

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

THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER
MORNING

21. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): Reports of the Secretariat and of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees, to answer the request by IPBES to provide information on the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer term strategic needs of CITES that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme and invited Parties to provide advice to the Secretariat on how to best answer IPBES' request within two weeks of the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee agreed to propose the draft resolution on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* in Annex 1 of document SC70 Doc. 21 for adoption at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties amended as follows:

3. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, working with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to ~~ensure that~~:
 - a) ensure that there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES, as well as a contributor to IPBES;
 - b) ensure that communication between CITES and IPBES is effective;
 - c) promote the needs of national Scientific and Management Authorities in the work of IPBES ~~takes into account the needs of national Scientific and Management Authorities~~ to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment findings and the verification of legal acquisition, and related trade resolutions and decisions;
 - d) ensure that CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines; and
 - e) ensure that any inputs to IPBES shall, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, be conveyed to IPBES by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee;

22. Capacity building

22.1 Capacity-building needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition: Report of the Secretariat

The Standing Committee welcomed the capacity-building framework proposed by the Secretariat in Annex 5 of document SC70 Doc. 22.1 and noted that such a framework could look at capacity-building needs identified by Parties, the role played by regional bodies and other organizations and invited the Secretariat to be mindful of the proposed framework by the US.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the draft decisions in Annex 1 of document SC70 Doc. 22.1 to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

22.2 Proposed framework to facilitate coordination, transparency, and accountability of CITES capacity-building efforts

The Standing Committee noted the intention of the United States of America to propose a framework to facilitate coordination, transparency, and accountability of CITES capacity-building efforts and invited Parties to provide comments to the United States of America.

24. Follow-up of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth Conservation Programme: Report of the Secretariat

The Standing Committee noted document SC70 Doc. 24 and commended the Parties that have reported on progress made in youth engagement and empowerment.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting the draft revision of Resolution Conf. 17.5 on *Youth Engagement* in Annex 2 of document SC70 Doc. 24 with the following amendments:

ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth will one day be in decision-making positions and that CITES Parties organizations responsible for wildlife conservation decisions must engage these people now to equip them to be stronger leaders in the future;

5. ENCOURAGES Parties to use the annual World Wildlife Day as an opportunity to incentivise wildlife conservation awareness among younger generations and to provide platforms for them to engage with one another on conservation issues; and

25. National laws for implementation of the Convention: Report of the Secretariat

The Standing Committee commended Parties that have made substantive progress in adopting measures for the effective implementation of the Convention, including Angola, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan.

The Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend commercial trade with Comoros and Ecuador. The Secretariat shall inform the Parties concerned of this measure immediately after the present meeting. The recommendation shall take effect 60 days after it is agreed, unless the Party concerned adopts appropriate measures before the expiry of the 60 days or submits an appropriate legislative timetable or takes steps to effectively implement an existing legislative timetable. Upon the expiry of the 60 days after the recommendation is agreed, the Secretariat shall issue Notification to the Parties informing them of the recommendations to suspend commercial trade taking effect from that date.

The Standing Committee agreed to issue a formal warning to the Parties that have not reported any legislative progress since CoP17 (at the time of writing this included Belarus, Bhutan, Burundi, Dominica, Eswatini (former Swaziland), Grenada, Jordan, Libya, Oman, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sudan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), requesting them to immediately take steps to ensure progress be made before CoP18 and to report such progress to the Secretariat by 1 February 2019. The Standing Committee noted the oral update by Belarus.

The Standing Committee recognized and welcomed the support provided by Parties, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the development and adoption of national measures to effectively implement and enforce the Convention.

26. National reports

26.1 Submission of annual reports

The Standing Committee noted that, for the first time ever, no Parties have failed to submit annual reports for three consecutive years (or more) during the period 2015–2017 and commended all Parties for their efforts to submit annual reports within the deadline.

The Standing Committee, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17), and on the basis of the present report and any updated information received by 31 October 2018, instructed the Secretariat to determine whether Albania, Fiji, Guatemala, Iceland, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Solomon Islands and Somalia have failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years, without having provided adequate justification. If so determined, the Secretariat will issue a Notification (60 days after the deadline of 31 October 2018) recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties until they have provided the missing reports.

26.2 Improving access to annual report data

The Standing Committee noted that the Secretariat intends to:

- a) work with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) to implement a download of the CITES Trade Database in addition to the existing search function. The download shall include trade data on a per-shipment basis. The download shall not include the confidential permit numbers which shall instead be replaced by a unique identifier. It shall not be possible to derive the original permit number from the unique identifier.
- b) generate the unique identifiers by a script as described in option 2, contained in paragraph 12 of document SC70 Doc. 26.2 for the technical implementation.
- c) monitor the need for more frequent updates of the download and implement improved technical solutions when deemed necessary, provided the availability of the necessary resources and report back to the Standing Committee as necessary.

