

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

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUSPEND TRADE MADE MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. The role and responsibilities of the Standing Committee in monitoring progress of range States in implementing recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade (RST) in specimens of Appendix-II species are described in paragraph 1 k) to p), and paragraph 2 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.
3. Where a species/range State combination is subject to a recommendation to suspend trade under the Review of Significant Trade, there are two processes by which the recommendation can be reviewed and potentially withdrawn. These fall under paragraph 1, subparagraphs o) and p) of the Resolution, which state that:
 - o) *a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with the range State concerned should be withdrawn only when that range State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, which shall act, through the Chair, in consultation with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, in compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a); and*
 - p) *the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee, shall review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, evaluate the reasons why this is the case in consultation with the range State and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation.*
4. The Standing Committee has reviewed recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years on an irregular basis, depending, *inter alia*, on the availability of funding to the Secretariat for commissioning detailed studies to facilitate these reviews. The Secretariat was able to provide comprehensive overviews of the status of the cases for the 57th and 59th meetings of the Standing Committee (SC57, Geneva, July 2008, and SC59, Doha, March 2010) [see documents [SC57 Doc. 29.2](#) and [SC59 Doc. 14.2](#); consultancies by TRAFFIC and the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) respectively]. Although no funds were available to commission an overview report for its 62nd meeting (SC62, Geneva, July 2012), the Standing Committee reviewed the status of several cases [see document [SC62 Doc. 27.2 \(Rev. 1\)](#)]. For its 66th meeting (SC66, Geneva, January 2016), the Secretariat contracted UNEP-WCMC to undertake a comprehensive review of all taxa that had been subject to trade suspensions for more than two years on the basis of recommendations formulated through the Review of Significant Trade (see document [SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2](#)). The Secretariat reported to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva,

November 2017) that it would prepare a full report on this matter for the present meeting (see document [SC69 Doc. 30](#)).

- Following SC69, an update of the recommendations by the Standing Committee to suspend trade in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) was published on 15 January 2018 in Notification to the Parties No. [2018/006](#). This listed a total of 66 species/country combinations that are currently subject to a recommendation to suspend trade under RST. In all instances, the recommendations for a trade suspension have been in place for longer than two years, and all 66 species/country combinations are therefore reviewed in this document. Subsequent to this Notification, the Secretariat noticed that a number of nomenclature changes, agreed at by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting (CoP17), had been omitted. The corrected list of currently valid trade suspensions is presented in Annex 1. Following the present meeting of the Standing Committee, a new Notification will be published to address these nomenclature issues and reflect relevant decisions taken by the Standing Committee at the present meeting.

Review of species/country combinations subject to trade suspensions for more than two years

- In accordance with paragraph 1 p) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat undertook to review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, and evaluate the reasons why this is the case in consultation with the range States concerned. Due to limited available resources, the Secretariat decided to take a two-step approach in order to cover all relevant cases.
- The Secretariat contracted UNEP-WCMC to examine a selection of taxa that have been subject to trade suspensions, on the basis of recommendations formulated through the RST, for at least three years (i.e. since 2015 or before), and that had been last reviewed in detail at SC66 (see document SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The exceptions to this were the cases concerning Benin, Ghana, Togo and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), which were reviewed separately by the Secretariat. The resulting list of 33 species/country combinations reviewed by UNEP-WCMC is presented below:

| Country | Species | Suspension valid from |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Belize | <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i> | 15 June 2010 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | <i>Pericopsis elata</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> ¹ | 9 July 2001 |
| | <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> | 9 July 2001 |
| Equatorial Guinea | <i>Triceros feae</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| | <i>Prunus africana</i> | 3 February 2009 |
| Grenada | <i>Strombus gigas</i> | 12 May 2006 |
| Guinea | <i>Balearica pavonina</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| Haiti | <i>Strombus gigas</i> | 29 September 2003 |
| Madagascar | <i>Coracopsis vasa</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | <i>Furcifer labordi</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | <i>Phelsuma borai</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | <i>Phelsuma breviceps</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | <i>Phelsuma gouldi</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | <i>Phelsuma standingi</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| Mali | <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> ¹ | 9 July 2001 |
| | <i>Uromastix dispar</i> | 22 August 2008 |
| Mozambique | <i>Smaug mossambicus</i> ² | 7 September 2012 |
| | <i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i> | 10 August 2001 |
| | Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae | 6 December 2006 |
| Niger | <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| Solomon Islands | <i>Corucia zebrata</i> | 9 July 2001 |
| | <i>Ornithoptera priamus</i> ³ | 20 January 1995 |
| | <i>Ornithoptera victoriae</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| South Sudan | <i>Balearica pavonina</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| Sudan | <i>Balearica pavonina</i> | 2 May 2013 |

