

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Compliance matters

Application of Article XIII

Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

1. This document has been submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.*

INTRODUCTION

This report has been drafted by the CITES Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo pursuant to the recommendations of the last meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27 December to 1 November 2017. The recommendations were made after the document was reviewed by the in-session working group on Article XIII processes on the basis of document SC69 Doc. 29.2.2, Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They are included in document SC69 Com. 8, paragraphs 51, 52, 53 and 54.

Specifically, under paragraph 54 mentioned above, it was recommended that the Democratic Republic of the Congo “report on progress to the Secretariat on the implementation of recommendations directed to it in paragraph 51 by 1 July 2018, in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and its comments at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee”.

Without waiting for this deadline to expire, the CITES Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had decided to progressively submit to the Secretariat detailed information on the implementation of CITES Article XIII by the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This information was sent by email on 18 January 2018, 19 March 2018, 30 March 2018, 2 June 2018, 12 June 2018 and 15 July 2018. We informed the Secretariat about the actions taken by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the margins of the International Workshop on Legal Acquisition Findings held in Brussels from 13 to 15 June 2018 and also on the occasion of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, held in Geneva from 16 to 20 July 2018 and from 21 to 26 July 2018 respectively.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

This report provides answers to the recommendations of the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc. SC69 Com. 8, paragraph 51) and summarizes the information already provided regularly to the CITES Secretariat. Its content is composed of the following elements:

1. Quota management and issuance of export permits;
2. Management of trade in *Psittacus erithacus*;
3. Illegal trade;
4. Trade in *Pericopsis elata*;
5. Situation regarding the financial, technical and logistic support provided by Parties, partners and donors to the DRC in order to help the country implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

For ease of reading, the recommendations and sub-recommendations are provided in blue and red, respectively, and the answers of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are in black.

1. REGARDING QUOTA MANAGEMENT AND ISSUANCE OF EXPORT PERMITS

A. *The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) establish an efficient information system, preferably an electronic system resources permitting, to:*

i) facilitate the issuance of permits and certificates and the verification of the legal acquisition of specimens in trade (legal acquisition finding), while making the manipulation of DRC CITES permits and certificates after issuance more difficult;

i) 1. Creation of CITES permit application forms

CITES permit application forms have been created in order to obtain from the applicants the necessary information for issuing the permits/certificates requested.

These forms include preliminary instructions and collect general information about the specimen for which the permit/certificate is intended, specific information tracing the specimen from its acquisition to the permit/certificate application (i.e., verification of legality and traceability) and precise data allowing the CITES Management Authority to clearly identify the exporter and importer. Scanned copies of these forms have already been sent to the Secretariat.

These forms, which must be signed by the applicant with a declaration of honour, are accompanied by the necessary annexes, specifically the identity documents of the applicant, proof of legal acquisition of the specimens, veterinary and phytosanitary certificates depending on whether the specimens are wild animals or plants, photos of the specimens and proof of payment of the duties and taxes due to the State.

i) 2. Analysis of the information provided in the forms

The forms and their annexes are carefully reviewed by the Management Authority and its team in order to make a legal acquisition finding for each specimen concerned by the export or re-export permit/certificate application.

i 3. Making of legal acquisition findings (LAF)

Since January 2018, the CITES Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been making legal acquisition findings formally and systematically. The format of these findings was shared with the Secretariat at the International Workshop on Legal Acquisition Findings held in Brussels from 13 to 15 June 2018.

These legal acquisition findings, which are in line with the legal and regulatory texts in force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were previously discussed with wildlife traders during workshops held in Kinshasa in December 2017 and January and March 2018. However, they are of an evolving nature and await improvement by the specific resolution that will be adopted by the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in May 2019.

