', namely China (including Hong Kong SAR), Kenya, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, had 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs. This meant that a minimum of 80% of NIAP actions were self-assessed as 'substantially achieved', and that any remaining actions were self-assessed as 'on track' for achievement. These Parties met the further requirement of providing sufficient detail of the implemented activities in their progress reports to justify the allocated progress ratings.
5. At SC66, the Standing Committee encouraged these Parties to complete the implementation of any NIAP actions that have not yet been 'substantially achieved, and to report to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016, 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. With the exception of Kenya, all Parties concerned submitted reports to the Secretariat. Noting that the submission of these reports was not compulsory, the Secretariat would like to thank the Parties for the reports submitted.
6. The reports received from China (including Hong Kong SAR), the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, are attached to the present document (in the language received), as Annexes 2 to 6. The Secretariat was not directed by the Standing Committee to evaluate the reports received. To facilitate discussions, the Secretariat summarised key activities and developments reported upon below:
 - i) **China:** The report highlights policy developments and further measures taken by China since SC66 to implement its NIAP and to combat elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade, such as the publication of Bulletin No. 3-2016, suspending the import of a number of *Elephantidae* spp. Specimens, as described in the report, to China for the period 20 March 2016 until 31 December 2019; and a revised version of the "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Wildlife" to be reviewed by the National

People's Congress of China. Furthermore, China plans to publish a schedule for the suspension of domestic commercial ivory trade before the end of 2016.

- ii) **Hong Kong SAR:** The report highlights the use of tamper-proof holograms to mark worked ivory weighing more than 0.1 kg; the establishment of an interdepartmental Wildlife Crime Task Force to develop strategies and protocols for enforcement operations and coordinate liaison with other national and international agencies; and a proposed amendment to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, to effect a three-step plan to phase out domestic trade in ivory with the aim to submit a bill to implement the three-step plan to the legislative council in the first half of 2017.
- iii) **Philippines:** The report sets out the further measures taken by the Philippines on the implementation of its NIAP, including a complete inventory of the Philippine government's ivory stock in Annex 1. The Secretariat removed this inventory and a list of seaports and airports manned by Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Units (WTMUs) from the report to avoid elevating potential security risks. The Philippines reported *inter alia* progress on the proposed Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order on the "Registration of Raw and/or Worked Elephant Ivory". It is further reported that the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (POGI) conducted 11 enforcement operations from 16 September 2015 to 15 June 2016, resulting in 10 criminal cases being filed in court. Although it is not clear from the report if any of these cases relate to illegal ivory trade, these operations are welcomed and encouraged. The Philippines reportedly plans a Wildlife Enforcement Summit for November 2016. The Philippines pursued its international enforcement collaboration with Malaysian wildlife enforcement authorities and through ASEAN fora; and organized training seminars for airport authorities and awareness raising campaigns.
- iv) **Thailand:** The report received from Thailand highlights further measures taken to implement its NIAP, including updates on legislation reforms, the development of a mobile application to enable real time remote access to the ivory database system in support of law enforcement activities, and the identification of target areas to ensure the close monitoring of ivory trade, with inspections being conducted twice a month in these areas. It is also reported that ivory shops registered under the Elephant Ivory Act decreased in number, from 215 to 151. Furthermore, by using DNA analysis, five shops selling African elephant ivory were identified and charged under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act. It is also reported that a DNA database of domesticated elephants in Thailand was developed, to support effective control over domesticated elephants and over ivory from these elephants. Targeted enforcement activities resulted in ivory seizures and arrests, both at ports of entry and exit, as well as domestically. Thailand added research to its NIAP as a new element, with the first phase of this research focused on gathering information on the wastage associated with the processing of ivory from raw to worked ivory. It further reported 83 capacity building activities, attended by at least 400 officers from national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement. These capacity building activities focussed on providing training on new legislation and regulations related to the ivory trade. Public awareness raising activities continued. Between January and June 2016, the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, the Public Awareness Subcommittee and the National CITES Committee reportedly held five meetings to monitor the implementation of Thailand's NIAP.
- v) **Viet Nam:** The report sets out further measures taken by Viet Nam to implement its NIAP, as follows. At the international level, the President of Viet Nam and the President of the United States released in May 2016 a joint announcement in which they commit to combat illegal wildlife trade. Further to strengthen cross border collaboration, Viet Nam signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with China, the Czech Republic, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Internally, the Party strengthened its national legislation and regulations and its interdisciplinary steering committee to further promote coordination between different national agencies to combat wildlife crime. The Party reportedly trained approximately 150 officers from customs, police, the military, and wildlife authorities on wildlife crime; 50 judges on the new Penal Code approved by the Vietnamese National Assembly in 2015 and has conducted in April 2016, as part of the MoU between Viet Nam and China, a training course for officers from China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Viet Nam – another course will be held in October 2016. Viet Nam also reported on a number of police operations to combat illegal wildlife trade in domestic markets, and a number of illegal ivory items seizures. Viet Nam further reported that its Scientific Authority collected from all ivory seized in the country samples for forensic analyses in its national laboratory. Further, a delegation from the Members of the Vietnamese Scientific Authority attended a workshop on cooperation on DNA analyses in South Africa in June 2016. The report finally noted that the Party will host the Viet Nam Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Hanoi, from 16 to 18 November 2016.

7. Viet Nam in its report stated that, according to a survey, no significant market for ivory exists in the country. However, information received by the Secretariat indicates that criminal syndicates heavily involved in the trafficking in rhinoceros horn, ivory, tiger and other illicit wildlife specimens are operating in Viet Nam. This matter is further elaborated upon in paragraph 23 of document SC67 Doc. 22.1 on Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses (*Rhinocerotidae spp.*). It hence remains crucial for Viet Nam to further strengthen interagency cooperation at the national level and to continue to initiate operations to combat illegal wildlife trade in domestic markets.
8. It is evident to the Secretariat that the Parties concerned have continued to build upon the progress they have made towards full implementation of their NIAPs and have undertaken a number of other initiatives and policy developments to combat elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade since SC66 (see Annexes 2 to 6).

Parties that have not “substantially achieved” their NIAPs

9. At SC66, the Standing Committee deemed that the following Parties had not “substantially achieved” their NIAPs:
 - 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’).
10. Further, Angola, Nigeria and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic had not submitted the required reports on NIAP implementation in time for consideration at SC66, and therefore the Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with these Parties. Following receipt of the reports, these recommendations to suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species were withdrawn for the three Parties on 11 February 2016 and 21 March 2016, respectively.
11. The Standing Committee at SC66 adopted recommendation h) presented in document SC66 Com. 1 (Rev. by Sec.), requesting the Parties that have not “substantially achieved” their NIAPs (see paragraph 9) to:
 - i) *Enhance efforts to progress the implementation of NIAP actions, and continue the implementation of their NIAPs between SC66 and the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee (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.*
 - 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.*
12. The Committee agreed to consider the progress reports requested in recommendation h) and any recommendations of the Secretariat, and to decide at the present meeting whether the 14 Parties concerned had ‘substantially achieved’ their NIAPs, made progress but ‘not yet substantially achieved’ their NIAPs, or have made insufficient progress and require compliance measures.
13. To allow for more clarity, the Secretariat prepared a revised reporting template for use by Parties, as described in Annex 1.
14. The Secretariat received reports from Angola, Cambodia, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mozambique, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Collectively, these 10 Parties reported upon the implementation of 229 actions outlined in their

NIAPs, of which 93 actions were reported as 'substantially achieved', 72 as 'on track' for achievement, 36 were rated as 'limited progress', 12 as 'pending completion of another action', 13 as 'not commenced', and three as 'unclear'. The reports received are attached to the present document (in the language received), as Annexes 7 to 16. The Secretariat would like to thank these Parties for the reports submitted.