¹ *Poicephalus fuscicollis* split from *P. robustus*, the latter species being endemic to South Africa

² Formerly *Cordylus mossambicus*

³ Formerly *Ornithoptera urvillianus*

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| United Republic of Tanzania | <i>Agapornis fischeri</i> | 20 April 1993 |
| United Republic of Tanzania contd. | <i>Malacochersus tornieri</i> | 20 April 1993 |
| | This suspension does not apply to specimens of this species produced from ranching or captive-breeding operations, for which the annual export quota has to be agreed between the Management Authority and the Secretariat. | 30 June 1998 |
| | <i>Prunus africana</i> | 3 February 2009 |
| | <i>Balearica regulorum</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| Viet Nam | <i>Hippocampus kuda</i> | 2 May 2013 |

8. In preparation for the consultations with the range States concerned, the relevant reviews from SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 were translated into French or Spanish, as appropriate, and sent to the range States concerned. Acting on behalf of the Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC invited these range States to provide any updates to the conservation and protection status of the relevant species in their country, as well as trade information, management actions and any progress on implementing the AC/PC recommendations since SC66. In addition, the range States were invited to clarify if, there was interest in resuming export of specimens of the species in the future and if so, to confirm whether the country considered that non-detriment findings (NDF) could now be made. Alternatively, if there was no interest in future export, countries were asked to confirm that exports were not anticipated. Finally, range States were invited to outline any challenges faced in implementing the AC/PC recommendations and any underlying reasons for these challenges, as well as identifying what type of support (if any) would be needed to address the recommendations.
9. The results of UNEP-WCMC's consultations are contained in the report in Annex 2 of the present document. That report provides an update to the detailed assessments for 33 species/country combinations shown in the table in paragraph 7. It makes recommendations on whether or not the trade suspension may still be warranted, or if the suspension could be lifted. Furthermore, it determines whether appropriate measures are required to address the situation.
10. In addition to the consultations by UNEP-WCMC described above, the Secretariat wrote to Benin, Ghana, Togo and Lao PDR in relation to the nine species/country combinations indicated in the table below, which are subject to recommendations to suspend trade under RST. The four Parties were asked the same questions as those consulted by UNEP-WCMC, as outlined in paragraph 8 above, and were informed that the cases would be considered under paragraph 1 p) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17).

| Country | Species | Suspension valid from |
|---------|--|-----------------------|
| Benin | <i>Pandinus imperator</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| Ghana | <i>Pandinus imperator</i> | 12 August 2014 |
| Lao PDR | <i>Cuora galbinifrons</i> | 27 July 2009 |
| | <i>Heosemys annandalii</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| | <i>Heosemys grandis</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| | <i>Naja</i> spp.(= <i>N. atra</i> , <i>N. kaouthia</i> , <i>N. siamensis</i>) | 30 April 2004 |
| | <i>Dendrobium nobile</i> | 3 February 2009 |
| Togo | <i>Pandinus imperator</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| | <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> | 9 July 2001 |

11. For species/country combinations that had been subject to a recommendation to suspend trade since 2016 (and had therefore not been reviewed in detail at SC66), a detailed review was not possible due to lack of available funding. As an alternative, the Secretariat decided to invite the nine concerned Parties (listed below) to provide any updates on implementation of the outstanding recommendations of the Animals or Plants Committees, or provide any new information so that the recommendations of the Standing Committee could be considered under paragraph 1 o) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17). The species/country combinations concerned are shown in the following table.

| Country | Species | Suspension valid from |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Benin | <i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | <i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | <i>Kinixys homeana</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| Cameroon | <i>Triceros quadricornis</i> | 15 March 2016 |
| Fiji | <i>Plerogyra simplex</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | <i>Plerogyra sinuosa</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| Ghana | <i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | <i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| Guinea | <i>Hippocampus algiricus</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| Lao PDR | <i>Macaca fascicularis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | <i>Ptyas mucosus</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | <i>Python reticulatus</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| Senegal | <i>Hippocampus algiricus</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| Solomon Islands | <i>Tridacna</i> spp. (<i>T. derasa</i> , <i>T. crocea</i> , <i>T. gigas</i> , <i>T. maxima</i> and <i>T. squamosa</i>) | 3 February 2016 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | <i>Kinyongia fischeri</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | <i>Kinyongia tavetana</i> | 3 February 2016 |

