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

Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Species specific matters

HELMETED HORNBILL (RHINOPLAX VIGIL):
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted four decisions relating to the helmeted hornbill (Rhinoplax vigil) as follows:

18.266 Directed to Parties

Parties, especially range, transit and consumer States, should provide information to the Secretariat on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.11 on Conservation of, and trade in, helmeted hornbill, including any challenges encountered, and provide information in response to the Notification issued pursuant to Decision 18.267, paragraph c) below.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.267 The Secretariat shall:

a) subject to the availability of external funding and upon request, assist relevant Parties in their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.11, especially regarding the implementation of the helmeted hornbill (Rhinoplax vigil): Status Review, range-wide conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2027) (“Action Plan”), and challenges communicated under Decision 18.266;

b) liaise as appropriate with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and other relevant networks and organizations to convey Resolution Conf. 17.11, draw attention to the Action Plan for the conservation of the helmeted hornbill, and invite them to consider these in planning and executing their activities; and

c) through a Notification and bilateral consultation as needed, request Parties, especially, range, transit and consumer States and other relevant experts, to provide information on helmeted hornbill trade routes as well as the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.11.

18.268 The Secretariat shall provide a report, including the responses received and its recommendations, to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decisions 18.266 and 18.267 and, on the basis of recommendations by the Standing Committee, take additional actions as appropriate.
18.269 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee at its 73rd and 74th meeting shall review the implementation of Decisions 18.266 to 18.268 and any other information made available to it and, based on its review and deliberations make any recommendations to the Secretariat and Parties (range, transit and consumer States) for further actions, and report to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Implementation of Decision 18.267, paragraph a)

3. The Secretariat secured funding (USD 35,000) from the United States of America to support the implementation of Decision 18.267, paragraph a), and takes this opportunity to thank the United States for its support. The Secretariat wrote to the five extant or former range States of the helmeted hornbill [Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore (extinct), Thailand] in February 2021 to advise them of the availability of funding to assist with their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.11 on Conservation of, and trade in, helmeted hornbill and the Action Plan for the conservation of helmeted hornbill.

4. The Secretariat received a response from Myanmar, explaining that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the political situation in Myanmar, it was not feasible to collect the necessary data and organize consultation meetings with the relevant stakeholders for the preparation of the Action Plan for the conservation of helmeted hornbill. Thus, funding was not needed at the time. No replies were received from the four other Parties.

5. The Secretariat reminds all range States of the helmeted hornbill that limited funds remain available which can, upon request, be provided to support their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.11.

Implementation of Decision 18.267, paragraph b)

6. In March 2020, the Secretariat liaised with its partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to bring to their attention Resolution Conf. 17.11 and in particular encourage ICCWC partners to explore how they may be able to support the Action Plan as part of ongoing and future activities, both through their individual programmes and through activities delivered under the auspices of the ICCWC Strategic Programme.

7. The Secretariat has secured funding through the contribution of the European Union towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme to support the convening by INTERPOL of a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management (RIACM) meeting in Asia with a focus on illegal trade in helmeted hornbill. In the intersessional period, the Secretariat also shared updates and information concerning illegal trade in helmeted hornbill with INTERPOL for its consideration. The RIACM has been tentatively planned to take place between April and August 2022.

Implementation of Decisions 18.266 and 18.267, paragraph c)

8. Pursuant to paragraph c) of Decision 18.267, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2020/011 on 19 February 2020. Responses were received from Cambodia, New Zealand, Thailand and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). They are shown in the Annex to this document in the language and format as received.

9. The information thus collected provides insights in the implementation of certain aspects of Resolution Conf. 17.11 by range, transit and consumer States, noting that the challenges encountered by Myanmar in implementing Resolution Conf. 17.11 in view of the travel – and meeting – restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply to other countries in Southeast Asia (see paragraph 4).

10. In recent years, several non-governmental organizations have reported on the illegal trade in casques of helmeted hornbill. Some forensic and identification tools to assist enforcement agencies to combat this illegal trade are reported to be available or under development, as well as some work on demand reduction for casques has been initiated. Such information could further inform discussions that are to take place at the INTERPOL-led RIACM meeting mentioned in paragraph 7.
Implementation of Decision 18.268

11. The postponement of the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee in 2020 and its online organization in May 2021 with a limited agenda did not allow the Secretariat to report to that meeting on the implementation of Decisions 18.266 to 18.268.

Recommendations

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:
   a) take note of this document on the implementation of Decisions 18.266 to 18.268;
   b) recall paragraph 2 of Resolution Conf. 17.11 and encourage range States to respond to the Secretariat’s invitation to provide assistance in their implementation of that Resolution;
   c) encourage relevant range, transit and consumer States to actively take part in the INTERPOL-led RIACM meeting on illegal trade in helmeted hornbill, expected to be held in 2022; and
   d) request the Chair of the Standing Committee to include information on the implementation of Decisions 18.266 to 18.269 in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.