15. The Secretariat was not requested by the Standing Committee to evaluate these progress reports, but to make the reports available and convey any recommendations it may have. To facilitate the Standing Committee's consideration of the overall progress made with NIAP implementation, the Secretariat prepared a high-level summary of the reports received, including observations of the Secretariat, which are presented in Annex 1. A summary of the progress ratings allocated by the Parties mentioned in paragraph 9 that submitted progress reports to the present meeting, are presented in Table 1 in Annex 1.
16. At the time of writing, no reports were received from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon and Nigeria, all Parties of 'secondary concern'. The Secretariat encourages these Parties to submit a progress report ahead of SC67, for the Standing Committee to consider their progress with NIAP implementation alongside that of the other NIAP Parties. If progress reports are not received from these Parties, the Standing Committee might consider inviting them to, if present, provide an oral update on progress at the present meeting.
17. With regard to the Parties that have not "substantially achieved" their NIAPs (see paragraph 9), an analysis of the report presented in the Annex to document [CoP17 Doc. 57.6 \(Rev. 1\)](#) on Report on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), continues to identify these Parties as Parties of 'primary concern', 'secondary concern' or 'importance to watch'. The ETIS analyses prepared for CoP17 identify:
 - Malaysia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda as Parties of 'primary concern';
 - Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon and Nigeria as Parties of 'secondary concern';
 - Angola and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as Parties of 'importance to watch';
 - Cambodia as a Party of 'secondary concern'. It should be noted that of all the Parties that have been implementing NIAPs since the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16), Cambodia is the only Party that moved to a category of higher concern. Cambodia is now categorized as a Party of 'secondary concern', compared to its categorization as a Party of 'importance to watch' at CoP16.
 - The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and Mozambique as Parties of 'importance to watch'. These three Parties moved to a lower category of concern, and are now categorized as Parties of 'importance to watch', compared to their categorization as a Parties of 'secondary concern' at CoP16.

Final remarks

18. As stated in document [CoP17 Doc. 24 \(Rev. 1\)](#) on the National ivory action plans process, prepared for CoP17, levels of elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade continue to be of great concern, and while the overall upward trends of illegal killing have been arrested and are now slightly in decline, the overall illegal killing of elephants continues at unsustainably high levels that exceed the natural rate of population increase. As a result, the need for urgent steps to be taken to address high levels of elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade continues to exist.
19. The Standing Committee at SC66 noted that the in-session report of the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and ETIS Subgroup, in document [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'. The Standing Committee however 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 prepared for CoP17, and to make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. These matters are extensively addressed in document CoP17 Doc. 24 (Rev. 1).
20. Document CoP17 Doc. 24 (Rev. 1) outlines proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, and contains a number of draft decisions, including *Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plans Process*, to be considered by the Conference of the Parties. Any further recommendations that the Standing Committee may wish to address to Parties of 'primary concern', 'secondary concern' and 'importance to watch', should be in conformity with amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) and decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. In the light of this, the Standing

Committee may wish to limit its discussion on progress with NIAP implementation at the present meeting, to the implementation of SC66 recommendation i), as presented in document [SC66 Com. 1 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#).

Recommendations

21. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:

- a) Note this document and its annexes;
- b) Commend China (including Hong Kong SAR), the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam for the further measures taken to implement their NIAPs, and the initiatives and policy developments that have taken place since SC66, to combat elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade;
- c) With respect to the Parties that have not “substantially achieved” their NIAPS (see paragraph 9):
 - i) Note that Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon and Nigeria did not submit their reports as requested by the Standing Committee, and consider any progress reports that may be submitted by these Parties ahead of SC67, or any oral updates that may be provided by them at the present meeting, to determine what actions might be necessary;
 - ii) Consider the reports referred to in paragraph 14 and decide whether the Parties concerned have ‘substantially achieved’ their NIAPs, have made progress but not yet ‘substantially achieved’ their NIAPs, or have made insufficient progress and require compliance measures; and
- d) Keep the process of developing and implementation of NIAPs under review in accordance with amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16), and any guidelines to the NIAPs process adopted by the Conference of the Parties at CoP17.

National ivory action plans process

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS REPORTS SUBMITTED BY PARTIES IDENTIFIED BY SC66 AS PARTIES THAT HAVE NOT 'SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED' THEIR NIAPS

Background

This Annex provides a summary of the reports submitted to the present meeting, by Parties identified in SC66 recommendation h).

At SC66, the Secretariat reported that, in reviewing the progress reports submitted by Parties for that meeting, it identified that the progress rating of 'unclear' had been applied by Parties to a number of situations, including actions that have not progressed as they were not yet scheduled to commence, actions that have not progressed but were due to have commenced, actions with a lack of clarity on the progress made, and actions where progress is dependent upon a broader process such as a government decision or multi-stakeholder agreement that has not yet been concluded.

To allow for more clarity in the reporting from Parties, the Secretariat prepared a revised reporting template that was made available to all NIAP Parties in May 2016. It asked Parties to self-assess their progress, by assigning one of the following 'progress ratings' to each action in its NIAP:

- *Substantially achieved* – there has been significant progress with implementation and all specified milestones and timeframes have been totally or substantially achieved.
- *On track* – there has been good progress with implementation and specified milestones and timeframes appear to be on track or largely on track for achievement.
- *Limited progress* - there has been limited progress with implementation, and achievement of the specified milestones and timeframes appears unlikely. The reporting Party was requested to provide an explanation on any reasons for the lack of progress or any challenges experienced in the implementation of the rated action, when this category is used,
- *Pending completion of another action* - the implementation of an action cannot start or the set milestones and timeframes for an action cannot be achieved unless another action in the NIAP is progressed or completed. The reporting Party was requested to provide an explanation of the action that should be completed or progressed, and how it relates to the rated action, when this category is used.
- *Not commenced* – the action has in accordance with the time frame set for it in the NIAP, not been commenced.
- *Unclear* – insufficient information was available to conduct an evaluation of progress or actions and milestones were not specified in a way that allowed for an evaluation of progress to be completed.

Following the amendments to the reporting template, the rating of 'unclear' has not been used by any of the Parties using the new template. Refinements to the template therefore means that a better understanding of the progress achieved by each Party was possible.

It should be noted that Angola and Mozambique did not use the new revised reporting template. However, to align the reporting from these Parties with the new reporting template, and to promote consistency in reporting to the Standing Committee, the Secretariat organized the old reporting template 'progress ratings' provided by Angola and Mozambique, in accordance with the new template 'progress ratings'. The Secretariat for example, where appropriate and in accordance with the information provided by Angola and Mozambique, changed the actions rated by the two Parties as 'challenging' to 'limited progress', unless the information provided suggested that an action was dependent on the completion of another action or had not commenced, in which case it was changed to these progress ratings.

All Parties are encouraged to use the updated reporting templates. This will facilitate a better understanding of the overall progress made with NIAP implementation.

The Secretariat was not directed by the Standing Committee to evaluate the progress reports submitted in accordance with the provisions of SC66 recommendation h) ii). The Secretariat was only directed to convey the progress reports received from Parties to the Standing Committee, along with any recommendations it may have. Consequently, this Annex does not include a critical assessment of progress by the Secretariat nor any conclusions on whether each Party has made sufficient progress with the implementation of its NIAP. However, the Secretariat has provided summary information on each progress report to facilitate the Standing Committee's consideration of the progress made. The Secretariat's summary seeks to highlight the key successes and challenges outlined in each Party's progress report, highlight any resourcing needs, indicate where the information provided by a Party was limited - in which case the Standing Committee might wish to request additional information from the Party concerned - and detail any progress that has been made in securing resources and technical assistance for NIAP implementation.