Responses from range States

12. Of the 23 Parties that are subject to a recommendation to suspend trade under RST, responses were received from 13. UNEP-WCMC received responses from Belize, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. At the time of writing, the Secretariat had received responses from Benin, Guinea, Lao PDR and Togo.
13. UNEP-WCMC's report in Annex 2 highlights that in most cases, little or no progress has been made in addressing the recommendations of the Animals, Plants or Standing Committees. However, for nine of the 33 species/country combinations reviewed, it is recommended that the trade suspension be removed because either:
- no trade should be anticipated (because the species is no longer considered to occur in the relevant country, or the country has indicated that exports of wild-sourced specimens will no longer be permitted); (ii
 - the country has proposed a conservative export quota that is considered non-detrimental; or
 - a suspension at a higher taxonomic level is no longer relevant (as is the case with *Cycadaceae*, *Stangeriaceae* and *Zamiaceae* from Mozambique, where only one species from these three families is actually found in Mozambique).
14. It was noted in the report that in the past, there was a lack of consistency in the recommendations made by the Animals and Plants Committees to range States. This has now been improved with the development of a suite of standard sample recommendations, as outlined in Annex 5 of document [CoP17 Doc. 33](#). Furthermore, Annex 3 of Resolution 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) provides guiding principles for recommendations, which should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate to the severity of the risk, transparent and aimed at building the capacity of the range State. The recommendations were also examined to see if they are still relevant; if that is not the case, possible alternative recommendations are suggested.
15. A summary of the assistance requested by Parties that responded to UNEP-WCMC, is provided in the following table. Very few range States gave specific details of their financial, technical or capacity needs, but the overview in the table below serves as an important preliminary needs assessment, which can help inform further consultations with Parties and the potential development of strategies or processes to assist Parties in addressing outstanding recommendations and resume sustainable trade, once the Standing Committee has withdrawn recommendations to suspend trade.

| Country | Taxon | Assistance requested by range State | | | Information provided by the Management Authority of the range State |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | Financial | Technical | Training /capacity building | |
| Belize | <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial resources to complete NDFs Training of enforcement officers in identification of orchids |
| Côte d'Ivoire | <i>Pericopsis elata</i> | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support is already in place through the ITTO-CITES Trees Programme (to conduct forest inventories and mapping, develop a NDF, enhance capacity of authorities in making NDFs, and increase stakeholder engagement) |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> | | | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MA of DRC highlighted a general lack of capacity as the main challenge to complying with provisions or fully addressing AC/PC recommendations |
| Madagascar | <i>Coracopsis vasa</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support to address AC recommendations, with an interest in future trade for all species Madagascar noted that they had been left to address recommendations without any capacity building support |
| | <i>Furcifer labordi</i> | ✓ | | | |
| | <i>Phelsuma borai</i> | ✓ | | | |
| | <i>P. breviceps</i> | ✓ | | | |
| | <i>P. gouldi</i> | ✓ | | | |
| | <i>P. standingi</i> | ✓ | | | |
| Mozambique | <i>Smaug mossambicus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support, including assistance with making funding proposals Technical support relating to lizard survey methodologies |
| | <i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Niger | <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> | ✓ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support to undertake quantitative assessments on conservation status |
| South Sudan | <i>Balearica pavonina</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support to implement scientific surveys to establish non-detrimental export quotas and to obtain equipment (specifically bird tags, radio collars, field guides) Technical assistance (field work) |
| United Republic of Tanzania | <i>Prunus africana</i> | ✓ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support to address AC/PC recommendations for trade in both species |
| | <i>Balearica regulorum</i> | ✓ | | | |
| Viet Nam | <i>Hippocampus kuda</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support for surveys and evaluation of seahorse resources, and to support cost of producing captive-bred parental stock Technical support (from Secretariat, Parties, international organizations, non-governmental organizations) to develop a project and Action Plan to investigate wild population status, synthesize existing studies, and consult with experts to develop NDFs |