To make the legal acquisition findings, the Management Authority (MA) analyzes the information provided by the applicant: harvest permit/fishing licence and possession permit (for wild animals); logging permit, reference of

the forest concessions covered by a contract, quarterly declaration of timber reported to the forest authorities (for wild plants), and so on. With the help of specialized departments, the MA verifies the existence of the specimens applied for in the country and organizes a field visit to see them physically before signing the CITES permit. It cooperates with the national, provincial and local authorities in the making of the legal acquisition findings.

i) 4. Signing of the permit/certificate

Once the legal acquisition finding has been made by the CITES Management Authority, who countersigns it with two of its assistants, the MA signs the permit/certificate within three days and sends a scanned copy of the original document at the same time to the CITES Secretariat, the customs authority and the Office Congolais de Contrôle – the national government agency responsible for controlling exports – before returning it to the applicant.

i) 5. Collection of the permit/certificate

Only the applicant can collect the permit/certificate signed by the Management Authority, provided that he/she has been previously identified and provides proof of identity, after filling out an acknowledgment of receipt for the secretariat of the MA. If the applicant cannot collect the document in person, his/her representative can only collect the permit/certificate with a duly signed and notarized proxy.

ii) *keep up-to-date records of exporters, which should facilitate controls, communications, collaboration*

ii) 1. Acquisition of new registers (see photos in the annexes)

Thanks to the support of the ACTES Programme, which stands for *Actions Appropriées Contre le Trafic illicite des Espèces Sauvages en République Démocratique du Congo* [Appropriate actions against illegal wildlife trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo] and is coordinated by the NGO Congo Basin Biodiversity Conservation (CBBC), three types of customized registers were printed and made available to the Management Authority in response to this recommendation.

The registers were the following:

- Register of export permits;
- Register of import permits; and
- Register of the illegal trade database.

These registers are in line with the guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual legal and illegal trade reports.

ii) 2. Keeping and updating of the registers

The registers are updated regularly (every Friday) only by the assistant in charge of reports and communication with the CITES Secretariat and by the assistant in charge of combating illegal wildlife trade, as appropriate.

This continuous updating facilitates the making of annual reports on legal and illegal trade for timely submission to the CITES Secretariat.

iii) *facilitate liaison and integration with other permitting/certification systems relating to the harvest of and trade in CITES-listed resources, e.g. timber concession authorizations, phytosanitary/veterinary documentation, or customs declarations*

This recommendation is already being implemented thanks to the permit/certificate application forms and the legal acquisition findings (see paragraphs *i.1* and *i.3*).

iv) *control and monitor annual export quotas to ensure they are not exceeded (SC69 SR – p. 28)*

Given that the permit registers are regularly updated, the CITES Management Authority has a database that enables it to control and monitor the use of the quotas for each species, in order to ensure that they are not exceeded.

Before signing a permit/certificate for a species that is subject to an annual quota, the CITES Management Authority verifies the status of the quota for each species and deducts the number of specimens traded from the quota.

The practice of “cancelling and replacing” is no longer applicable since it was prohibited by Ministerial Order No. 024 of 31 August 2017 transferring the Management Authority from the Direction chargée de la Conservation de la Nature (DCN) to the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN). When a permit/certificate is cancelled, a scanned copy of the document stamped as cancelled is immediately sent to the CITES Secretariat to prevent a double counting of the quotas. The customs authority and the Office Congolais de Contrôle also receive a copy to prevent any use of a cancelled permit.

- v) ***ensure that export permits and re-export certificates be endorsed, with quantity, signature and stamp, by an inspecting official, such as customs, in the export endorsement block of the document***

This recommendation is implemented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In fact, it is clearly stated in the permit application form that when an export has taken place, the exporter has the obligation of getting the permit signed and stamped by a customs official of the point of exit and returning the signed and stamped copy of the permit used for the export as well as other documents used for the export to the CITES Management Authority of the DRC within seven days.

Apart from the exporter, the customs authority systematically returns to the Management Authority of the DRC the copies of the permits/certificates that are endorsed by its officials at the border exit points, thanks to the interinstitutional collaboration achieved through the Task Force to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade.

- vi) ***prepare annual reports that contain information on trade that have effectively occurred, and follow the guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual report of the Notification to the Parties No. 2017/006 and its annex, paying special attention to name correctly the country of import (box 3a in the Standard CITES form)***

After the reform that transferred the CITES Management Authority from the Direction chargée de la Conservation de la Nature (DCN) of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), the 2017 Annual Report was drafted and submitted to the Secretariat on 31 January 2018, taking into account the relevant guidelines.

The 2018 Annual Report will be prepared in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual reports and will be sent to the CITES Secretariat by 31 October 2018. A separate report on illegal trade will also be submitted within the same timeframe given that the registers on such trade are regularly updated.

B. The DRC provide scanned copies of all permits and certificates issued to authorize trade in CITES-listed species to the Secretariat until further notice

This recommendation has been met by the Democratic Republic of the Congo given that, since the CITES reform took place in the country, the Management Authority regularly sends scanned copies of the permits it signs to the Secretariat.

This practice has significantly contributed to the fight against fraud by making things difficult for permit forgers and tamperers.

2. Regarding the management of trade in *Psittacus erithacus*

- C. ***A non-Party to the Convention for *Psittacus erithacus*, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP14), treat the species as if it were included in Appendix II for all purposes, including documentation and control, and suspend the issuance of export permits for commercial and non-commercial trade in specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* of wild origin until it is in a position to make scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the species***

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has not signed any export permit/certificates for transactions of *Psittacus erithacus* of wild origin for commercial or non-commercial purposes since the species was transferred from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I. The reservation entered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been put on hold, since the country is committed to making inventories and a management plan for *Psittacus erithacus*.

D. *The DRC take steps to implement CoP Decision 17.256 on African grey parrots (Psittacus erithacus)*

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is willing to implement Decision 17.256 by developing the National Action Plan with timeframes, deliverables and milestones for the conservation of *Psittacus erithacus*.

However, the DRC asks for the support of the Secretariat, relevant specialists, Parties, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders with good will to achieve this.

E. *The DRC not establish experimental export quotas as part of scientific surveys of the species in the country*

This recommendation has been met by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as no experimental quotas for *P. erithacus* have been set. However, no inventories of this species have been made due to a lack of resources.

F. *The Standing Committee notes the moratorium announced by the DRC to suspend trade of Psittacus erithacus and its announcement that it will not implement its reservation on the listing of the species in Appendix I and it invites DRC to adopt a regulatory act to implement the moratorium*

The regulatory act to implement the moratorium is under review by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and is expected to be adopted in the next few days. The release into the wild of 357 specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* from January to June 2018 proves the will of the DRC Government not to trade in specimens of this species.

G. *The Standing Committee also notes the commitment by the DRC to undertake population surveys and develop a management plan for Psittacus erithacus*

The DRC is firmly committed to undertake scientific populations surveys of *P. erithacus* and develop a management plan. However, it faces financial and logistical problems.

3. REGARDING ILLEGAL TRADE

H. *The DRC take urgent steps to progress the implementation of its NIAP, and report on progress to the Secretariat according to the agreed deadlines*

The DRC is making headway in the development of its National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) and is reporting the progress made to the Secretariat according to the planned timeline. To illustrate this, a status report on the NIAP was sent to the CITES Secretariat on 1 July 2018.

The report summarizes the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the implementation of its NIAP.

I. *The DRC investigate and prosecute criminal cases involving organized or transboundary activities relating to illegal trade in CITES-listed wildlife*

To facilitate the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases involving organized or transboundary activities relating to illegal trade in CITES-listed wildlife, the CITES Management Authority of the DRC launched an operation aimed at identifying all the operators working in the sector of CITES-listed wildlife from December 2017 to June 2018. Each operator was asked to submit to the Management Authority his/her identity documents, the authorizations granted by the competent authorities to conduct trade in general and wildlife trade in particular, the verification of concession contracts (for timber operators), the signature of contracts with veterinarians and an inspection visit to the aviaries and quarantine facilities (for wildlife operators). An identification number has been attributed to each operator identified.

Only the identified operator can apply for a permit/certificate from the Management Authority either in person or through an authorized representative (who must submit proof of identity and a letter of proxy duly signed by the representative and notarized by the competent authority).

The Task Force to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade was made operational by the Management Authority that coordinates it pending the signature of the draft decree on CITES in the DRC. The Management Authority is now conducting its activities in coordination with customs and other law enforcement services working at the border

such as the Office Congolais de Contrôle (national government agency responsible for controlling exports), the Direction Générale de Migration (Department of Migration), the Régie des Voies Aériennes (publicly-owned airways operator), the Agence Nationale de Renseignements (National Intelligence Agency), the National Police (border police), the INTERPOL National Central Bureau, and the Etat-Major des Renseignements Militaires (military intelligence headquarters).

The meetings of the Task Force are held regularly. From January until today, three outreach meetings on CITES for customs and law enforcement officials have been organized. This has increased the capacity to detect illegal activities, arrest offenders and seize goods in the framework of the fight against illegal trade of specimens of wild species of fauna and flora listed in the CITES Appendices.

The most noteworthy cases during the seven (7) first months of the year 2018 are the following:

1. At the end of February 2018, an elephant poacher arrested by the police of the military prosecutor's office in cooperation with ICCN in Lualaba province was transferred to Lubumbashi (capital of the province of Haut-Katanga). He is held in detention awaiting trial.
2. On 27 March 2018, the CITES Management Authority of the DRC received three safes – one for storing CITES permits and one for storing the files of the CITES Coordination secretariat – thanks to the ACTES Programme on combating illegal wildlife trade in order to prevent the theft of such materials, as observed in 2015. The permits/certificates of the current Management Authority of the DRC are totally secure. See photos in the annex to this report.
3. On 28 February 2018, 25 live African grey parrots and 3 monkeys originating from the city of Mbandaka (the capital of Equateur province) were seized by the anti-poaching service operating in N'djili International Airport and handed over to the Management Authority.
4. On 1 March 2018, a piece of raw ivory (1 kg) was seized from a foreign citizen by the Task Force at N'djili International Airport.
5. On 8 March 2018 there was an initial meeting between the CITES Management Authority and Turkish Airlines to clarify certain issues about the illegal transport of animal species from the DRC.
6. On 9 March 2018, 192 live African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) were seized at Nd'jili International Airport by the anti-poaching service of ICCN in cooperation with the special service of the National Police of the DRC. They originated from the city of Kisangani and had been transported on 8 March 2018 by the airline Service Air.
7. On 14 March 2018, three illegal traders were arrested with a parcel of 10 kg of ivory (9 kg of raw ivory and 1 kg of worked ivory – bracelets) thanks to Operation Coup de Poing, conducted by the National Police of the DRC in cooperation with partners and ICCN in the city of Goma (North-East of the DRC). These legal proceedings are under way to obtain their conviction.
8. On 16 March 2018, a woman who intended to fly to Dubai with Kenya Airways was arrested at N'djili International Airport with several pieces of worked ivory weighing 3.5 kg hidden in a radio. The judicial investigation is under way.
9. On 17 March 2018, the CITES Management Authority/ICCN released into the wild 217 live African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) seized from illegal traders at N'djili International Airport on 28 February and 9 March 2018. The birds were released in the Parc de la Vallée de la N'sele, a protected area 50 km from central Kinshasa.
10. On 17 March 2018, the CITES Management Authority released into the wild (Parc de la Vallée de la N'sele) a young hippo (species listed on CITES Appendix I) seized from poachers who managed to escape in the town of Lusambo, in the centre of the country.
11. On 26 March 2018 the National Police of the DRC seized two ivory tusks that weighed five (5) kg in total and an elephant tail in Kinshasa from two Congolese illegal traders. The offenders are under arrest pending the court decision.
12. On 28 March 2018, 130 African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) seized in Istanbul, Turkey on 11 January 2018 were repatriated to Kinshasa thanks to the good collaboration between the CITES

Management Authorities of both countries. The parrots have been reintroduced into the wild (Parc de la Vallée de la N'sele). A judicial investigation is under way.

13. On 30 March 2018, 280 kg of pangolin scales were seized in Zongo territory, province of Nord-Ubangi (North-West of the DRC) by the DRC customs. Zongo is a border post between the DRC and the Central African Republic. An investigation is under way to identify and arrest the authors of this crime and bring them to trial.
14. On 29 April 2018, 5 live specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* were seized at Ndjili International Airport by the Task Force (customs) from a foreign smuggler who intended to fly to Beirut via Addis-Ababa. The smuggler escaped and is wanted by the DRC police. The parrots were released into the wild in the Parc de la Vallée de la N'sele, located 50 km from central Kinshasa.
15. On 4 May 2018, the memorandum of understanding on the prevention of and fight against illegal wildlife trade in the postal and air transport sectors was signed between the CITES Management Authority, the Autorité de l'aviation civile en RDC (civil aviation authority of the DRC), the Autorité de la Régulation de la Poste et des Télécommunications du Congo (the authority in charge of regulating the postal and telecommunications service) and the Société Congolaise de la Poste et des Télécommunications du Congo (the postal and telecommunications service of the DRC). The Régie des Voies Aériennes (publicly-owned airways operator) also signed this MoU in June 2018. The MoU is aimed at raising awareness among postal service workers and airline carriers about illegal wildlife trade. The MoU is awaiting signature by all the airlines operating domestic and international flights in the DRC.
16. On 28 May 2018, three African grey parrots were seized by the Task Force (customs) at N'djili International Airport from a foreign illegal trader who escaped. The parrots were released into the wild in the Parc de la Vallée de la N'sele.
17. On 2 June 2018, customs officials seized 62.5 kg of worked ivory at N'djili International Airport from a foreign illegal trader who is currently under arrest. The Management Authority is closely following this case, which is awaiting trial.
18. On 7 June 2018, two (2) live specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* were seized at N'djili International Airport in Kinshasa. The offender is not known, as the birds were found to be abandoned in a wooden crate in the check-in area. The parrots have been released into the wild in the Parc de la Vallée de la N'sele, 50 km from central Kinshasa.
19. On 12 June 2018, five (5) live pangolins were seized from two Congolese illegal traders by the services of the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature in cooperation with the Office Congolais de Contrôle (OCC), the National Police of the DRC and the partners (ACTES Programme).
20. On 13 June 2018, 15 pieces of raw ivory weighing a total of 135 kg were destroyed (burned) in the Parc national de la Garamba (province of Haut Uélé). This was done in the presence of the Director General of the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, of the Governor of the province of Haut-Uélé, the Ambassador of the European Union to the DRC, the representative of USAID and the partner African Parks Network, which is managing the Parc National de la Garamba under a contract. The images of the destruction are annexed to this report.
21. On 14 July 2018, 17 necklace parts in worked ivory weighing a total of 5 kg were seized by the Task Force (customs) at N'djili International Airport from a foreign illegal trader. The offender was arrested and brought before justice (Prosecutor General of Matete).

A specific communication channel has been established between the CITES Management Authority and the customs authority. There is a WhatsApp account (CITES Task Force) managed by the CITES Management Authority that enables it to have a regular exchange of information with customs and the other specialized law enforcement bodies.

- J. *The DRC provide to the Secretariat the results of any judicial decision, in accordance with national laws, conducted by competent national authorities to determine the origin of specimens in illegal trade, including African grey parrots, pangolin scales, elephant ivory, etc., as well as the identities of individuals involved in, inter alia, falsifying CITES documents, or illegally trading and smuggling CITES specimens, and the results of any legal proceedings against alleged perpetrators***

The CITES Management Authority is already working in cooperation with the civilian and military prosecutor's offices in the Task Force to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade and is therefore involved in the organization of the judicial follow-up of the cases involving illegal wildlife traders.

While awaiting court decisions to convict the offenders, which take a long time, the Management Authority has already shared the identity of certain illegal wildlife traders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the CITES Secretariat.

K. The DRC work with the law enforcement agencies from China, Pakistan, Singapore and Turkey to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices with the objective of improving the mechanisms for justice and police cooperation on the issues of trade and transiting of illegal or unreported trade in specimens of CITES-listed species

The DRC is working effectively with the enforcement authorities of the countries mentioned above, particularly of Turkey and China, to dismantle criminal networks thanks to common efforts, while facilitating the exchange of intelligence and best practices. The repatriation of African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) from Turkey to the Democratic Republic of the Congo illustrates this cooperation.

In addition, the Management Authority of the DRC wrote to the Management Authorities of the Republic of Togo and the Republic of the Congo to ask them to repatriate the specimens of pangolin scales originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and seized on their territory. These communications will produce the expected results in the near future.

The CITES Management Authority of the DRC has also established contact with the authorities of Viet Nam through the INTERPOL National Central Bureau, the DRC customs authority and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force about the pangolin scales (3,800 kg) originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and seized on their territory. No satisfactory results can be reported so far.

4. REGARDING TRADE IN *PERICOPSIS ELATA*

L. The DRC take urgent steps to implement the measures presented in its NDF report (document PC22 Doc. 12.1 and annex), particularly SC69 SR – p. 29

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is working hard to implement the measures presented in its NDF report (document PC22 Doc. 12.1 and annex). In addition, it has produced the third revised version of the non-detriment finding (NDF), submitted to the CITES Secretariat on 31 March 2018, which addresses most of the recommendations made to the DRC by the Standing Committee at the end of its 69th meeting held in Geneva.

The reform of CITES put in place by the Government facilitates the connection between the permits and other documents thanks to the making of a legal acquisition finding. This finding makes it possible to ensure the traceability of the specimens of *P. elata* leaving the DRC from the harvest in the forest concessions to the ports of exit.

i) The finalization and use of a database to monitor the volumes of Pericopsis elata exported by the DRC

The CITES Management Authority of the DRC has created a database with records of the monitoring of exports that is regularly updated and can be consulted when needed.

In addition, the electronic database is also available at the CITES Management Authority and will be finalized and posted online once the financial means are received by the Management Authority in the framework of the CITES-TREE programme.

ii) A study on the systematic conversion of volumes of processed products into round wood equivalent volumes, based on an appropriate conversion rate

The DRC has a study on the systematic conversion of volumes of processed products into round wood equivalent volumes that was conducted by the AGEDUFOR project. This study, which has already been submitted to the CITES Secretariat, has made it possible to set the conversion rate at 48%.

However, the DRC is aware that this study is not enough and will take advantage of the opportunity provided by the CITES-TREE project to gain greater insight in order to obtain an updated conversion rate.

M. As long as the database mentioned in paragraph 51 j) is not finalized and submitted to the Secretariat for review, the Standing Committee recommends that importing Parties not accept any CITES export permit or certificate for *Pericopsis elata* issued by the DRC unless its authenticity has been confirmed by the Secretariat.

This recommendation can be maintained for *P. elata* until the database is finalized.

5. SITUATION REGARDING THE FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT PROVIDED BY PARTIES, PARTNERS AND DONORS TO THE DRC IN ORDER TO HELP THE COUNTRY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Democratic Republic of the Congo would like the Standing Committee to note that paragraph 54 of the recommendation (SC69 Com. 8 – p. 5), which states: “Welcoming the institutional reform of CITES adopted by the DRC, the Standing Committee invites the Parties, partners and donors to provide financial, technical and logistical support to DRC to support the implementations of the above recommendations of the Standing Committee” has not shown results yet, apart from the CITES-TREES project, which will benefit three tree species (*Pericopsis elata*, *Prunus africana* and *Guibourtia demeusei*). We reiterate the implementation of this recommendation particularly for the scientific studies on *Psittacus erithacus*, outreach on CITES, capacity building of the new CITES Management Authority and the Scientific Authority and the fight against poaching and illegal trade of wildlife.

CONCLUSION

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has made many visible efforts in the first seven months of the year 2018 alone to implement the recommendations made to the country by the CITES Standing Committee at its 69th meeting held in Geneva as a result of Article XIII processes.

We invite the Standing Committee to reconsider these recommendations at the upcoming 70th meeting, which will take place in Sochi (Russian Federation) from 1 to 5 October 2018, given that most of them have been implemented effectively by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Consequently, we call for the implementation of paragraph 54 of the recommendation (SC69 Com. 8 – p. 5), particularly as regards the scientific studies on *Psittacus erithacus*, outreach on CITES, capacity building of the new CITES Management Authority and the Scientific Authority and the fight against poaching and illegal trade of wildlife, through the new mobilization by the Standing Committee of the financial support from Parties, donors and partners to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Written in Kinshasa on 30 July 2018.

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