

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

NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLANS PROCESS:  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Parties adopted *Guidelines to the NIAP process*,<sup>1</sup> contained in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, as well as Decisions 17.70 to 17.82 on the *National ivory action plans process*, as follows:

***Directed to Parties***

- 17.70 *Parties that have been implementing the National ivory action plans process (NIAPS) at the request of the Standing Committee, should complete the implementation of any NIAP actions in accordance with the Guidelines to the NIAP Process.*
- 17.71 *New Parties identified in document CoP17 Doc. 57.6 (Rev. 1) on ETIS Report of TRAFFIC, shall, upon the conclusion of the Conference of Parties at its 17th meeting, collaborate with the Secretariat in regards of Step I of the NIAP process as defined in the Guidelines to the NIAP Process.*
- 17.72 *All Parties are invited to provide financial and/or technical assistance for the development and effective implementation of the NIAPs process.*

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

- 17.73 *The Standing Committee is directed to:*
- a) *review the reports presented by Parties already in the NIAP process in accordance with the Guidelines and determine, on the basis of these reports, whether assistance is required by these countries or if any other measures are required to ensure timely and effective completion of the NIAPs;*
  - b) *on the basis of recommendations by the Secretariat, determine in accordance with the Guidelines to the NIAP Process whether any Party should continue to participate in the NIAP process;*

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<sup>1</sup> referred to as 'the Guidelines' throughout the rest of the present document.

- c) *report to the Conference of Parties at its 18th meeting on the implementation of these decisions as part of its report on the general implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on Trade in elephant specimens.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

- 17.74 *The Secretariat shall upon the conclusion of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties consult with TRAFFIC in order to review current names of the categories used to group Parties identified in the ETIS Report of TRAFFIC and present its conclusions to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.*
- 17.75 *The Secretariat shall, upon the conclusion of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, commence the process of identifying new Parties to participate in the NIAP process in accordance with the Guidelines to the NIAP Process contained in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17).*
- 17.76 *The Secretariat shall, upon the conclusion of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, commence the application of the Guidelines to the NIAP Process to Parties already participating in the NIAP process.*
- 17.77 *The Secretariat shall develop a template for NIAPs and progress reports in accordance with the Guidelines to the NIAP Process.*
- 17.78 *The Secretariat shall submit progress reports of Parties to the Standing Committee at each of its meetings.*
- 17.79 *The Secretariat shall make all NIAPs and progress reports publicly available on the CITES NIAP webpage.*
- 17.80 *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:*
  - a) *convene a meeting from representatives of Parties concerned with the development and implementation of National Ivory Action Plans, in cooperation with partner organizations in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and, as appropriate, other Parties, experts and donors, to:*
    - i) *review the development and implementation of National Ivory Action Plans and, inter alia, exchange experiences and best practices;*
    - ii) *identify opportunities including opportunities that promote long-term collaboration among enforcement authorities, for cross-border collaboration and regional cooperation, joint actions, and resource mobilisation; and*
    - iii) *discuss shared challenges and technical assistance needs;*
  - b) *report on the implementation of the present decision to the Standing Committee at its 69th or 70th meeting with recommendations, as appropriate.*
- 17.81 *The Secretariat shall liaise with ICWC and its members to seek their cooperation for the development of the NIAPs and the monitoring of their implementation.*
- 17.82 *The Secretariat shall approach Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to provide financial and/or technical assistance for the development and effective implementation of the NIAPs process.*

#### Decision 17.74: New names for NIAP Party categories

3. At its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee agreed to endorse new names for the NIAP Party categories, including an explanation for each category.<sup>2</sup> The new endorsed names and explanations are as follows:
  - a) Category A Parties: Parties most affected by illegal trade in ivory.<sup>3</sup>
  - b) Category B Parties: Parties markedly affected by illegal trade in ivory.<sup>4</sup>
  - c) Category C Parties: Parties affected by illegal trade in ivory.<sup>5</sup>
4. The Secretariat consistently applied these new category names throughout the present document, and its Annexes.
5. The Committee requested the Secretariat to request the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) to use the new names for the NIAP Party categories in future ETIS reports. To convey the request of the Committee, the Secretariat formally wrote to TRAFFIC as the manager and coordinator of ETIS, in March 2018. TRAFFIC responded to the Secretariat, confirming that the new endorsed names will be used.