16. Benin responded to the letter from the Secretariat, informing that it would not be in a position to reply before the deadline, but would do so at a later date. The Secretariat will continue the consultation process to assist Benin, within available resources, in complying with the recommendations of the Animals Committee for the species concerned. Benin has since been encouraged to inform the Secretariat of any difficulties that it is facing in implementing the recommendations, and should there be a desire by Benin to resume trade in *Chamaeleo gracilis*, *Chamaeleo senegalensis*, *Kinixys homeana* or *Pandinus imperator* to indicate the sort of assistance that is required in order for the outstanding recommendations to be met.
17. Guinea indicated in its response to the Secretariat that it has no data on exports of *Hippocampus algiricus* as no CITES permits have been issued since 2013. Guinea further indicated that it will attend SC70, which will provide an opportunity to discuss the matter and the authorities will try to provide additional information in advance of this meeting. The Secretariat will continue to engage with Guinea ahead of SC70 on possible assistance, noting that the country is currently subject to an Article XIII compliance process.
18. Lao PDR confirmed in a letter to the Secretariat that it has no intention of resuming trade in the following six taxa that are currently under RST trade suspensions: *Ptyas mucosus*, *Python reticulatus*, *Naja* spp., *Heosemys annandalii*, *H. grandis* and *Cuora galbinifrons*. The recommendations to suspend trade in these species could therefore be withdrawn. In line with paragraph 1 k) i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat recommends that Lao PDR establish a zero quota and communicate any proposed change in this quota to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, along with a justification, for their agreement. Lao PDR does intend to resume trade in the following species: *Macaca fascicularis* and *Dendrobium nobile*. Lao PDR confirmed that the Scientific Authority is in the process of collecting data and information on these species as part of its assessment and review process on the conservation status of and non-detriment findings for these species. The Secretariat notes that *M. fascicularis* is bred in captivity in

Lao PDR. The Secretariat is currently working closely with Lao PDR to provide technical support to assist its Management and Scientific Authorities, including in making non-detriment findings, as part of the compliance assistance to implement the recommendations that the Standing Committee made at its 69th meeting in the context of the Article XIII compliance process.

19. Togo indicated that, with the assistance of the Secretariat, it would like to carry out studies to collect data on the distribution and population size of various species, their conservation status and the threats they face. The studies would also provide information on the reproduction, and the potential availability of wild, ranched and captive bred specimens. The studies would include the following species: *Poicephalus robustus*, *Pandinus imperator*, *Chamaeleo gracilis*, *Kinixys homeana*, *Varanus exanthematicus*, *Centrochelys sulcata*, *Kinixys belliana*, *Varanus ornatus*, *Python sebae* and *Uromastyx geyri*. The studies would inform the establishment of quotas that are non-detrimental. The Secretariat will continue to work with Togo in providing assistance within available resources.

General observations

20. Paragraph 1 p) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) states that, in the case of recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, shall review recommendations, evaluate the reasons why this is the case in consultation with the range State, and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation. In view of the Secretariat "measures to address the situation" should in most instances include engaging with the range State concerned, and providing targeted assistance to take action to implement the recommendations. The Secretariat is currently considering developing a more comprehensive and strategic approach for addressing these cases of long-term non-compliance. Based on the results of the report in Annex 2, the responses from range States consulted by the Secretariat and its own experience with RST, the Secretariat would like to make the following observations and comments that may merit further consideration in the development of such a strategic approach:
 - a) There are some Parties that have never engaged or responded to consultations on RST, leading in many cases to recommendations to suspend trade. It will be important to find better ways than those currently used to encourage Parties to respond, and perhaps to make the instructions easier to follow.
 - b) There are some Parties that appear to want to engage in the RST process, but for some reason contact other Parties, regional representatives or individual experts, rather than responding to the Secretariat. It can be useful to seek assistance from likeminded Parties, experts or organizations, for example where none of the official languages are widely spoken. However, it is important that Parties follow the formal communication and implementation processes at the same time.
 - c) In some cases, Parties have established zero quotas to exit RST rather than address the recommendations which would allow them to trade. It has also come to the attention of the Secretariat that some Parties that had set such zero quotas subsequently began to export these species again. This practice could be legitimate in cases where e.g. sufficient time elapsed for the species to recover before trade resumed, or where the range State improved its overall implementation of CITES, but it would be a practice worth investigating further. Of course it is worth noting that paragraph 1 k) i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. Cop17) states that "*in the case where a species/country combination was removed from the review process on the basis of the establishment of an interim precautionary export quota (including a zero export quota) in the place of implementing the recommendations, any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and Chair of the relevant Committee along with a justification, for their agreement*".
 - d) In terms of accessing funding for survey work or field research, some Parties indicated that while it was often possible to get funds to carry out work on some of the larger more charismatic species, accessing funds for less high-profile species was proving far more challenging.
 - e) Some Parties noted that there are often difficulties in identifying relevant experts with practical experience who are able to conduct the studies for some species.
 - f) There is a disproportionate number of Parties in West and central Africa that are subject to long standing recommendations to suspend trade under RST. This could justify the possibility of taking a more concerted, sub-regional approach to assist the Parties concerned.