The Secretariat notes that, on occasion, it appears that Parties' progress reports have misinterpreted the rating categories or applied them inconsistently. No changes have been made in this Annex, to the way progress ratings are shown in the reports from Parties, except as explained above for Angola and Mozambique.

Table 1 presents a summary of the progress ratings allocated by the Parties identified in SC66 recommendation h) that submitted progress reports to the present meeting.

Finally, it is again worth noting that the Secretariat's evaluation only compares each plan against itself, and does not seek to draw comparisons between the progress of different Parties. Factors such as the level of ambition and scope of each plan, the ambition of the established milestones, the timespan for implementation based on the date of completion of the NIAP, and the capacity needs of the Party, should be considered when reviewing progress made.

TABLE 1: Progress ratings self-assessed by Parties at SC66 and SC67

NIAP	SC66 progress ratings (% of NIAP actions in each progress category)				SC67 progress ratings (% of NIAP actions in each progress category)					
	Substantially achieved	On track	Challenging	Unclear	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
<i>Parties of 'primary concern'</i>										
Malaysia	38%	62%	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-
United Republic of Tanzania	32%	52%	16%	-	42,5%	42,5%	-	10%	5%	-
Uganda	47%	53%	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Parties of 'secondary concern'</i>										
Congo	4%	50%	35%	11%	8%	50%	-	15%	27%	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-	57%	29%	14%	11%	56%	25%	4%	4%	-
Egypt	31%	50%	4%	15%	72%	12%	12%	4%	-	-
Mozambique	3%	46%	36%	15%	49%	46%	5%	-	-	-
<i>Parties of 'importance to watch'</i>										
Angola	-	-	-	-	28%	24%	30%	9%	-	9%
Cambodia	15%	31%	15%	39%	23%	-	54%	-	23%	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	-	-	-	12%	39%	39%	5%	5%	-
Average	17%	50%	21%	12%	41%	31%	16%	5%	6%	1%

Parties of 'primary concern'

MALAYSIA

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
100% (12 of 12 actions)	0% (0 of 12 actions)	0% (0 of 12 actions)	0% (0 of 12 actions)	0% (0 of 12 actions)	0% (0 of 12 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

The NIAP of Malaysia includes 12 priority activities. Malaysia's self-assessment evaluates all 12 activities as 'substantially achieved'.

Secretariat's summary of Party's report

Malaysia reports on the implementation of a number of activities, resulting in its overall self-assessment of 'substantially achieved'. A joint enforcement operation, 'Ops Khazanah Negara', marking the enforcement cooperation between multiple Malaysian authorities was conducted from 18 to 24 April 2016, during which a large number of persons and vehicles were checked (Action 2.1). Malaysia further reports on the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Special Ivory Audit Committee, in January 2016 (Action 2.1). Under category 3 of its NIAP, on *International enforcement collaboration*, Malaysia reports on its participation in a variety of meetings and initiatives. On the basis of information received from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) enforcement agencies, the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) made an ivory seizure in March 2016 (Action 3.1 and 3.2). On outreach, public awareness and education, Malaysia reports the release of two press statements since SC66, one by RMCD on the ivory seizure mentioned, and the other by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, on the destruction of seized ivory in Malaysia, on 14 April 2016 (Actions 4.1 and 5.4). Malaysia also reports on its organization of, or participation in, 22 exhibitions on wildlife conservation in 2016 (Action 4.3). Two operations had been conducted in March 2016, on the basis of information that was provided by the public, and it is reported that two suspects were prosecuted and convicted as a result (Action 4.2). Malaysia further reports on the enhancement of its forensic capacity to combat wildlife crime, and states that it has received a request for assistance from ASEAN member States to analyse wildlife samples (Action 5.1). A capacity building programme on CITES, wildlife crime investigations and species identification is planned to be conducted in August 2016 (Action 5.5).

Observations of the Secretariat

The criteria used to date to determine if a Party 'substantially achieved' its NIAP, is that a minimum of 80% of NIAP actions were self-assessed by the Party concerned as 'substantially achieved', and that any remaining actions were self-assessed by the Party concerned, as 'on track' for achievement. A further requirement is that the progress report submitted by the Party concerned provided sufficient detail of the activities delivered, to justify the allocated progress ratings. Malaysia evaluates all 12 NIAP activities as 'substantially achieved'.

Malaysia in its report states that although all 12 actions in the NIAP are rated as 'substantially achieved', these actions are not one-off activities, but sustained efforts that need to be strengthened to ensure that it becomes part of the standard operating procedures or priorities of Management Authorities and enforcement agencies. Malaysia reports that it will continuously take part in regional collaboration activities and special joint enforcement operations, as well as domestic multi-agency operations. The Secretariat believes that the continuation of such activities will be key for Malaysia, in particular in light of the fact that the Party continues to be identified as a Party of 'primary concern'.

Malaysia, in its report, places strong emphasis on the fact that it considers itself purely as a transit country for illegal ivory consignments. This is supported by the ETIS analyses, prepared for CoP17, which states that Malaysia remains the leading transit destination for large ivory consignments, and that the scale of the trade directed to Malaysia has increased recently, although law enforcement authorities in the country have made fewer seizures than was the case in the period 2009-2012. The Secretariat notes the ivory seizures which resulted from the ivory surveillance operations conducted, and from the information received from ASEAN

enforcement agencies (Action 3.1), and encourages Malaysia to enhance its engagement in these types of activities in the future.

Malaysia reports upon a wide range of activities that have been conducted in relation to Actions 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5 in its NIAP, all actions of particular relevance in the context of illegal ivory trade as it affects Malaysia. However, very limited information about the on the ground impacts of these activities are provided. The Standing Committee may wish to request Malaysia to elaborate more on this at the present meeting. Malaysia might also wish to elaborate on the purpose and functions of the Special Ivory Audit Committee, and how the actions of this Committee will facilitate addressing illegal ivory trade as it affects the country. Malaysia may further wish to provide an update on the capacity building programme on CITES, wildlife crime investigations and species identification reported upon (Action 5.5).

Noting that Malaysia continues to be a Party of 'primary concern' according to the ETIS analyses prepared for CoP17, the Party might wish to revise its NIAP in accordance with any guidelines to the NIAP process adopted by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and, in particular, focus on further enhancing on the ground operations that will facilitate the sharing of information and collaboration in support of combatting illegal ivory trade, to build upon the progress made to date.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by Malaysia can be found in Annex 7 to document SC67 Doc.13.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
42,5% (8 of 19 actions)	42,5% (8 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 39 actions)	10% (2 of 19 actions)	5% (1 of 19 actions)	0% (0 of 19 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

The NIAP of the United Republic of Tanzania includes 19 priority actions. The United Republic of Tanzania's self-assessment evaluates eight actions as 'substantially achieved', eight as 'on track', two as 'pending completion of another action' and one as 'not commenced'.

Secretariat's summary of Party's report

The United Republic of Tanzania reports good progress with the implementation of its NIAP, with actions reported as 'substantially achieved' across all categories. The Wildlife Conservation Act has been amended and approved by Parliament in June 2016 (Action 1.1), and the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) will be fully operational from 1 July 2016 (Action 1.2). The new Wildlife Conservation (CITES Implementation) Regulations is expected to be approved before the present meeting (Action 1.4). On the preparation of CITES Implementation Regulations for Zanzibar, a technical workshop is planned to take place in Zanzibar by 10 August 2016 (Action 1.5). The Party notes that a number of actions are expected to be completed before SC67, and that it will provide a further update on progress to the Standing Committee.

The United Republic of Tanzania reports that routine patrols in and outside its protected areas led to the arrest of 1,843 suspects and the seizure of 1,513.48 kg of ivory. The Party also reports on its participation in Operation Usalama III, an operation which was led by the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) in June 2016, with support from INTERPOL. The operation, in the United Republic of Tanzania, led to the recovery of 678 pieces of ivory weighting 1,219 kg, and the arrest of nine offenders (Action 2.1). The National and Transnational Serious Crime Investigation Unit (NTSCIU), in January 2016, became the operational arm of the Multi-Agency Task Team (MATT) to fight environmental and wildlife crime, launched on 30 June 2015. Several intelligence-led operations were conducted by the NTSCIU, leading to the arrest of 18 suspects, five of which were high level traffickers who were financing illicit trade in ivory.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, on 22 March 2016, made a presentation to the Tanzanian Parliamentary Committee about efforts in the country to combat wildlife crime (Activity 2.2). Very significantly,

the Party reports that from 2014 up June 2016, a total of 1038 staff have been employed by the Wildlife Division of which 884 were game scouts and 154 game officers (Action 2.3). Since SC66, significant field equipment was acquired to strengthen anti-poaching activities, including five four-wheel drive vehicles, two husky aircrafts and eight drones (Action 2.4). The Party also reports on a number of activities that were undertaken to enhance law enforcement capacity at major exit points (Action 2.5), and on the training of 161 officers from October 2015 to June 2016, on a wide variety of matters, such as basic intelligence and analyses, investigation of wildlife crime, the use of drones to fight poaching, container profiling and inspection, and crime scene investigation (Action 2.5). Continued activities are being conducted to maintain and update the ivory database (Action 3.1).

Tanzania reports to have verified elephant populations in Ruaha-Rungwa, resulting in a higher count than the previous census (Action 4.1), and that the Tanzania Elephant Management Plan 2010-2015, which expired in October 2015, is currently being updated (Action 4.3). Efforts are underway to prepare an action plan for implementation of the “Agreement on the Coordinated Conservation and Management of the Niassa-Selous Ecosystem” between the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Mozambique, and three cross-border meetings, with Kenya, Zambia and Mozambique, are planned to be convened by 30 December 2016 (Action 5.1). Tanzania further reports on a number of conservation education and awareness raising activities (Action 5.1), and on the establishment, resourcing and regulation of Wildlife Management Areas (Actions 5.1 and 5.2).

Observations of the Secretariat

The Secretariat notes the further progress made with NIAP implementation by the United Republic of Tanzania. In previous reporting, the Secretariat highlighted the ambitious scope of the Party’s NIAP. An impressive array of activities are reported upon, most notably the recruitment of 1,038 staff, large numbers of arrests and seizures, the establishment and operationalization of the NTSCIU, and the acquiring of important field equipment to strengthen anti-poaching efforts. The United Republic of Tanzania notes in its report that a number of actions ongoing at the time of the submission of the report are expected to be completed before SC67.

The Standing Committee, at SC66, adopted recommendation h) ii) B) in document [SC66 Com.1 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#), encouraging the 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 Secretariat believes that the further reporting the Party will provide orally will be of great benefit to the Standing Committee in its consideration of progress in accordance with the provisions of SC66 recommendation i). The Party may in particular wish to provide further information on the matters outlined in SC66 recommendation h) ii) B), including on the period of time over which the 1,843 arrests reported upon were made, and on any prosecutions initiated and convictions secured.

With regard to the new action reported upon (Action 1.3), it is noted that this action is not set out in the original NIAP, and the Party might wish to provide further information to the Standing Committee, on what is anticipated under this action. The United Republic of Tanzania might also wish to provide further information on the time frames set for the revision of its Elephant Management Plan (Action 4.3), and for the preparation of the action plan for the implementation of the cross-border agreement between Tanzania and Mozambique (Action 5.1).

Noting that the United Republic of Tanzania continues to be identified as a Party of ‘primary concern’ by the EITS analyses prepared for CoP17, the Party may wish to revise and update its NIAP in accordance with any guidelines to the NIAP process adopted by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to reflect the new actions reported upon, update the timeline for NIAP implementation as appropriate, and incorporate any new actions deemed appropriate.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by Tanzania can be found in Annex 8 to document SC67 Doc.13.

UGANDA

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
100% (17 of 17 actions)	0% (0 of 17 actions)	0% (0 of 17 actions)	0% (0 of 17 actions)	0% (0 of 17 actions)	0% (0 of 17 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

The NIAP of Uganda includes 17 priority activities. Uganda's self-assessment evaluates all 17 activities as 'substantially achieved'.

Secretariat's summary of Party's report

Since Uganda's report to SC66, further actions have been implemented, and the Party now reports all actions in its NIAP as 'substantially achieved'. Uganda reports a significant level of increased awareness about wildlife conservation and illegal ivory trade in the country, and that these issues are no longer a concern of only its enforcement agencies, but also a general concern among its citizens. Illegal ivory trade has been a subject of frequent discussion in Parliament, and three national dialogues on illegal wildlife trade have been held in the country to date. It is planned for these dialogues to continue on an annual basis in the future, to discuss pertinent issues of wildlife trafficking and any other topical conservation issues.

Since SC66, the Wildlife Amendment Bill was approved by Cabinet, and has been prioritized by the President as one of the first bills to be considered by Parliament. Regulations on the powers of search, arrest, possession and use of firearms for the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) were finalized, and these Regulations, together with Regulations to better incorporate CITES provisions in domestic legislation, as well as other Regulations, will be published as soon as the Wildlife Amendment Bill is passed (Actions 1.1 and 1.2).

Uganda also reports on the establishment of an intelligence unit with 80 staff at UWA with essential tools and equipment procured for the unit. Members of the unit are reported to have been strategically deployed to combat illegal trade in wildlife. Twelve training events were held for intelligence unit and enforcement staff. These training events covered subjects such as intelligence and investigations, data management, the use of web based tools to combat wildlife crime, and crime scene management. Two judicial and prosecutorial training sessions on wildlife crime, attended by magistrates and prosecutors, were held (Action 2.1).

UWA staff have been permanently deployed at Entebbe International Airport, and on the basis of an intelligence driven approach, to other key border posts (Action 2.2). UWA in early 2016 acquired six additional sniffer dogs trained to detect wildlife specimens, and in addition to five handlers trained by Uganda Police Canine Unit, 12 UWA staff members were at the time of reporting undergoing a two month dog handler's course in the United Republic of Tanzania, and are expected to graduate at the end of June 2016. (Action 2.3).

Two training interventions on combating wildlife trafficking and general CITES provisions were held for customs, police and wildlife enforcement officers, in May 2015 and March 2016 respectively. More than 100 participants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania participated in the two training interventions, organized under the auspices of the Uganda National Inter-agency Task Force. Uganda also reports on further activities conducted under the auspices of the Uganda National Inter-agency Task Force, such as the joint planning and execution of three major international operations (Actions 2.4 and 3.1). Uganda further reports on activities conducted to strengthen regional cooperation and information exchange, such as through the Wildlife Directors Forum in the eastern Africa subregion formed under the auspices of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), which held its first meeting in Nairobi in February 2016, and through joint investigations (Action 3.2). The Party conducted a number of other activities to enhance capacity to combat wildlife crime, including at regional and international levels (Action 3.3). Uganda reports on the work conducted to collect samples from confiscated ivory for DNA analysis, and on how the analyses results assisted it to understand the dynamics of illegal ivory trade and to map out illegal ivory trade routes. The high cost of sample collection and shipment is highlighted as a challenge, but Uganda notes that a new forensics laboratory being established in Kenya, is expected to reduce the cost of sample shipment, and time to process and receive analyses results (Action 3.4). Progress was also made in the category of awareness creation, where Uganda reports on: inter-agency awareness workshops, national dialogues, and a public debate; its work with a variety of organizations to produce and

disseminate flyers and posters; radio and television talk shows as part of the campaign against illegal wildlife trade; the development and implementation of a national awareness raising programme; the signature of a number of MoUs; and other activities. Uganda also has formally requested its Ministry of Finance to support NIAP implementation through the Global Environment Facility (GEF-6) Biodiversity allocation (2014-2018) available for Uganda (Actions 4.1 to 4.4).

In addition to the new secure ivory strong room that was established at UWA in 2015, the first ever comprehensive inventory of the ivory stockpile held by UWA was completed in February 2016; a stockpile management protocol has been developed; and a database of the ivory stockpiles held by the UWA has been created and is in use. Arrangements have been made to conduct an inventory of the ivory stocks held pending the finalization of court processes, by customs, and by the police at Entebbe International Airport (Actions 5.1 to 5.3).

Observations of the Secretariat

Uganda provides ample information in its report to justify progress ratings allocated to its NIAP actions. While timeframes projected in the NIAP foresaw that it be implemented by the end of 2014, Uganda is now able to report it as ‘substantially achieved’.

Uganda may wish to provide a further update on progress to the Standing Committee on the activities scheduled to take place in advance of the present meeting.

Uganda continues to be a Party of ‘primary concern’ according to the ETIS analyses prepared for CoP17, and the Party may wish to, in addition to completing the implementation of NIAP actions that are still ongoing, consider to revise and update its NIAP to build upon the excellent progress made, e.g. where legislation has been amended or new Regulations adopted, the revised NIAP could focus on actions to implement new legislation and Regulations, etc.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by Uganda can be found in Annex 9 to document SC67 Doc.13.

Parties of ‘secondary concern’

CONGO

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
8% (2 of 26 actions)	50% (13 of 26 actions)	0% (0 of 26 actions)	15% (4 of 26 actions)	27% (7 of 26 actions)	0% (0 of 26 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

The NIAP of the Congo includes 26 priority activities. Congo’s self-assessment evaluates two activities as ‘substantially achieved’, 13 as ‘on track’, four as ‘pending completion of another action’ and seven as ‘not commenced’.

Secretariat’s summary of Party’s report

Congo reports that presidential elections in the country, and the associated ministerial reorganization, resulted in a significant delay of the implementation of the actions outlined in its NIAP. A number of NIAP activities could not be progressed due to a lack of resources. However, notwithstanding these challenges, some NIAP activities were successfully progressed.

An inventory of the Congo’s national ivory stocks was conducted in February 2016, and training on a new digital system for ivory stock management was provided to 20 officers (Actions 3.5 and 3.6). The ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic toolkit was implemented in the country, and the recommendations resulting

from toolkit implementation will be used as a road map for key activities to be implemented. A judicial review was initiated in April 2016, aimed at strengthening the technical and operational capabilities of judicial officers (Actions 3.4, 3.7, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5), and a National Strategy and Action Plan to fight illegal logging and illegal trade in wildlife is expected to be approved in July 2016 (Action 4.1, 4.4). A workshop focussed on NIAP implementation, including the establishment of a joint committee to monitor NIAP implementation, was due to take place July 2016 (Action 4.6). Twenty-three officers received training in combatting illegal cross border trade in wildlife, in January 2016 (Action 5.1). Activities to develop protocol and agreements with land, sea and air transport companies to combat illegal ivory trade is also reported to have commenced (Action 5.2). A “Wildlife Crime Unit” and a “Rapid Response Unit” were established to strengthen anti-poaching efforts in protected areas (Action 5.3).

The Congo reiterates its strong commitment to NIAP implementation in its report, and also requests additional time to fully implement its NIAP.

Observations of the Secretariat

The report from the Congo suggests that, despite delays in NIAP implementation due to the presidential election and associated ministerial reorganization in the country, as well as the challenges posed by a lack of resources, NIAP implementation in the country has gained good momentum and is currently progressing positively, with a number of actions that are ongoing and being progressed.

The Congo took an active approach and made commendable efforts in reaching out to secure support through the African Elephant Fund, ICCWC, the United Nations Development Programme, and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), for the implementation of its NIAP and other associated activities to combat wildlife crime. Although this enabled the Party to progress some NIAP activities, a number of activities are currently in their preliminary implementation stages and have fallen behind the timelines set in the NIAP. This is also recognized by the Party, who in its report requests additional time to fully implement the NIAP.

The Congo continues to be a Party of ‘secondary concern’, based on an analysis of the ETIS report presented in the Annex to document CoP17 Doc. 57.6 (Rev1). In the light of this, the Congo may wish to revise its NIAP in accordance with any guidelines to the NIAP process adopted by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including to update the timeline for NIAP implementation, and to incorporate any new actions as may be deemed appropriate.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by Congo can be found in Annex 10 to document SC67 Doc.13.

The NIAP of the Congo is available on the CITES NIAP web page at <https://cites.org/eng/niaps>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

<p style="text-align: center;">% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY</p>					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
11% (3 of 27 actions)	56% (15 of 27 actions)	25% (7 of 27 actions)	4% (1 of 27 actions)	4% (1 of 27 actions)	0% (0 of 27 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

The NIAP of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) includes 27 priority activities. DRC’s self-assessment evaluates three activities as ‘substantially achieved’, 15 as ‘on track’, seven as ‘limited progress’, one as ‘pending completion of another action’ and one as ‘not commenced’.

Secretariat’s summary of Party’s report

DRC reports in detail on activities delivered and progress achieved with the implementation of its NIAP. It reports on the work of an expert group that was established to progress the implementation of Action A.2 in

the NIAP, and a development process for the enforcement of the Law on the Conservation of Nature, No. 14/003 of 11 February 2014, was launched in June 2016.

In the category of *Investigations and legal proceedings* (Category B of the NIAP), the DRC, among others, reports to have 'substantially achieved' capacity building for judicial personnel, in the context of combating poaching and illicit trafficking in ivory, as well as the establishment of a system for the collection of data on prosecutions and sentences imposed for poaching and illicit trade (Actions B.1 and B.2). Due to the large number of provinces in the DRC, it proves difficult to effectively address domestic ivory markets on a provincial basis. The closure of all domestic ivory markets in the country was therefore proposed to the Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development, and the DRC accordingly revised Activity A.3 in its NIAP. The new revised activity is to "Prepare a national decree for the closure of domestic ivory markets". DRC also reports that it decided to maintain activities F.3 and F.4 as separate activities in its NIAP, and that these activities will not be merged as indicated by DRC in earlier reports. The Party reports to have 'substantially achieved' cooperation in the area of detection of illegal wildlife specimens at the border posts (Action D.2). Actions that are reported to be 'on track' are spread across all categories of DRC's NIAP. In particular, cooperation at national and international level are reported as progressing well. This includes the creation of a framework for exchange and sharing of experiences among countries at subregional level, increased reporting to ETIS, and cooperation through the Africa Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX) system, which were piloted in four countries: Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon. The overall objective of Africa-TWIX is to facilitate cooperation and the exchange of information between agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement. A workshop was held in June 2016, and MoUs are being developed to strengthen the engagement of the transport industry in the fight against wildlife crime (Actions D.5-D.8).

Good progress is reported on enforcement operations, and a variety of activities have been conducted to dismantle criminal networks and illegal markets for ivory (Action 5.3). These included a number of operations that resulted in seizures and arrests for involvement in illegal ivory trade. DRC also reports as 'on track' the majority of its awareness raising and communication activities.

Limited progress is reported by DRC on some activities. These concern the harmonization of legislation at the regional level (Action A.4), the inaccessibility of certain regions for mobile courts (Action B.4), the mobilization of resources needed for implementation of intelligence and investigative operations, the inventorying of ivory stockpiles and the equipping of anti-poaching departments due to a lack of financial resources (Actions C.3, C.4, D.4), the development of a communication plan (Action 6.1) and the establishment of a unit for managing human-animal conflict (Action 6.5).