26.3 Annual illegal trade reports: Report of the Secretariat

The Standing Committee approved the detailed proposal by UNODC for the development of a database to store and manage illegal trade data collected through the annual illegal trade reports, in the Annex to document SC70 Doc. 26.3.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration:

- 18.AA The Secretariat shall contract UNODC to establish, host and maintain a database for the storage and management of illegal trade data collected through annual illegal trade reports, meeting the requirements outlined in the detailed proposal prepared by UNODC, as presented in the Annex to document SC70 Doc. 26.3 on Annual illegal trade reports.

The Standing Committee noted that the Secretariat intends to include the cost associated with the storage and management of illegal trade data, as indicated in paragraph 9 in document SC70 Doc. 26.3, in its draft CITES Trust Fund (CTL) budget for the years 2020–2022, to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting, together with draft decision 18.AA, and requested the Secretariat to take account of the comments made during the discussion.

The Standing Committee recommended to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that paragraphs 3 and 4 in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on *National reports* be amended as follows:

3. *URGES all Parties, commencing in 2017, to submit an annual illegal trade report by 31 October each year covering actions in the preceding year and in accordance with the report format distributed by the Secretariat, as may be amended by the Secretariat from time to time with the concurrence of the Standing Committee;*

4. ~~DIRECTS the Secretariat AGREES that, unless otherwise specified by the reporting Party, to share the data collected in the annual illegal trade report and included in the database should be made available to Parties for research and analysis of wildlife and forest crime as it affects them, and with to the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), to allow data to be used in for ICWC global research and analysis studies on wildlife and forest crime.~~

29. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

29.1 Implementation of recommendation of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Standing Committee noted the revised current lists of on-going Review of Significant Trade cases for animal and plant species/country combinations presented in Annexes 1 and 2 to document SC70 Doc. 29.1.

Concerning *Triceros melleri* from Mozambique, the Standing Committee urged Mozambique to implement recommendations a), c), e), f) and g) of the Animals Committee by 1 February 2019 so that the matter can be discussed again at SC71;

Concerning *Antipatharia* from Taiwan, Province of China, the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to publish a zero export quota for *Antipatharia* from China, which will remain in place until a scientific justification for the resumption of trade is provided to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee for their approval.

The Standing Committee agreed the following concerning species/country combinations selected for RST post CoP16:

Concerning *Amazona festiva* from Guyana, the Standing Committee urged Guyana to publish an interim quota of 60 birds per year by 1 December 2018; encouraged Guyana to review the interim quota on the basis of Guyana's planned population studies of psittacines; and urged Guyana to implement all outstanding recommendations by 22 September 2019.

Concerning *Triceros montium* from Cameroon, the Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of *T. montium* from Cameroon until that country provides sufficient information to the Secretariat and the members of the Animals Committee, through its Chair, to demonstrate compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, for this species.

Concerning *Varanus ornatus* from Togo, the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee to continue to consult with Togo, and establish a quota by 1 December 2018, so that the matter can be discussed again at SC71.

Concerning *Malayemys subtrijuga* from Indonesia, the Standing Committee acknowledged the progress made by Indonesia in implementing recommendations a) to c) of the Animals Committee; encouraged Indonesia to finalize the implementation of the remaining recommendations by 22 September 2019.

Concerning *Notochelys platynota* from Indonesia, the Standing Committee acknowledged the progress made by Indonesia by implementing recommendations a) to c) of the Animals Committee; and encouraged Indonesia to finalize the implementation of the remaining recommendations by 22 September 2019.

Concerning *Chelonoidis denticulatus* from Guyana, the Standing Committee acknowledged the progress made by Guyana by implementing recommendations a) to c) of the Animals Committee; and encouraged Guyana to finalize the implementation of the remaining recommendations by 22 September 2019.

Concerning *Chelonoidis denticulatus* from Suriname, the Standing Committee noted the information provided by Suriname; and encouraged Suriname to fully implement recommendation a) by working with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee to establish a conservative quota for 2019, including a maximum straight carapace length (SCL) of 10cms before 1 February 2019.

Concerning *Testudo graeca* from Jordan, the Standing Committee urged Jordan to implement recommendations a) to c) by 1 December 2018 by either establishing a zero quota for wild taken

specimens or proposing an interim conservative quota to be agreed by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, and implement recommendations e) and f) as soon as possible. If Jordan fails to meet that deadline the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to publish a zero export quota as an interim quota and encouraged Jordan to implement recommendations d) and e) by 1 February 2019. The Standing Committee noted that recommendation d) remains in force until recommendation f) is implemented.