- g) Some Parties only have a single species in RST, while others have multiple species, which might require different approaches and strategies.
- h) The recent discussions at the joint session of the Animals and Plants Committees on *Country-wide Significant Trade Review* highlighted that the lack of appropriate non-detriment findings across several species may be related to wider systemic and institutional challenges than to species-specific issues (see document SC70 Doc. 29.3).
21. Parties have requested assistance that can be grouped under the following broad headings: financial, technical, training/capacity building. **Financial assistance** could come from direct sources. Parties could be offered assistance in preparing funding proposals. Parties could be made aware of potential funding sources [e.g. Global Environment Facility (GEF), CITES Trees Programme, etc.]; and the potential involvement of private business and industry in providing funds to carry out work to support NDF could be investigated. Parties could also consider submitting joint proposals at a (sub-)regional or taxon level, which might make a proposal more attractive for potential donors. **Technical assistance** could be provided in the form of guidance materials, sharing best practices, mentoring assistance from neighboring range States or Parties that faced similar issues, assistance with language issues (e.g. translating guidance documents into more languages), and clearer guidance on what to do in order to meet RST obligations. Consideration could be given to developing a roster of relevant experts that would be able to provide assistance and advice for particular taxa. The potential role of the Animals and Plants Committees in this regard (e.g. assistance with survey methodologies and planning, execution and post survey analysis upon request) would need to be explored. **Training and capacity building** needs should best be considered under a wider scope, and consider the general needs of the Party versus taxon-specific needs, as well as balancing national requirements and regional priorities, not to mention resource implications.
22. For those Parties that are in the Review of Significant Trade process, it would be important to provide as much assistance as possible in the early stages to ensure that they do not face recommendations to suspend trade. Pertinent capacity-building activities would involve technical support to selected countries in fulfilling RST recommendations, particularly the making of non-detriment findings and the development of management plans for certain taxa.
23. The Secretariat proposes to undertake a review of materials and guidance on NDFs that are currently available to the Parties, to identify gaps and needs, and develop and agree on new or updated materials as needed, possibly involving one or more dedicated expert workshops. This initiative will support the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* [and indirectly of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. Cop17), *inter alia* by assisting Parties in exploring methods for making non-detriment findings, sharing experiences and examples of ways of making NDFs, and helping to generate and update information from the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties and other sources on NDFs, which can be maintained on relevant sections of the CITES website. In this regard, and on the basis of a document submitted by the Secretariat at the joint session of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, the Scientific Committees have agreed on a set of draft decisions on NDFs [[AC30/PC24 Com. 02 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#)] for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Colombo, 2019). Consideration could be given to prioritizing some taxa subject to a recommendation to suspend trade by the Standing Committee under Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) as relevant case studies for the workshops envisaged under this initiative.
24. The Secretariat notes that there is a range of existing tools available to CITES Parties (and additional ones are under development or being considered) that could assist in addressing some of the issues raised above. These including the development of NDF guidance, CITES capacity-building programmes, country-wide reviews (not limited to implementation of Article IV), and a possible future compliance assistance programme (see document SC70 Doc. 27.2).
25. Decisions 17.109 and 17.110 also direct the Secretariat to develop a user-friendly guide to RST and a comprehensive training module on RST (including case studies as appropriate) respectively.