#### Decisions 17.70, 17.71, 17.73, paragraphs a) and b), 17.75, 17.76, 17.78 and 17.79: Parties included in the NIAP process

##### Parties that continue with NIAP implementation

6. The United Republic of Tanzania as Category A Party; Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, and Nigeria as Category B Parties; and Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Egypt, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and Mozambique as Category C Parties, had at the time of SC69 not yet 'achieved' their NIAPs. These Parties, in accordance with Decision 17.70, continued with NIAP implementation in the current reporting period. Angola and the DRC following SC69 opted to revise and update their NIAPs, and submitted the revised and updated NIAPs to the Secretariat in accordance with the period set by the Committee at SC69.
7. Malawi and Togo as Category A Parties, and Qatar as Category C Party, have since CoP17, been requested by the Committee to develop and implement a NIAP, while Malaysia and Viet Nam, two Category A Parties that previously 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs, were requested by the Committee to revise and update their NIAPs, and continue implementation.
8. The Secretariat received reports on progress with NIAP implementation in accordance with Step 4, paragraph a), of the *Guidelines*, from the following Parties mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 7 above: Angola, Cambodia, Cameroon, the DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Qatar, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.
9. The Secretariat evaluated the reports received in accordance with Step 4, paragraphs c) and d), of the *Guidelines*. The findings and observations of the Secretariat are presented in paragraphs 1 to 150 in Annex 1 to the present document. To facilitate the understanding of the Committee regarding the status of Parties' implementation of their NIAPs, the Secretariat prepared Table 1 in Annex 1 to the present document, showing the self-assessment ratings of Parties for SC69 and SC70, as well as the assessment ratings of the Secretariat where it diverged from a Party's self-assessment.
10. The Secretariat notes that, for the present meeting, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, report that their NIAPs have been 'achieved'.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/sum/E-SC69-Sum-03-R1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> previously named 'Parties of primary concern'.

<sup>4</sup> previously named 'Parties of secondary concern'

<sup>5</sup> previously named 'Parties of importance to watch'

11. The Secretariat further notes that Togo as Category A Party, and Congo, Gabon and Nigeria as Category B Parties, had not submitted progress reports for the present meeting, as required by Step 4, paragraph a), of the *Guidelines*.

#### Parties that 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs at previous meetings of the Standing Committee

12. The Standing Committee at its previous meetings agreed that China, including Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, Kenya, and Uganda as Category A Parties, Thailand as a Category B Party, and the Philippines as a Category C Party, had 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs. The Committee at SC69 agreed recommendations r) and s) in document SC69 Sum.10 (Rev. 1), *inter alia* encouraging these Parties to submit a report to the present meeting, on any further measures taken and activities implemented to combat illegal trade in ivory, including on any new or further policy developments. The Committee agreed to consider at the present meeting, whether these Parties should exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5, paragraph d), of the *Guidelines*.
13. The Secretariat received reports, as encouraged by the Committee, from China, Kenya, the Philippines, Thailand and Uganda. No report was received from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, that had developed, implemented and reported on the implementation of its NIAP separate to mainland China to date.
14. The findings and observations of the Secretariat on these Parties can be found in paragraphs 151 to 224 in Annex 1 to the present document.

#### Parties not included in the NIAP process

15. Japan, Singapore and South Africa, Parties not included in the NIAP process, submitted reports to the present meeting in accordance with recommendations agreed by the Standing Committee at SC69. The findings and observations of the Secretariat on these Parties can be found in paragraphs 225 to 235 in Annex 1 to the present document.

#### Findings, observations and recommendations of the Secretariat

16. For Annex 1, given the limited time and high cost of translation and in the interest of economy, the Secretariat decided only to translate the detailed assessments of francophone Parties in French. The rest of Annex 1 is available in English only.
17. The recommendations regarding Parties currently included in the NIAP process, prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the Committee, are presented as recommendations a) to s) in paragraph 35 of the present document.

#### Reports received from Parties

18. The reports submitted by Parties are available, in accordance with the provisions of Decision 17.78, as Annexes 4 to 24 to the present document, in the language in which they were received. Pursuant to Decision 17.79, all reports will also be made available on the NIAP webpage. The Secretariat would like to thank all Parties that have submitted reports to the present meeting.

#### Decision 17.80: Meeting of representatives of Parties concerned with the development and implementation of NIAPs

19. Pursuant to Decision 17.80, paragraph a), the Secretariat in close cooperation with the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development of Mozambique, and its ICCWC partners, convened a meeting of representatives of Parties concerned with the development and implementation of NIAPs in Maputo, Mozambique, from 1 to 4 May 2018. The meeting was organized thanks to generous funds provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020.
20. The meeting brought together more than 60 representatives from 24 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and North America (Angola, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, including Hong Kong SAR, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, the European Union, France, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Philippines, Qatar, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, the

United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Viet Nam), and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

21. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the development and implementation of NIAPs, and to exchange experiences and best practices among NIAP Parties. It also served to identify opportunities for long-term collaboration among enforcement authorities, cross-border and regional cooperation, joint actions, and resource mobilisation. It gave the opportunity to participants to discuss shared challenges and technical assistance needs. The meeting on the last day comprised a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management (RIACM) meeting, facilitated by INTERPOL. The RIACM provided a platform for representatives to share information and intelligence with regard to *modus operandi*, smuggling routes, and other information relevant to targeting the criminal networks involved in ivory trafficking.
22. The recommended actions agreed by participants in the meeting of representatives of Parties concerned with the development and implementation of NIAPs are presented in Annex 2 to the present document. The Secretariat believes that the recommended actions under headings 1 through 5, on *Legislation and regulations; National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration; International and regional enforcement collaboration; Outreach, public awareness and education; and Resource mobilization*, could provide valuable guidance to Parties in developing and implementing their NIAPs. The Secretariat therefore suggests that the Standing Committee note these recommended actions; request the Secretariat to make it available on the NIAP webpage in English, French and Spanish; and encourage Parties to consider them when developing and implementing their NIAPs.
23. The Secretariat considered the actions recommended under heading 6 in Annex 2 to the present document, on *NIAP process-related matters*, in the proposed amendment to the *Guidelines*, as further elaborated upon in paragraph 26 below.

#### Decisions 17.81 and 17.82: Liaison with the ICCWC and financial and/or technical assistance

24. The reports submitted by Parties, demonstrate that resources from a wide variety of sources have been mobilized, and continue to be mobilized, in accordance with Decisions 17.81 and 17.82, to support NIAP implementation. This includes for example activities under the ICCWC Strategic Programme, projects funded under GEF-6, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations' in-country projects, and others.
25. In the context of Decision 17.82, the Secretariat would like to thank the United States of America for the generous funding it provided to the Secretariat, to support NIAP implementation in a number of Southeast Asian countries. The Secretariat is currently engaging with Cambodia, Malaysia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam to work with these Parties to identify the actions that are of highest priority for these Parties to address.

#### Proposed revisions to the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17)

26. As reported in paragraph 3, the Committee at SC69 agreed to endorse new names for the NIAP Party categories. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal to amend Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), to reflect the new names for the NIAP Party categories. The Secretariat prepared such a proposal, presented in Annex 3 to the present document.
27. The Secretariat also propose additional amendments to Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), to address the NIAP process-related matters outlined under heading 6 of the recommended actions agreed by participants in the meeting of representatives of Parties concerned with the development and implementation of NIAPs, reported upon in paragraphs 19 to 23. These proposed amendments are also included in Annex 3 to the present document, for consideration by the Committee, and subsequent submission to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration.

#### Proposed revision to the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*

28. In preparing its document for the present meeting, the Secretariat noted that the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures* may need to be revised to better accommodate the NIAP process. Paragraph 30 of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 provides for recommendations to suspend trade in certain cases. Such recommendations should always be specifically and explicitly based on the Convention and on any applicable Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties. Footnote 1 in paragraph 30 of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 lists which Resolutions and Decisions are applicable in this context, and this list currently does not include Resolution Con. 10.10 (Rev CoP17).

29. The Committee may wish to remedy this by proposing to CoP18 an amendment to Footnote 1 in paragraph 30 of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3, to include a reference to Resolution Con. 10.10 (Rev CoP17).

