

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

48. Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*): Report of the Secretariat ..... SC69 Doc. 48

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group on humphead wrasse with the following mandate to:

In support of the implementation of Decision 15.87 (Rev. CoP17),

- a) review the information and recommendations referred to in document SC69 Doc. 48;
- b) consider additional information needs, if any, from range States and importing States on their actions taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention regarding trade in this species; and
- c) develop recommendations for improving the regulation of international trade in the humphead wrasse, and the enforcement of controls, to ensure the effectiveness of the Appendix-II listing of the species for consideration by the Standing Committee and onwards submission to the Conference of the Parties.

The membership of the working group on humphead wrasse was agreed as follows: New Zealand (Chair), China, Indonesia, Japan, and the United States of America; and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Union for Conservation of Nature and TRAFFIC.

57. Pangolins (*Manis* spp.): Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 57

- a) The Standing Committee noted the different interpretations of Resolution Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2, concerning 'pre-Convention' specimens* as it applies to the transfer of a species from Appendix II to Appendix I.
- b) The Standing Committee encouraged all Parties to undertake risk profiling and provide capacity-building interventions for enforcement officers at ports to enable them to better target illegal trade in pangolin specimens, in particular illegal trade in live and dead animals and pangolin scales;
- c) The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to:
  - i) in its implementation of the provisions of paragraph 14 in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement*, pay specific attention to illegal trade in pangolin specimens;
  - ii) encourage the World Customs Organization (WCO) to develop a set of risk profiles and indicators to address illegal trade in pangolin specimens, with a particular focus on illegal trade in live animals, the carcasses of pangolins, and pangolin scales; and
  - iii) encourage partner agencies of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to build upon the work already done and to, subject to available resources, support analytical work, targeted investigations, operational information exchange and the development of operational

plans, to target and address the criminal networks involved in illegal trade in pangolin specimens, by convening Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) and Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management (RIACM) meetings as appropriate, for key Parties in Africa and Asia, and Parties in other regions significantly affected by illegal trade in pangolin specimens, as identified in the report available in the Annex to document SC69 Doc. 57 on *Pangolins* (*Manis spp.*).

- d) The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

***Directed to all pangolin range States***

- 18.A All pangolin range States that have not yet done so, are encouraged to take urgent steps to develop and implement *in situ* pangolin management and conservation programmes, which includes population assessments, as anticipated in paragraph 7 of Resolution Conf. 17.10 on *Conservation of and trade in pangolins*.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 18.B The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, work with the Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other experts to develop conversion parameters for all pangolin species, that will enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for court purposes.
- 18.D The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of decision 18.A to 18.C to the Standing Committee.
- 18.E The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat, and report the results to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

The Standing Committee established an in-session working on pangolins with the following mandate to:

- a) revise recommendation a) in paragraph 59 of document SC69 Doc. 57;
- b) consider an additional draft decision proposed by Thailand and an edit to draft decision 18.C proposed by the United States of America; and
- c) propose a way forward to clarify the interpretation of Resolution Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2, concerning 'pre-Convention' specimens* as it applies to the transfer of a species from Appendix II to Appendix I.

The membership of the working group on pangolins was agreed as follows: South Africa (Chair); Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Viet Nam; and Annamiticus, Born Free Foundation, Born Free USA, Environmental Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Lewis & Clark – International Environmental Law Project, Natural Resources Defense Council, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Protection Society of India, World Wildlife Fund, and Zoological Society of London.

59. Illegal trade in Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) ..... SC69 Doc. 59

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group on Tibetan antelope with the following mandate to:

- a) review the results and outcomes of the workshop conducted by INTERPOL and Switzerland in July 2016 taking account the comments of the Secretariat in document SC69 Doc. 59; and
- b) prepare draft recommendations to the Parties for consideration by the Standing Committee.

The membership of the working group on Tibetan antelope was agreed as follows: Switzerland (Chair); Canada, China, India, Kuwait, Spain, and the United States of America; and Wildlife Protection Society of India.

60. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat ..... SC69 Doc. 60

*Mozambique*

- a) The Standing Committee encouraged Mozambique to strengthen efforts to address criminal syndicates targeting and corrupting local communities in the Mkukaza, as well as other areas in Mozambique, by enhancing intelligence gathering on the members of these syndicates and their activities, to map out their criminal networks, and to initiate targeted intelligence driven law enforcement action, including deploying anti-money-laundering and asset recovery investigations as appropriate, against the offenders involved, with a particular focus on those individuals that manage and organize these activities;
- b) The Standing Committee requested Mozambique to include in its report on the implementation of its National Ivory and Rhino Action Plan (NIRAP) to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70), reporting on the implementation of the amended Conservation Law, including information on arrests, prosecutions and convictions for offences involving rhinoceros and elephant poaching or illegal trade in rhinoceros horn and ivory, achieved through the implementation of the amended Conservation Law, and on any activities conducted or measures implemented in accordance with recommendation a) above, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee together with any recommendations it may have; and
- c) The Standing Committee agreed that the implementation of the amended Conservation Law and the activities or measures implemented sufficiently responds to illegal trade in rhinoceros horn as it affects Mozambique.

*South Africa*

- d) The Standing Committee encouraged South Africa to closely review poaching and trafficking trends in accordance with Decision 17.134, to ensure that any new crime trends that may emerge regarding any regulatory measures for domestic trade in rhinoceros horn in South Africa are swiftly identified and addressed.

*Viet Nam*

- e) The Standing Committee encouraged Viet Nam to:
  - i) scale up efforts to conduct analyses of available information to map out the organized crime groups active in the country that deal in rhino horn, with a strategic focus on the places within Viet Nam most affected by illegal trade in rhino horn;
  - ii) through Viet Nam Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (WEN), convene multi-disciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities, to work in close collaboration with local authorities in key identified areas that are involved in the illegal trade in rhino horn, and initiate intelligence driven operations and investigations to address the activities of those criminal elements that remain active in Viet Nam, with a particular focus on illegal rhinoceros horn trade;
  - iii) institutionalize the collection of samples of rhino horn from seizures for forensic analyses, with a particular focus on paragraph 1 f) of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses*, and paragraph 22 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* by putting in place a national protocol that will facilitate the collection of samples in accordance with recognized procedures, and relevant legislation regulating the exchange of such specimens; and
  - iv) develop country-specific guidelines and materials that can assist officers to identify worked rhinoceros horn and ivory specimens worn as jewelry, to facilitate greater awareness about such items among frontline officers working at posts where they might encounter tourists wearing these items, and to ensure that officers will be alert to the detection of such commodities, and that any attempts to exploit smuggling wildlife specimens in this manner can be detected and addressed;

- f) The Standing Committee requested Viet Nam to submit a progress report on the implementation of the new Penal Code 2017 and on the issues reported on in document SC69 Doc. 60 at its 70th meeting;
- g) The Standing Committee requested Viet Nam to submit a full report on the implementation of Penal Code 2017, including information on arrests, prosecutions and convictions for offences involving illegal trade in rhinoceros horn committed at both border points and domestic markets in Viet Nam, achieved through the implementation of Penal Code 2017, and information on any activities conducted or measures implemented in accordance with recommendation e) i) to iv) above, to the Secretariat by 31 January 2019, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee at its 71st meeting (SC71), together with any recommendations it may have;
- h) The Standing Committee agreed to consider the report submitted by Viet Nam and the recommendations of the Secretariat, at SC71, to determine if the implementation of Penal Code 2017 and the activities or measures implemented sufficiently respond to illegal trade in wildlife as it affects Viet Nam, in particular illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, or if any further measures may be needed.

The Standing Committee invited relevant Parties to provide information on the implementation of Decisions 17.133 and 17.134 for consideration at its 70th meeting.

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on rhinoceroses with the following mandate to:

- a) evaluate Parties' implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) and measures to prevent and combat rhinoceroses poaching and trafficking in rhinoceros horn, taking into consideration the recommendations in CoP17 Doc.68 Annex 5 and, focusing particularly on the six countries identified for priority attention as presented in that report, make any recommendations as appropriate; and
- b) review and evaluate reports submitted by Mozambique and Viet Nam, when available.

The membership of the working group on rhinoceroses was agreed as follows: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Chair), China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe; and Annamiticus, Born Free Foundation, Conservation Force, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Ivory Education Institute, The True Green Alliance, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund, and Zoological Society of London.

## 69. Annotations

### 69.3 Interpretation of annotation #15..... SC69 Doc. 69.3

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group on annotation #15 with the following mandate:

- a) revise the proposed interim definitions of certain terms used in paragraph b) of annotation #15 for the intersessional period between the 17th and the 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as set out in paragraph 10 of document SC69 Doc. 69.3 based on the language proposed by the European Union, the United States of America, Japan, Norway, Guatemala, and Peru; and
- b) prepare draft recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.