Observations of the Secretariat

The Secretariat notes the comprehensive, objective and transparent manner in which DRC reported on progress with NIAP implementation, as well as the setting of realistic timelines in its NIAP. There currently seems to be good momentum in the DRC, and the Party is progressing NIAP implementation well, and in accordance with the time frames set in the NIAP. The DRC highlights a lack of sufficient financial resources as the reason why some NIAP actions could not be progressed, but also reports that the government of the DRC remains committed to mobilizing sufficient resources for successful NIAP implementation. The report from the DRC reflects that the Party is engaging well with a number of national and international NGOs to progress NIAP implementation. The DRC is encouraged to, as may be needed, also seek support for NIAP implementation from other sources, such as for example the GEF.

The DRC is one of three Parties of 'secondary concern', that moved to a lower category of concern based on an analysis of the ETIS report prepared for CoP17. DRC is now categorized as a Party of 'importance to watch', compared to its categorization as a Party of 'secondary concern' at CoP16.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by DRC can be found in Annex 11 to document SC67 Doc.13.

The NIAP of the DRC is available on the CITES NIAP web page at <https://cites.org/eng/niaps>.

EGYPT

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
72% (18 of 25 actions)	12% (3 of 25 actions)	12% (3 of 25 actions)	4% (1 of 25 actions)	0% (0 of 25 actions)	0% (0 of 25 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

The NIAP of Egypt includes 25 priority activities. Egypt's self-assessment evaluates 16 activities as 'substantially achieved', three as 'on track', three as 'limited progress' and one as 'pending completion of another action'. Two NIAP activities (Activity A1.1 and A1.2) are not included in the report. These activities were however reported upon by Egypt at SC66, at which time Egypt's self-assessment evaluated these activities as 'substantially achieved'. The Secretariat included these two activities in Table 1 and in the table above, in accordance with the ratings allocated to it at SC66.

Secretariat's summary of Party's report

Egypt reports the majority of its NIAP actions as 'substantially achieved'. The Party allocates this rating to all actions in category B of its NIAP, which, among others addresses capacity-building programmes for national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement, and the dissemination of educational materials (Actions B.1.1, B.1.2 and B.1.1). With the exception of Action C.4 on the development of a framework for forensic analyses of large scale ivory seizures, Egypt also allocates a rating of 'substantially achieved' to all actions in category C of its NIAP. Category C of the NIAP includes, among others, a technical review of intelligence and investigation procedures in place, the inspection of shops, in particular in areas frequented by tourists (including significantly increasing the frequency of such inspections), and an audit of Egypt's systems for the storage of ivory. The Party reports limited progress on actions A.3, D.3 and E.3, calling for communication and discussion with neighbouring countries for potential harmonization of wildlife legislation and information exchange, an undertaking that clearly poses a challenge in light of the political situation in the region. Action A.2 on strengthening penalties for wildlife crime is rated as 'pending completion of another action', stating that the decision on the possible amendment of the relevant legislation lies with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Observations of the Secretariat

The Secretariat notes Egypt's ongoing progress with the implementation of its NIAP. However, while noting the positive self-assessment of Egypt, the Secretariat notes that the information provided by Egypt on a number of activities implemented is vague and unclear. For a number of actions, the progress detailed appears to relate to activities that were commenced or developed prior to SC65 (e.g. Actions B.1.1, and D1 on training; Action E.2 on inter-agency cooperation and Action F.1 on awareness-raising materials). The Secretariat notes that the intent of developing and implementing a NIAP is to enhance the Party's implementation of CITES provisions concerning control of trade in elephant ivory and ivory markets in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (rev. CoP16) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, through the delivery of targeted and time-bound actions. While building on earlier efforts is positive, it is sometimes unclear to what extent the activities reported upon by Egypt contributed to NIAP implementation.

Relatively little detail is provided on the progress made and activities conducted with regard to some actions (e.g. progress with the technical review of intelligence and investigation procedures under Action C.1, and detail on increased inspections against Actions C2 and E.4). The reporting on Actions C4 and D2 repeats what was reported to SC66, and it is not clear from the information provided what further activities are anticipated to fully implement these actions. This is likely to impede the ability of the Standing Committee to make an informed decision about the progress made by Egypt with the implementation of its NIAP. It is important for Parties to, when completing the self-assessment of their progress, provide sufficient detail to justify the allocated progress ratings in their reports, and Egypt may wish to provide additional information to the Standing Committee at the present meeting.

Egypt is one of three Parties of 'secondary concern', that moved to a lower category of concern based on the ETIS report prepared for CoP17. Egypt is now categorized as a Party of 'importance to watch', compared to its categorization as a Party of 'secondary concern' at CoP16. In light of the fact that an analysis of ETIS data continues to identify Egypt as a key country affected by illegal ivory trade, and in the absence of clear

information to substantiate some of the allocated progress ratings in the report prepared by Egypt, the Standing Committee may wish to request Egypt to revise and update its NIAP in accordance with any guidelines to the NIAP process adopted by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including to update the timeline for NIAP implementation, and to incorporate any new actions as may be deemed appropriate.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by Egypt can be found in Annex 12 to document SC67 Doc.13.

The NIAP of the Egypt is available on the CITES NIAP web page at <https://cites.org/eng/niaps>.

MOZAMBIQUE

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
49% (19 of 39 actions)	46% (18 of 39 actions)	5% (2 of 39 actions)	0% (0 of 39 actions)	0% (0 of 39 actions)	0% (0 of 39 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

With regard to Mozambique, it should be noted that it is one of the Parties that was requested by the Standing Committee to develop a National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP), and the only Party that was requested by the Standing Committee to also prepare a National Rhinoceros Action Plan. As a result, Mozambique prepared a combined National Ivory and Rhinoceros Action Plan (NIRAP). The NIRAP of Mozambique includes 39 priority activities. Mozambique's self-assessment evaluates 19 activities as 'substantially achieved', 18 as 'on track' and two as 'limited progress'.

Secretariat's summary of Party's report

Mozambique reports commendable progress on the implementation of its NIRAP since SC66. The amendment of its Conservation Law is scheduled to be adopted by Parliament in November 2016, and Regulations to implement the Conservation Law are currently being reviewed and consulted upon with the public and other ministries. The CITES Regulation has already been approved by the Council of Ministers, and is scheduled for publication in the Official Journal (Actions A1 and A2).

Mozambique also reports on extensive consultations and exchange of experience between its Attorney General and the South African Director of Public Prosecutions, as well as quarterly visits between the Mozambican police and their counterparts in South Africa and vice versa, in the framework of exchange of experience, especially on combating poaching (Action A3). For category B in its NIAP, on prosecution, Mozambique reports most actions as 'substantially achieved'. A national workshop on the Conservation Law was held for judicial officers, officials working in conservation areas, and the environmental police. Mozambique also reports on other capacity building events, and on the implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic toolkit in the country (Actions B1, B2 and B6).

An Office for Environmental Affairs was established within the Department of Diffuse Crimes of the Attorney General's Office, a Registry of Infractions is operational in almost all conservation areas, and a national database for the collection of information and follow up on the prosecution of wildlife crime cases in court has been devised and is being tested (Action B3 and B5). On intelligence and investigation, a plan to improve the intelligence capacity of the Environmental Police is being developed, and the Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior is already working on wildlife crime issues through the police, in cooperation with the National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC) and specific conservation areas, resulting in arrests and seizures being made (Action C1). A National Law Enforcement and Anti-poaching (LEAP) Strategy will be developed and implemented. Mozambique also reports that it secured funding from different sources for the creation of informant networks to support regional enforcement coordination meetings, and for training on the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART (Actions C2-C5). A countrywide inventory of ivory and rhinoceros horn stocks was completed in April 2016, alongside a physical risk audit of rhinoceros horn and ivory storage facilities (Action C6).