#### The role of the Secretariat in the NIAP process

30. The Secretariat notes that its work on NIAPs continues to increase and that it places significant additional administrative and substantive tasks on the Secretariat, including coordinating communication with Parties, processing new or revised and updated NIAPs, undertaking in-country missions, evaluating progress reports, preparing Committee documents and undertaking work as required by the Committee. The Standing Committee will have noted that the present document and the associated Annexes prepared by the Secretariat comprises 58 pages in total. The reports submitted by Parties included in the NIAP process for Standing Committee meetings are comprehensive and lengthy, and processing and evaluating these reports is resource intensive and time consuming, often requiring comparison with reports submitted to previous Committee meetings, or follow up with Parties when reporting does not align with the NIAP or is unclear.
31. The complexity, scale and level of detail involved in the NIAPs process is costly and presents considerable practical challenges for the Secretariat. Most of the Secretariat's activities on NIAPs have only been possible through the provision of external resources coming from Germany, Switzerland and the United States of America. The funds provided by Germany supported part-time work on NIAPs by a joint CITES-CMS staff member that worked with the full-time NIAP Support Officer mentioned in paragraph 32 below. This funding ended in March 2018 and since then the full-time NIAP Support Officer consultant and regular staff of the Secretariat absorbed this work.
32. The generous funds provided by the United States of America and Switzerland enabled the Secretariat to, since June 2016, maintain a full-time NIAP Support Officer consultancy. This funding however stops at the end of December 2018, and unless other funds are found, the Secretariat will not be able to support the NIAP process in its current form.
33. The Secretariat offers its grateful thanks to Germany, Switzerland and the United States of America for the financial support provided, that enabled the Secretariat to put in place essential support staff for the coordination and implementation of the Secretariat's work on NIAPs.
34. Regardless of any future funds secured, the Secretariat believes that CoP18 should reflect on these issues and is considering making proposals on the matter to that meeting. In order to inform this consideration, the Secretariat would appreciate hearing the views of the Standing Committee.

#### Recommendations

35. The Standing Committee may wish to consider the following recommendations.

#### Parties that continue with NIAP implementation

##### **Angola**

- a) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
- i) agree an overall rating of 'limited progress' in line with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) request Angola to take urgent steps to significantly progress the implementation of its revised and updated NIAP between SC70 and SC73, with a particular focus on:
    - A. finalizing the new Criminal Code to enable authorities to take strong action against wildlife crime, as anticipated by action A.1 in the revised and updated NIAP; and
    - B. taking steps to put in place the Action Plan as reported upon against action C.1 in the revised and updated NIAP, and to mobilize the Ivory Seizure Task Force as reported on against action D.6 in the NIAP, with a particular focus on addressing any illegal ivory carving industries in Angola, initiating inspections and enforcement actions in domestic markets, and scaling up inspections at ports and border checkpoints to detect, prevent and address illegal trade in worked ivory originating from the country.
  - iii) encourage Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others to, where possible, provide financial and technical assistance to Angola, in accordance

with Decision 17.82, and recommendation I) on NIAPs agreed at SC69, as presented in document SC69 Sum.10 (Rev. 1).

#### **Cambodia**

- b) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) welcome the progress made by Cambodia and agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*; and
  - ii) encourage Cambodia to consider the proposals made by the Secretariat following its mission, as referred to in paragraph 13 in Annex 1 to document SC70 Doc. 27.4, and to draw upon the offer of support from the Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard, as deemed appropriate.

#### **Cameroon**

- c) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) note the progress made by Cameroon in the implementation of its NIAP, and agree an overall rating of 'limited progress' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*; and
  - ii) encourage Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others to, where possible, provide financial and technical assistance to Cameroon.

#### **Congo, Gabon and Togo**

- d) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee, regarding Togo as Category A Party and Congo and Gabon as Category B Parties:
  - i) note that these Parties did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation that allowed for their progress to be reflected in document SC70 Doc. 27.4;
  - ii) consider any progress reports submitted by these Parties ahead of SC70, and any oral updates provided by these Parties at the present meeting, and make any further recommendations as appropriate.
- e) In the absence of any report or oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC70 by the Parties referred to in recommendation d) above, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, on behalf of the Committee to:
  - i) issue a warning, requesting the above-mentioned Parties to submit their NIAP progress reports within 60 days of the conclusion of SC70 to the Secretariat;
  - ii) if there is no satisfactory response by a Party concerned, issue a Notification to the Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with that Party until the Party concerned submits a progress report to the Secretariat confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

- f) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) note the revised and updated NIAP of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
  - ii) agree an overall rating of 'limited progress' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - iii) request the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance efforts to progress the implementation of its NIAP actions between SC70 and SC73; and
  - iv) request the Democratic Republic of the Congo to use the template for progress reports on NIAP implementation available on the NIAP webpage for future reporting on progress.