Concerning *Hoodia gordonii* from Namibia, the Standing Committee was informed that following consultations with the members of the Plants Committee and the Chair of the Standing Committee, as per paragraph 1 k) i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it had been determined that the recommendations have been met and that Namibia could be removed from the process, subject to the zero export quota being published on the CITES website.

Concerning *Prunus africana* from Cameroon, the Standing Committee requested Cameroon to comply with recommendation a) by establishing by 1 December 2018 a zero export quota for the North west region of Cameroon for 2019; requested Cameroon to clarify the situation concerning the published quotas for *P. africana* for 2017; requested Cameroon to establish an interim quota of not more than 455 tons of dry bark for 2018 and 2019; and encouraged Cameroon to finalize the implementation of recommendations c), d) and e) by 22 March 2019.

Concerning *Prunus africana* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Standing Committee acknowledged the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo by implementing recommendation a) of the Plants Committee; and encouraged the Democratic Republic of the Congo to finalize the implementation of the remaining recommendations by 22 September 2019, *inter alia*, by developing and implementing management plans for the four provinces in the country where *P. africana* occurs, and monitoring the impacts of the agreed export quotas.

Concerning *Nardostachys grandiflora* from Nepal, the Standing Committee urged Nepal to implement recommendation a) by 1 December 2018. If Nepal fails to meet that deadline, the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to publish a zero export quota as an interim measure. The Standing Committee encouraged Nepal to implement recommendations b) and c) by 1 February 2019 so that the matter can be discussed again at SC71; and urged Nepal to implement all outstanding recommendations by 22 September 2019.

Concerning *Pterocarpus santalinus* from India, the Standing Committee encouraged India to continue to provide regular updates on the amount of confiscated stock that is remaining to the Secretariat; and urged India to implement recommendation b) before 1 February 2019 so that the matter can be considered at SC71.

Concerning *Bulnesia sarmientoi* from Paraguay, the Standing Committee noted the information provided by Paraguay; encouraged Paraguay to fully implement recommendations a) and b) by working with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee to establish conservative quotas for 2018/2019; encouraged Paraguay to share with the Secretariat the study of 2018 mentioned in its letter to the Secretariat of 2 August 2018; reminded Paraguay of recommendations c) to e); and urged Paraguay to implement all outstanding recommendations by the deadline of 22 September 2019.

The Standing Committee noted the problems identified by the Animals and Plants Committees during the Review of Significant Trade that are not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a) that are found in Annex 6 to document SC70 Doc. 29.1 and requested the Secretariat to follow-up with Mali on the issues raised concerning *Balearica pavonina* from Mali.

29.2 Review of recommendations to suspend trade made more than two years ago

The Standing Committee noted 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 to document SC70 Doc. 29.2.

The Standing Committee agreed to

- a) remove the trade suspensions for: *Stigmochelys pardalis*/Democratic Republic of the Congo, *Phelsuma breviceps* and *P. standingii*/Madagascar, *Pocephalus fuscicollis*/Mali, and *Hippocampus kuda*/Viet Nam;

- b) remove the trade suspensions for: *Agapornis fischeri*, *Malacochersus tornieri* and *Prunus africana*/United Republic of Tanzania, subject to the publication of a zero export quota on the CITES website for these species. Should the United Republic of Tanzania wish to resume trade in these species, it would need to present a non-detriment finding to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee, as appropriate;
- c) maintain the trade suspension for *Poicephalus fuscicollis* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, until the Democratic Republic of the Congo establishes a conservative quota to be agreed with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee;
- d) 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
- e) maintain the suspensions for the remaining species/country combinations for all other species in Table 3 pages iii) to x) in Annex 2 for the reasons outlined in the document.

Concerning Lao PDR, the Standing Committee agreed to the removal of *Ptyas mucosus*, *Python reticulatus*, *Naja spp.*, *Heosemys annandalii*, *H. grandis* and *Cuora galbinifrons* for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, subject to the 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*;

For the remainder of the current RST suspensions, the Standing Committee encouraged the Secretariat to continue to engage with the range States concerned to address any outstanding recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees.

The Standing Committee noted concerns about illegal trade in *Strombus gigas* from Grenada and Haiti (non-Party) and *Ornithoptera priamus* and *O. victoriae* from Solomon Islands subject to trade suspensions and requested the Secretariat to review this and remind Parties of current trade suspensions under the Review of Significant Trade in a Notification.

The Standing Committee agreed with the suggested way forward proposed in paragraphs 26 and 27 in document SC70 Doc. 29.2.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to propose amendments to paragraph 1 o) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) for consideration at CoP18 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~~ in consultation with 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);