Conclusions of the Secretariat

26. Following SC70, it is the intention of the Secretariat to consult closely with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as with the range States concerned, to see if there is merit in developing a strategic approach to assist those range States that are still subject to a recommendation to suspend trade under RST following SC70. The strategy would focus on how the Secretariat might best provide assistance within its capacity and resources, and examine what role the scientific committees could play. It could be based on the requirements for assistance identified by the range States, and consider resource implications,

whether a regional approach would be beneficial or not, reviews of the recommendations and the relevant timelines. The strategy could also assess how existing and proposed CITES processes, including capacity-building programmes (see document SC70 Doc. 22.1), country-wide significant trade reviews (see document SC70 Doc. 29.3) and a proposed compliance assistance programme (see document SC70 Doc. 27.2) might support the strategic approach. Such a strategy could also look at the possibility of targeting particular Parties or regions with similar issues, targeting particular taxonomic groups, or developing mentor programmes between neighboring Parties.

27. The Secretariat will look at additional ways to encourage range States currently in RST to seek the necessary support and assistance. It will also reach out to Parties, expert organizations, donor agencies and others to seek financial and technical support to implement these plans. The Secretariat intends to further elaborate these suggestions about a strategic approach to deal with long-standing RST recommendations to suspend trade, and hopes to submit a possible strategy for consideration at SC71, taking into account the discussions and outcomes of a number of agenda items at this meeting.
28. Finally, based on its experience at the present meeting, the Secretariat is of the view that the text of paragraph 1 o) needs to be amended to simplify the consultation process without losing any of the original intent. At present, the text reads as follows:
- o) *a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with the range State concerned should be withdrawn only when that range State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, which shall act, through the Chair, in consultation with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, in compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a);*

The revised text proposed by the Secretariat could read as follows, where new text is underlined and strikethrough text indicates proposed deletions:

- o) *a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with the range State concerned should be withdrawn only when that range State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, through in consultation with the Secretariat, which shall act, through the Chair, in consultation with ~~through the Secretariat, which shall act, through the Chair, in consultation with~~ and the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, through the relevant Chair, ~~in compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a);~~*

Recommendations

29. The Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) take note of the nomenclature changes in the updated list of 66 species/country combinations currently subject to a trade suspension under the Review of Significant Trade, as shown in Annex 1;
- b) adopt the recommendations indicated in Annex 2 [Table 3 pages iii) to x)], which are summarized as follows:
- i) remove the trade suspensions for: *Stigmochelys pardalis*/Democratic Republic of the Congo, *Phelsuma breviceps* and *P. standingii*/Madagascar, *Poicephalus fusicollis*/Mali, *Agapornis fischeri* and *Malacochersus tornieri*/United Republic of Tanzania, and *Hippocampus kuda*/Viet Nam;
- ii) remove the trade suspension for *Poicehalus fusicollis* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, subject to the Democratic Republic of the Congo establishing a conservative quota to be agreed with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee;
- iii) remove the trade suspension for Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae for Mozambique, and replace the suspension for Cycadaceae from Mozambique with the species *Cycas thouarsii* only; and
- iv) maintain the suspensions for the remaining species/country combinations for all other species in Table 3 pages iii) to x) in Annex 2.
- c) Concerning Lao PDR, consider the removal of *Ptyas mucosus*, *Python reticulatus*, *Naja* spp., *Heosemys annandalii*, *H. grandis* and *Cuora galbinifrons* for Lao People's Democratic Republic, subject to Lao People's Democratic Republic agreeing to establish zero export quotas until such time

as it provides an evidence-based justification for any proposed increase in the quota, to be agreed with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, and to maintain the suspensions for *Macaca fascicularis* and *Dendrobium nobile*;

- d) for the remainder of the current RST suspensions, encourage the Secretariat to continue to engage with the range States concerned to address any outstanding recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees;
- e) consider the issues raised in paragraphs 20 to 25 above and in the report in Annex 2, and provide feedback on the suggested way forward proposed in paragraphs 26 and 27; and
- f) request the Secretariat to propose amendments to paragraph 1 o) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) to improve its clarity, for consideration at CoP18.