## **Egypt**

- g) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) agree an overall rating of 'limited progress' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) request Egypt to revise and update its NIAP in accordance with Step 2 of the *Guidelines*, and to ensure that the actions in the NIAP respond to current ivory trafficking trends, taking into consideration the findings in the ETIS report prepared for SC69, as highlighted in paragraph 46 of Annex 1 to document SC70 Doc. 27.4; and
  - iii) submit the revised and updated NIAP to the Secretariat for assessment in accordance with Step 3 of the *Guidelines*, and commence implementation as soon as the revised and updated NIAP is accepted as 'adequate' by the Secretariat, and provide associated reporting in accordance with the provisions set out in the *Guidelines*.

## **Lao PDR**

- h) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) welcome the progress made by Lao PDR and agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - ii) encourage Lao PDR to build upon the current momentum to ensure that urgent measures continue to be taken to progress NIAP implementation;
  - iii) request Lao PDR if it, as indicated in its progress report to SC70, decides to revise and update its NIAP found to be adequate in 2015, to do so using the template for NIAP development available on the NIAP webpage and, if applicable, to provide justification for the removal of any actions which have not yet been achieved or substantially achieved in the NIAP originally found to be adequate, but removed from the revised and updated NIAP; and
  - iv) submit any revised and updated NIAP to the Secretariat for assessment in accordance with Step 3 of the *Guidelines*.

## **Malawi**

- i) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee welcome the progress made by Malawi in implementing its NIAP, and agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

## **Malaysia**

- j) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) note the revised and updated NIAP of Malaysia;
  - ii) agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
  - iii) request Malaysia to pursue further capacity building activities to implement action 2.2 in its NIAP, and to reach out to the Secretariat for support in this regard, if needed; and
  - iv) request Malaysia to continue to progress the implementation of its revised and updated NIAP between SC70 and SC73, and to provide sufficiently detailed reporting to SC73, to justify progress ratings allocated to its NIAP actions, and to enable the Secretariat to fully assess the progress made.

## **Nigeria**

- k) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) note that Nigeria successively did not submit its reports on progress with NIAP implementation in time for its progress to be assessed and reflected in the documents on NIAPs prepared by the Secretariat for SC66, SC67, SC69 and SC70;



- ii) note any progress report submitted by Nigeria ahead of SC70, and any oral updates provided by Nigeria at the present meeting;
- iii) note the concerns regarding the escalation of illegal trade in ivory and other wildlife specimens from Nigeria, as detailed in paragraphs 82 to 85 of Annex 1 to document SC70 Doc. 27.4; and
- iv) request the Secretariat to, on behalf of the Committee, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, issue a Notification to the Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Nigeria, until Nigeria submits a progress report to the Secretariat providing sufficient detail of the activities delivered to justify allocated progress ratings, and confirming that progress has been made towards NIAP implementation.

#### **Qatar**

- l) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee agree an overall rating of 'partial progress', in line with Step 4 paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*.

#### **Viet Nam**

- m) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) note the NIRAP of Viet Nam and the report on progress with implementation prepared for the present meeting;
  - ii) request Viet Nam to continue to progress the implementation of its NIRAP between SC70 and SC73; and
  - iii) request Viet Nam to use the template for progress reports on NIAP implementation, available on the NIAP webpage, for future reporting on progress with NIRAP implementation.

#### Parties reporting to the present meeting that they have 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs

#### **Ethiopia**

- n) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) welcome the progress made by Ethiopia and agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*; and
  - ii) request Ethiopia to continue to progress the implementation of its NIAP between SC70 and SC73.

