

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November – 1 December 2017

SUMMARY

AFTERNOON

28. National reports

28.3 Annual illegal trade reports: Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 28.3

- a) The Standing Committee acknowledged the non-binding nature of the proposed *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*, contained in Annex 1 of document SC69 Doc. 28.3 and requested the United States of America to submit its proposed edits to the *Guidelines* in writing for later adoption in the meeting.
- b) The Standing Committee noted the information and the preliminary proposal by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the development of a database to store and manage illegal trade data collected through the annual illegal trade reports, in Annex 2 of document SC69 Doc. 28.3.
- c) The Standing Committee endorsed the requirements to be met concerning the storage and management of illegal trade data collected through the annual illegal trade reports, as prepared by the Secretariat and presented in Annex 3 of document SC69 Doc. 28.3, and taking into account the advice provided by the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting to incorporate input from Parties in further developing these requirements, to ensure that the data are made available to support law enforcement needs, and to ensure that data are ultimately available as non-aggregated individual records.
- d) The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to work with UNODC to prepare a detailed proposal for the development of a database to store and manage illegal trade data collected through CITES annual illegal trade reports, engaging with partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) as appropriate, incorporating the requirements referred to in recommendation c) above and including the budget breakdown, for consideration by the Committee at its 70th meeting, and subsequent submission to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration.

29. Compliance matters

29.1 Compliance report..... SC69 Doc. 29.1 (Rev. 2)

The Standing Committee agreed the following:

With regard to Japan – introduction from the sea of specimens from the North Pacific population of the sei whale (Balaenoptera borealis)

- a) The Secretariat should review the responses provided by Japan and, in consultation and cooperation with the Party concerned and the Chair of the Standing Committee, determine whether there is additional information to be considered. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat

at the invitation of the Government of Japan, to conduct a technical mission to the country pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention to assess the scientific, administrative and legislative arrangements for authorizing the introduction from the sea of specimens from the North Pacific population of the sei whale; and report its findings and recommendations to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70).

With regard to trade in specimens of Pterocarpus erinaceus:

- b) Parties should not accept any CITES permit or certificate for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* issued by Nigeria unless its authenticity has been confirmed by the Secretariat, noting that China and Nigeria have existing CITES document exchanging mechanism to verify the authenticity of all CITES permits and certificates for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* issued by Nigeria.
- c) Range States and importing countries should pay particular attention to trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus* to ensure that trade in this species only takes place when Parties are satisfied that it is in line with the requirements of the Convention.
- d) The Standing Committee welcomed the invitation by the Government of Nigeria to conduct a technical mission to Nigeria and invited the Secretariat to provide any relevant information on compliance with the Convention related to trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus* to the Standing Committee.

With regard to CITES permits issued with the "Republic of Kosovo" as State of import, export or re-export

- e) The Standing Committee agreed that no guidance should be issued by the Standing Committee with respect to CITES documentation that refers to Republic of Kosovo as the State of import, export or re-export.

Regarding possible establishment of a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP)

- f) The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to submit to its 70th meeting a proposal on the establishment of a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), including associated costs. In preparing the proposal, the Standing Committee requested that the Secretariat issue a notification seeking inputs from Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on their experience and relevant advice to support a CAP.

Regarding Guidance for verifying the legal acquisition of CITES Specimens (Legal Acquisition Finding)

- g) The members of the Standing Committee as well as Parties and interested observers are invited to provide relevant information on this matter to the Secretariat, including any examples and relevant information regarding methodologies, practical tools, legislative information, forensic expertise and other resources used to monitor compliance with the Convention and to verify the legal acquisition of specimens of CITES-listed species to be exported in accordance with Article III, paragraph 2 (b), Article IV, paragraph 2 (b), and Article V, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention 90 days in advance of the international workshop to be tentatively held in Brussels from 13 to 15 June 2018. The Standing Committee noted that the Secretariat would issue a notification encouraging participation of range States in the workshop.

Regarding Guidance for verifying the legal acquisition of founder stock of captive-bred CITES listed species to be exported

- h) The Secretariat should include the issue of the legal acquisition of founder stock of captive-bred CITES-listed species on the agenda of the international workshop to be tentatively held in Brussels from 13 to 15 June 2018.
- i) Parties concerned by potential disputes with respect to the interpretation or application of the provisions of the present Convention regulating captive-breeding operations should explore bilaterally all possible solutions and are encouraged to exhaust all possible avenues of negotiation.

The Standing Committee recommended that Parties concerned report on progress to the Secretariat on the implementation of the above recommendations by 1 July 2018, in order for the Secretariat to convey those reports and its comments at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

29.2 Application of Article XIII

29.2.3 Application of Article XIII in Guinea SC69 Doc. 29.2.3

The Standing Committee acknowledged the progress reported by Guinea in 2016 and 2017, and thanked Guinea for the information provided.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to conduct a technical mission to Guinea pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention to assess the administrative and legislative arrangements for the implementation of CITES in Guinea; consider the need for additional or revised measures; and provide technical assistance as necessary to implement the Convention.

The Standing Committee further requested the Secretariat to continue to monitor the progress made by Guinea and report to the Standing Committee on such progress, which, in considering such reports, will decide whether its recommendation to suspend all commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Guinea can be lifted, or if additional measures are required.

29.2.1 Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic SC69 Doc. 29.2.1

and

29.2.2 Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo..... SC69 Doc. 29.2.2

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group on Article XIII processes with the following mandate to:

For Lao PDR (document SC69 Doc. 29.2.1):

- a) clarify the language regarding finished products in recommendation 1 of paragraph 50;
- b) consider including a recommendation on illegal ivory trade in recommendation 4;
- c) consider including a reference to snake farms in recommendation 5;
- d) consider new wording on the languages of the awareness campaigns in recommendation 6;
- e) consider new recommendations related to compliance measures (warning or trade suspension);

For the DRC (document SC69 Doc. 29.2.2):

- f) consider adding "a study on" at the beginning of recommendation 51 j) ii);
- g) consider including a notification in recommendation 52;
- h) consider maintaining or not the trade suspension in specimens of *Psittacus erithacus*;
- i) consider the proposal to delete recommendation 51 b).

The membership of the in-session working group on Article XIII was agreed as follows: Portugal (Chair), Botswana, Belgium, China, European Union, Gabon, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Zimbabwe; and Center for International Environmental Law, Conservation Alliance of Kenya, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Resources Management, Humane Society International, Parrots Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Save the Elephants, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund.