

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

SUMMARY

TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER
MORNING

27. Compliance matters

27.3 Application of Article XIII

27.3.4 Introduction from the sea of sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) by Japan

The Standing Committee agreed that the provisions of the Convention are not being effectively implemented with regard to: a) the description of the specimens introduced from the sea by Japan; b) the certificates for introduction from the sea issued by the Management Authority of Japan; and c) the use of source codes in the annual reports submitted by Japan before 2016, and noted that Japan had committed to adopting technical remedial actions.

The Standing Committee agreed that the introduction from the sea (IFS) of certain specimens (e.g. whale meat and blubber) of sei whales (*Balaenoptera borealis*) from the North Pacific population was not in compliance with Article III, paragraph 5(c), of the Convention. The Standing Committee reached this conclusion on the basis of the analysis in paragraphs 52 to 60 of document SC70 Doc. 27.3.4 and approved the analysis and conclusion referred to as option a).

The Standing Committee recommended that Japan take immediate remedial action to comply with Article III, paragraph 5(c), of the Convention.

The Standing Committee noted and accepted Japan's commitment to delay the departure of its research whaling vessels to the western North Pacific until after the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC71) and to not issue any IFS certificates for specimens of sei whales from the North Pacific population prior to SC71, noting that there were no outstanding IFS certificates for sei whales that could be used.

The Standing Committee requested Japan to report to the Secretariat by 1 February 2019 on i) the implementation of the technical remedial actions mentioned above, and ii) the remedial actions implemented and proposed by Japan to accommodate the compliance matters concerning Article III, paragraph 5(c), of the Convention. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to convey these reports and its recommendations to the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee. At its 71st meeting, the Standing Committee shall review the Secretariat's report and, if not satisfied that the provisions of Article III, paragraph 5(c), are met, take compliance measures.

The Standing Committee noted the observation that guidance on the interpretation of "exceptional circumstances" in Article II, paragraph 1, of the Convention may be warranted.

27.5 Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

27.5.1 Report of Madagascar

and

27.5.2 Report of the Secretariat

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group on Madagascar with the mandate to provide comments and advice to Madagascar on its business plan in Annex 3 of document SC70 Doc. 27.5.1; and to consider draft decision 18.BB, paragraph f), in Annex 4 of document SC70 Doc. 27.5.2 and propose revisions as needed.

The membership of the working group was agreed as follows: Switzerland (Chair), Chad, China, Congo, European Union, France, Madagascar and the United States of America; the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); and the Environmental Investigation Agency (USA), TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Resources Institute; and ForestBased Solutions, Llc.