#### **Mozambique**

- o) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) agree an overall rating of 'achieved' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*, and commend Mozambique for achieving its NIRAP;
  - ii) encourage Mozambique to complete the implementation of any NIRAP actions that have not yet been 'achieved';
  - iii) request Mozambique to report to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee on any further measures and activities implemented to address poaching and illegal trade in ivory and rhinoceros horn as it affects Mozambique, with a particular focus on measures and activities implemented to:
    - A. further strengthen detection of illegal ivory and rhinoceros horn consignments at its ports;
    - B. strengthen efforts to gather intelligence about the criminal syndicates that continue to operate from Mozambique, to map out these criminal networks, and to initiate intelligence driven operations and investigations to address them; and
    - C. strengthen the implementation and impact of its amended national laws and regulations to combat poaching and ivory and rhinoceros horn trafficking.

- iv) request the Secretariat to make the report referred to in recommendation o) iii) above available to the Committee, together with any recommendations it may have; and
- v) request the Secretariat to continue to monitor progress in accordance with paragraph 9 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), and to bring any issues of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee
- p) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee agree that it will consider at SC73 whether Mozambique should revise and update its NIRAP, or exit the NIAP process, or if any other measures need to be taken, in accordance with Step 5, paragraph d), of the *Guidelines*.

#### **United Republic of Tanzania**

- q) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee
  - i) agree an overall rating of 'achieved' in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*, and commend the United Republic of Tanzania for achieving its NIAP;
  - ii) encourage the United Republic of Tanzania to complete the implementation of any NIAP actions that have not yet been 'achieved';
  - iii) agree that the United Republic of Tanzania exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5, paragraph d), of the *Guidelines*; and
  - iv) request the Secretariat to continue to monitor progress in accordance with paragraph 9 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.

#### Parties that 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs at previous meetings of the Standing Committee

#### **China, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand and Uganda**

- r) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee
  - i) commend China, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand and Uganda for 'achieving' their NIAPs and for the further measures taken to address illegal trade in ivory;
  - ii) agree that China, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand and Uganda exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 paragraph d) of the *Guidelines*; and
  - iii) request the Secretariat to continue to monitor progress in accordance with paragraph 9 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.

#### **Hong Kong SAR of China**

- s) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - i) commend Hong Kong SAR of China for implementing its NIAP, the additional measures and activities implemented to address illegal trade in ivory, and the firm commitment demonstrated to build upon the progress made to date;
  - ii) encourage Hong Kong SAR of China to submit a comprehensive report to its 73rd meeting, on:
    - A. any further measures taken and activities implemented to combat illegal trade in ivory;
    - B. progress with the implementation of the three-step plan outlined in Notification to the Parties No. 2018/057 of 1 June 2018;
    - C. any measures and activities implemented to prevent the displacement of illegal trade in ivory to Hong Kong SAR, that may result from the closure of domestic ivory markets in mainland China; and
    - D. measures implemented to deter and detect worked ivory products moving out of Africa to Hong Kong SAR, and to penalize offenders involved.

- iii) request the Secretariat to continue to monitor progress in accordance with paragraph 9 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), and to bring any issues of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.
- iv) agree that it will consider at SC73, whether Hong Kong SAR of China should exit the NIAP process, in accordance with Step 5, paragraph d), of the *Guidelines*.

#### Other matters

#### **Actions recommended by the meeting of representatives of NIAP Parties**

- t) The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - i) note the actions agreed by participants in the meeting of representatives of Parties concerned with the development and implementation of NIAPs, presented under headings 1-5 in Annex 2 to document SC70 Doc. 27.4;
  - ii) request the Secretariat to make the actions presented under headings 1-5 in Annex 2 to document SC70 Doc. 27.4 available on the NIAP webpage in English, French and Spanish, as guidance for new and existing NIAP Parties to consider when developing and implementing their NIAPs; and
  - iii) encourage Parties to draw upon the actions concluded and agreed, as presented under headings 1-5 in Annex 2 to document SC70 Doc. 27.4, when developing and implementing their NIAPs.

#### **Revision of Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens***

- u) The Standing Committee is invited to consider the proposed amendments to Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, contained in Annex 3 to the present document, and to forward a draft of the revised Resolution to CoP18 for consideration.

#### **Revision of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures***

- v) The Standing Committee is invited to consider proposing to CoP18 to include Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* in the footnote to paragraph 30 in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*.