Within the category of national and international cooperation to combat wildlife crime in its NIRAP, Mozambique reports the majority of actions as 'on track'. Activities reported upon include the establishment of designated ports for the import, export and re-export of CITES specimens, the strengthening of customs capacity to combat wildlife trafficking, and the introduction of sniffer dogs and training for dog handlers (Actions D1-D4). Mozambique secured funds from the World Bank to support the training of law enforcement instructors, to deliver basic and refresher training for law enforcement personnel, and to support its CITES Management Authority (Action D5). The Party further reports on activities conducted to progress the implementation of the Niassa-Selous Transboundary Cooperation Agreement with Tanzania, and on the ongoing development of a MoU with Viet Nam to promote cooperation on trade, conservation, management and protection of biodiversity, and law enforcement (Actions D6 and E.7). Mozambique also reports on its cooperation with South Africa in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Eight joint operations were conducted from the beginning of 2015 to June 2016 in the Kruger-Limpopo area, which resulted in the arrest of 15 suspects and the seizure of weapons and ammunition. The Party reports on activities conducted to implement a MoU with South Africa (see, document [SC67 Doc. 21.1](#)) (Action D7 and E6).

Mozambique reports on a variety of ongoing community initiatives, and cooperation with private game reserves to secure their rhinoceros populations (Action E1). In relation to Limpopo National Park, Mozambique reports the resettlement process of villages as 'substantially achieved', and that a special investigation unit has been established in the park. Intelligence and communication structures have been improved (Actions E2-E5). Aerial patrol activities (Action E8 and E12), and the ongoing development of a management plan as well as an enforcement action plan for Magoe National Park, are reported upon (E9-E10). Actions are also being planned to address illegal domestic markets for ivory (Action E13).

Mozambique reports limited progress on awareness raising and communication activities, due to financial constraints. Planning of such activities are however reported to be ongoing (Actions F1 and F2).

Observations of the Secretariat

The Standing Committee at its 66th meeting adopted recommendation h) i) A) in document SC66 Com.1 (Rev. by Sec.), encouraging 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*". Since SC66, commendable progress has been made by Mozambique with the implementation of its NIRAP, and the Secretariat notes the comprehensive, objective and transparent manner in which Mozambique reported on progress with the implementation of its NIRAP, as well as the setting of clear timelines for the remaining actions.

Mozambique is one of three Parties of 'secondary concern', that moved to a lower category of concern based on an analysis of the ETIS report presented in the Annex to document CoP17 Doc. 57.6 (Rev1) . Mozambique is now categorized as a Party of 'importance to watch', compared to its categorization as a Party of 'secondary concern' at CoP16. Mozambique notes that it has not changed the original actions in its NIRAP to date, but that it believes that a restructuring of NIRAP actions is needed to better capture the complexity of the actions in progress in the country. In light of this, Mozambique may wish to revise its NIRAP in accordance with any guidelines to the NIAP process adopted by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by Mozambique can be found in Annex 13 to document SC67 Doc.13.

The NIAP of Mozambique is available on the CITES NIAP web page at <https://cites.org/eng/niaps>.

Parties of 'importance to watch'

ANGOLA

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
28% (9 of 33 actions)	24% (8 of 33 actions)	30% (10 of 33 actions)	9% (3 of 33 actions)	0% (0 of 33 actions)	9% (3 of 33 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

Angola's NIAP includes 33 priority activities. Angola did not use the new revised template provided by the Secretariat for its reporting to SC67. The Secretariat thus replaced, in the table above, the ratings of 'challenging' with new ratings of 'limited progress', 'pending completion of another action' or 'not commenced', based on the explanations provided by Angola in its report. In the following text, the ratings used by Angola are provided in brackets after the replacement ratings of the Secretariat. Angola's self-assessment evaluates nine activities as 'substantially achieved' and eight as 'on track' for achievement. Ten activities are rated as 'limited progress' (Angola rated A1, A2, A3, B1, B3, B5, C2, D3, D4, F2 as 'challenging'), three as 'pending completion of another action' (Angola rated A4, C3 as 'unclear' and B2 as 'challenging') and three as 'unclear'.

Secretariat's summary of Party's report

The progress report submitted by Angola indicates that a number of NIAP actions are underway. It is reported that the new Angolan penal code it is expected to be approved in 2016, but that this is a challenging process (Action A1). A number of actions in the NIAP are reported as pending the approval of the new penal code (Actions A4, B2, C3). The Wildlife and Forest Act was approved in April 2016, but approval of the Conservation Areas Act is still pending (A2). The Joint Decree on Import and Export Duties has been submitted to the Council of Ministers (Action A5).

A National Commission to combat environmental crime, which includes a number of different ministries, was created (D1). Activities have been undertaken to enhance public awareness about wildlife crime, and the sentences imposed for it (Actions B4 and F3). An inventory of ivory stocks was conducted in Luanda in May 2016, and a further inventory of ivory stocks was conducted in Kuando Kubango province in June 2016, which seems to have resulted in the arrest and conviction of some individuals involved in illegal activities. Information provided on this is however limited (Actions B6 and C7).

Angola reports progress on the strengthening of enforcement measures through training of rangers (Action E1), the establishment of a National Communications Network for Rangers (Action E2), the drafting and approval of a MoU to combat poaching and trafficking in the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (Action E3), and the development of a joint action plan to address illegal domestic ivory trade (Action E4).

The report from Angola strongly emphasizes the fact that financial constraints, a lack of technical expertise, a lack of human resources, and a lack of equipment, present significant challenges to NIAP implementation in the country. The Act on Careers and Remuneration of Forest Rangers and Ecoguards (Action A3) was not adopted due to financial constraints, and no allocation for 2016 was made by the Ministry of Finance, for the investigation of environmental crimes under the new Criminal Code (Action C4). The report also suggests that it is proving challenging to secure buy-in from all government agencies for NIAP implementation, at national level.

Angola, in its report, requests support from the international community for the implementation of its NIAP.

Observations of the Secretariat

It is important for Parties to provide sufficient detail of the activities delivered to justify the allocated progress ratings in their reports. The ability of the Standing Committee to decide if a Party 'substantially achieved' its NIAP, has made progress but not yet 'substantially achieved' its NIAP, or has made insufficient progress and requires compliance measures, depends heavily on sufficient and accurate reporting by Parties.

The Secretariat notes that, for a number of actions, information is vague and incomplete. A number of progress ratings might hence not accurately reflect the actual progress made.

For Actions B4, B6, E1, E5, E6 and F1, limited information is provided, and Angola may wish to provide additional information to justify the progress ratings allocated to these actions in its report.

For Actions B1, B7, C2, C5 and D3, limited information is also provided, and Angola may wish to provide additional information on any reasons for the lack of progress or any challenges experienced in the implementation of the rated actions.

A mission by the Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was cancelled at the request of Angola. Due to other commitments, it was regrettably, but understandably, not possible for the Party to accommodate the mission in May 2016, as originally planned. As a result, the implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic toolkit has not yet been progressed. The Secretariat and UNODC will continue its engagement with Angola to put in place arrangements for toolkit implementation.

In the summary of progress for Action C3, Angola reports that the implementation of this action is dependent on the approval of the Penal Code. The Party might however wish to consider to already reach out to relevant organizations for support, to initiate training on wildlife law enforcement, e.g. training on crime scene management, intelligence gathering, etc.