List of all current trade suspensions under the Review of Significant Trade reflecting recent nomenclature changes (as of 10 August 2018)

| Range State | Taxon | Suspension valid from |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1) Belize | 1) <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i> | 15 June 2010 |
| 2) Benin | 2) <i>Pandinus imperator</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| | 3) <i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 4) <i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 5) <i>Kinixys homeana</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| 3) Cameroon | 6) <i>Triceros quadricornis</i> | 15 March 2016 |
| 4) Côte d'Ivoire | 7) <i>Pericopsis elata</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| 5) Democratic Republic of the Congo | 8) <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> ¹ | 9 July 2001 |
| | 9) <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> | 9 July 2001 |
| 6) Equatorial Guinea | 10) <i>Triceros feae</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| | 11) <i>Prunus africana</i> | 1 January 2009 |
| 7) Fiji | 12) <i>Plerogyra simplex</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 13) <i>Plerogyra sinuosa</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| 8) Ghana | 14) <i>Pandinus imperator</i> | 12 August 2014 |
| | 15) <i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 16) <i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| 9) Grenada | 17) <i>Strombus gigas</i> | 12 May 2006 |
| 10) Guinea | 18) <i>Balearica pavonina</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| | 19) <i>Hippocampus algiricus</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| 11) Haiti | 20) <i>Strombus gigas</i> | 29 September 2003 |
| 12) Lao PDR | 21) <i>Naja atra</i> | 30 April 2004 |
| | 22) <i>Naja kaouthia</i> | 30 April 2004 |
| | 23) <i>Naja siamensis</i> | 30 April 2004 |
| | 24) <i>Cuora galbinifrons</i> | 27 July 2009 |
| | 25) <i>Heosemys annandalii</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| | 26) <i>Heosemys grandis</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| | 27) <i>Macaca fascicularis</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 28) <i>Ptyas mucosus</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 29) <i>Python reticulatus</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 30) <i>Dendrobium nobile</i> | 3 February 2009 |
| 13) Madagascar | 31) <i>Coracopsis vasa</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | 32) <i>Furcifer labordi</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | 33) <i>Phelsuma borai</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | 34) <i>Phelsuma breviceps</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | 35) <i>Phelsuma gouldi</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | 36) <i>Phelsuma hoeschi</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | 37) <i>Phelsuma ravenala</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | 38) <i>Phelsuma standingi</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| 14) Mali | 39) <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> ¹ | 9 July 2001 |
| | 40) <i>Uromastix dispar</i> | 22 August 2008 |
| 15) Mozambique | 41) <i>Smaug mossambicus</i> ² | 7 September 2012 |
| | 42) <i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i> | 10 August 2001 |
| | 43) Cycadaceae | 6 December 2006 |
| | 44) Stangeriaceae | 6 December 2006 |
| | 45) Zamiaceae | 6 December 2006 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 16) Niger | 46) <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> | 7 September 2012 |
| 17) Senegal | 47) <i>Hippocampus algiricus</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| 18) Solomon Islands | 48) <i>Corucia zebrata</i> | 9 July 2001 |
| | 49) <i>Ornithoptera priamus</i> ³ | 20 January 1995 |
| | 50) <i>Ornithoptera victoriae</i> | 20 January 1995 |
| | 51) <i>Tridacna derasa</i> , | 3 February 2016 |
| | 52) <i>Tridacna crcoea</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 53) <i>Tridacna gigas</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 54) <i>Tridacna maxima</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 55) <i>Tridacna squamosa</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| 19) South Sudan | 56) <i>Balearica pavonina</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| 20) Sudan | 57) <i>Balearica pavonina</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| 21) Togo | 58) <i>Pandinus imperator</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| | 59) <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> ¹ | 9 July 2001 |
| 22) United Republic of Tanzania | 60) <i>Agapornis fischeri</i> | 20 April 1993 |
| | 61) <i>Malacochersus tornieri</i> | 20 April 1993 |
| | This suspension does not apply to specimens of this species produced from ranching or captive-breeding operations, for which the annual export quota has to be agreed between the Management Authority and the Secretariat. | 30 June 1998 |
| | 62) <i>Balearica regulorum</i> | 2 May 2013 |
| | 63) <i>Kinyongia fischeri</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 64) <i>Kinyongia tavetana</i> | 3 February 2016 |
| | 65) <i>Prunus africana</i> | 3 February 2009 |
| 23) Viet Nam | 66) <i>Hippocampus kuda</i> | 2 May 2013 |

¹ *Poicephalus fuscicollis* split from *P. robustus*, the latter species being endemic to South Africa¹

² Formerly *Cordylus mossambicus*

³ Formerly *Ornithoptera urvillianus*