The membership of the working group on annotation #15 was agreed as follows: Chair of the Plants Committee (Chair), Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; and Association Technique Internationale des Bois, Center for International Environmental Law, C.F. Martin & Co., Inc., Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale, Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, Llc., International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, International Wood Products Association, Ivory Education Institute, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, League of American Orchestras, Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, and World Resources Institute.

10. Revision and replacement of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020..... SC69 Doc. 10

The Standing Committee established an intersessional Strategic Plan working group, with representation from all regions and from the Animals and Plants Committees with a mandate to:

- a) review progress in implementing the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020* against the adopted indicators, taking account of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, and of any emerging replacement for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets; and
- b) on the basis of the annex of document SC69 Doc. 10, develop a proposal for a Strategic Plan for the period after 2020 and any associated action plan and indicators to measure progress and submit this to the 70th meeting of the Committee, together with any background material that the working group believes would be helpful to the Committee in its consideration of the working group's proposal.

The membership of the intersessional Strategic Plan working group was agreed as follows: Chair of the Standing Committee (Chair); Argentina, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, European Union, Georgia, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Uganda, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and Food and Agriculture Organization, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund; and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees.

The Standing Committee agreed that the next CITES Strategic Plan should run from 2021 to 2030; and endorsed the outline of the next Strategic Plan and related documents, contained in the annex to document SC69 Doc. 10 as a guideline to be used by the working group.

11. Rules of Procedure

11.1 Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.....SC69 Doc. 11.1

11.2 Review of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17):

Report of the Secretariat.....SC69 Doc. 11.2

The Standing Committee endorsed the approach suggested in paragraphs 5 to 8 of document SC69 Doc. 11.2 and noted the approach endorsed by the Animals and Plants Committees.

and

12. Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees:

Report of the Secretariat ..... SC69 Doc. 12

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to develop and submit to its 70th meeting a standard disclosure form for declarations of interest as a means of promoting a standardized approach to such declarations.

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on the Rules of Procedure, with representation from all regions with a mandate to:

- a) for the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, review Rules 4 (Observers), 5 (Credentials), 9 (Quorum), 25 (Procedure for deciding on proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II), 26 (Right to vote), 28 (Majority) and 32 (Amendment);
- b) for the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee, review Rules 4.3 (proposed deletion); 14.4 (clarification of the type of point of order that can be made); 17.2 (clarification of the process to join or withdraw from intersessional working groups); 19.1 (entry into effect of the decisions of the Standing Committee); 20 (procedure for intersessional decision-making);
- c) examine the issues described in paragraph 5 a) to k) of document SC69 Doc. 11.2 and consider the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees on the issue described in paragraph 5 l) of this document regarding potential revisions of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17);

- d) assess the functioning of the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph 5 c) of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), taking into account the report from the Animals and Plants Committees regarding this issue;
- e) make recommendations for refining the definition of conflict of interest, if appropriate, and for a mechanism to deal with such conflicts, referring to such mechanisms developed in other multilateral agreements or relevant international organizations and bodies; and
- f) submit its findings and recommendations for consideration at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee for onwards submission to the Conference of the Parties.

The membership of the intersessional working group on the Rules of Procedure was agreed as follows: Chair of the Standing Committee (Chair); Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, European Union, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Norway, Peru, Switzerland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); and Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Lewis & Clark – International Environmental Law Project, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Safari Club International, and Species Survival Network; and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees.

11. Rules of Procedure

11.3 Adoption by the Standing Committee of a Code of Responsibility for NGOs participating in CITES meetings ..... SC69 Doc. 11.3

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 11.3 and invited Parties who have an interest in proposing a code of conduct for non-governmental organizations to have further discussion on this issue for possible submission to the Conference of the Parties.

15. Demand reduction: Report of the Secretariat ..... SC69 Doc. 15

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 15; and encouraged Parties, in line with Resolution Conf. 17.4 on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species*, to make a clear distinction between legal and illegal wildlife products when undertaking demand reduction initiatives, especially when working with various campaign partners.

The Standing Committee agreed that a CITES guidance on demand-reduction strategies is needed; and invited the Secretariat, as part of its report under Decision 17.48, paragraphs c) and d), to report on progress made in the development of such a guidance at its 70th meeting with a view to the Committee submitting recommendations on this subject to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.