There seems to be a discrepancy in the reporting provided to SC66, and the reporting provided for the present meeting, on Action D1. While the SC66 report from Angola rates this Action as 'challenging', the report submitted for the present meeting rates it as 'substantially achieved', and refers to a Commission that was established prior to SC66, in September 2015. The Standing Committee may wish to ask Angola to clarify this rating.

Angola reports that its Ministry of Finance did not make any funding available in the current financial year for the implementation of Activity C4 (to investigate environmental crimes under the new Criminal Code) in its NIAP. A lack of sufficient funding might severely restrict the ability of authorities in Angola to effectively address illegal wildlife trafficking, and the Party is encouraged to continue to actively pursue this action, with the aim of securing appropriate future funding for this purpose. Angola is also encouraged to work actively to secure appropriate funding from other sources for NIAP implementation, for example through the GEF.

Angola continues to be a Party of 'importance to watch', based on the ETIS analysis in document CoP17 Doc. 57.6 (Rev1). It is noted that Angola did not progress a number of NIAP actions in accordance with the timeline for implementation provided in its NIAP. In light of this, Angola may wish to revise its NIAP in accordance with any guidelines to the NIAP process adopted by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to update the timeline for NIAP implementation, and to incorporate any new actions as may be deemed appropriate.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by Angola can be found in Annex 14 to document SC67 Doc.13.

The NIAP of Angola is available on the CITES NIAP web page at <https://cites.org/eng/niaps>.

CAMBODIA

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
23% (3 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)	54% (7 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)	23% (3 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

Cambodia's NIAP includes 13 priority activities. Cambodia's self-assessment evaluates three activities as 'substantially achieved', seven as of 'limited progress' and three as 'not commenced'.

Secretariat's summary of Party's report

Cambodia reports that three actions have been 'substantially achieved', namely the development of a national conservation action plan, including measures to support anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts for elephants in Cambodia (Action 4.1), the submission of reports to and sharing of information with relevant agencies (Action 5.1), and the consideration of the implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic toolkit (Action 6.1).

Significant jurisdictional changes occurring in Cambodia are reported to have delayed the implementation of some NIAP actions. The Ministry of Environment is currently undertaking a review of all environmental legislation, and developing a new Environmental Code (Actions 1.1, and 2.1). A full draft of the new Environmental Code is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

The Party reports having made limited yet notable progress on the inventorying and managing of seized ivory, which includes the adoption of a protocol, the training of staff, and a partial inventory of government-held ivory in Seam Reap province (Actions 1.2, 2.4). The Forestry Administration met with the Director General of Customs to discuss cooperation on the management of seized ivory (Action 2.2). A meeting between Cambodia and Viet Nam to increase cooperation on wildlife crime investigations and enforcement operations is also being planned (Action 2.5).

Cambodia reports that a lack of funding has hampered actions to enhance awareness and capacity among customs and other relevant agencies (Action 2.3), but that training on patrolling, anti-poaching measures, collecting evidence, judicial procedures and presenting cases to court, has been provided to 14 Forestry Administration officials in January 2016. A lack of funding however also hampered the implementation of this action (Action 3.2).

Observations of the Secretariat

Overall progress with the implementation of Cambodia's NIAP remains limited. It should be noted that Cambodia is the only Party of all the Parties that have been implementing NIAPs since CoP16 that moved to a category of higher concern based on the ETIS analysis in document CoP17 Doc. 57.6 (Rev1). Cambodia is now categorized as a Party of 'secondary concern', compared to its categorization at CoP16 as a Party of 'importance to watch'.

It remains crucial for Cambodia to take urgent action to implement its NIAP. A number of NIAP actions were not progressed in accordance with the timeline for implementation provided by Cambodia in its NIAP. In light of this, Cambodia might wish to revise its NIAP in accordance with any guidelines to the NIAP process adopted by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including to update the timeline for NIAP implementation, and to incorporate any new actions as may be deemed appropriate.

Cambodia is encouraged to work actively to secure funding for the implementation of key NIAP activities, including for example through the GEF.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by Cambodia can be found in Annex 15 to document SC67 Doc.13.

The NIAP of Cambodia is available on the CITES NIAP web page at <https://cites.org/eng/niaps>.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
12% (2 of 18 actions)	39% (7 of 18 actions)	39% (7 of 18 actions)	5% (1 of 18 actions)	5% (1 of 18 actions)	0% (0 of 18 actions)

SC66 self-assessment by Party

The NIAP of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) includes 18 priority activities. Lao PDR's self-assessment evaluates two activities as 'substantially achieved', seven as 'on track', seven as 'limited progress', one as 'pending completion of another action' and one as 'not commenced'.

Secretariat's summary of Party's report

Lao PDR reports upon a recent ministerial change, and states that strong political will currently exists in the country to combat wildlife and forest crime. A number of activities to progress NIAP implementation are outlined in the report submitted. Two actions are reported as 'substantially achieved'. Firstly, a ministerial circular to strengthen the management of wildlife specimens, including hunting trophies, has been distributed (Action 1.3). Secondly, with regard to international and regional law enforcement activities, excellent cooperation is reported to be developing between authorities in Lao PDR, and their counterparts in China and Viet Nam (Action 2.4).

Several actions relating to law enforcement are reported by Lao PDR as 'on track'. These include needs assessments to develop the capacity of law enforcement officers, the translation and printing of wildlife identification toolkits and materials, planned training courses on the identification of wildlife specimens, including ivory, and on CITES permits and certificates, including on fraudulent documents. Routine patrols are occurring in Vientiane and at provincial market hotspots, and these patrols resulted in the seizure of a number of items (Actions 2.1, 2.2, 2.5).

Lao PDR reports the review of its penal code as 'on track' (Action 1.4). Limited progress is reported on the strengthening of enforcement at ports and border checkpoints, noting that this action is subject to the completion of the capacity, systems and needs assessments being conducted (Action 2.6). Limited progress is also reported on the increased use of international tools to enhance information and intelligence (Actions 3.2), activities to increase awareness about wildlife crime among the judiciary and prosecutors (Action 4.1), the establishment and maintenance of a system of stockpile management (Action 6.1), and the implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic toolkit (Action 7.1).

Observations of the Secretariat

The report from Lao PDR suggests that NIAP implementation in the country is gaining momentum, and a number of activities have been conducted, are ongoing, and are being planned. Functional analysis, capacity assessments and systems assessments are being conducted, and a systematic training program will commence once this has been finalized. This seems like a sound approach to ensure targeted capacity building that would support long term sustainable efforts to combat wildlife crime.

The activities conducted to enhance regional cooperation on law enforcement (Action 2.4) constitute an excellent platform for the future, and although this activity is rated as 'substantially achieved', Lao PDR is encouraged to build upon the positive progress made, and to further expand this collaboration. A number of activities reported upon by Lao PDR are due to be implemented ahead of SC67, and the Party may wish to provide an update at the present meeting. The Party might also wish to elaborate upon the patrols conducted and seizures made at market hotspots (Action 2.5), and in particular on whether any arrests were made, prosecutions initiated, and convictions secured (Action 4.2).

Lao PDR continues to be a Party of 'importance to watch', based on the ETIS analysis in document CoP17 Doc. 57.6 (Rev. 1). In light of this, it remains crucial for the Party to continue enhance its efforts to progress the implementation of its NIAP. The Party may wish to, in accordance with any guidelines to the NIAP process adopted by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, update the timeline for implementation of its NIAP, and to incorporate any new actions as may be deemed appropriate.

Supporting information

The NIAP progress report submitted by the Lao PDR can be found in Annex 16 to document SC67 Doc.13.

The NIAP of the Lao PDR is available on the CITES NIAP web page at <https://cites.org/eng/niaps>.