

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Elephants

Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. It complements the data and analysis provided through the programme for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), as presented in documents CoP16 Doc. 53.1 and 53.2.2, respectively, and provides a general overview of enforcement matters affecting elephants, and a number of specific recommendations.

Armed conflicts and large-scale elephant poaching

3. The MIKE programme has established an ongoing increase in the levels of illegal killing of elephants since 2006, with 2011 displaying the highest levels of poaching since 2002 when MIKE began collecting data. It was reported that poaching levels increased in all African subregions, with central Africa continuing to display the highest levels of illegal killing in any subregion in Africa or Asia¹. These findings are supported by information available from ETIS, which indicates that the amount of seized ivory has continued to escalate since the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15, Doha, 2010) and is currently at its highest level in the 16-year period examined by ETIS².
4. In addition to the information received through MIKE and ETIS, several significant incidents of elephant poaching and related illegal trade in elephant ivory have come to the attention of the Secretariat in the course of 2012, and the current unprecedented threat that poaching poses to elephant populations, especially in central Africa, has become evident.
5. In February 2012, the Secretariat learned about the illegal killing of a large number of elephants for their ivory in Bouba N'Djida National Park, in northern Cameroon, by heavily armed and well organized groups. The Secretary-General expressed grave concern over the incident³. In response to this insurgence, the Government of Cameroon deployed up to 150 soldiers into the National Park in support of park rangers to put an end to the illegal killing.
6. The Secretariat also became aware of the illegal killing of 22 elephants in the Garamba National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in April 2012, apparently shot from a helicopter with a high level of marksmanship and in a single raid. The ivory was taken away.

¹ See document CoP16 Doc. 53.1.

² See document CoP16 Doc. 53.2.2.

³ See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120228_elephant_cameroon.php.

7. On 24 June 2012, the headquarters of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were attacked by heavily armed rebels known to be involved in poaching and illegal mining in the Reserve. The rebels destroyed equipment, burnt some of the headquarter buildings and looted the nearby village of Epulu. Several casualties were reported. Information suggests that poaching in the Reserve has been a consistent problem for several years and that these rebels had been confronted by the Reserve's rangers on multiple occasions. Rebel miners have been evicted from the Reserve and their mine facilities were dismantled on various occasions. It is alleged that the rebel attack on the Okapi Wildlife Reserve headquarters was led by a notorious elephant poacher identified as "Morgan". It is further alleged that the rebels specifically targeted the Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN) infrastructure and personnel to intimidate rangers and lower their morale and to deter them from confronting and taking action against them in future. The military intervened to prevent further attacks.
8. On 3 September 2012, five park rangers in Zakouma National Park, Chad, were murdered during an attack, and a sixth one has been missing since. It is understood that African Parks, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which manages Zakouma National Park with the Government of Chad, believes that the murders of these guards were a revenge attack, following an incident in August 2012 when rangers responded to gunshots they heard and discovered the carcasses of two elephants. It is further reported that they subsequently raided a poacher's camp and confiscated two elephant tusks, telecommunication equipment and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition, but the poachers escaped.
9. In addition to the above, the Secretariat is aware of other unconfirmed reports relating to significant elephant poaching incidents in African countries.
10. The Secretariat has learnt through discussions during a brainstorming session on elephant poaching organized by the World Bank (see paragraph 23 below) and various media reports that some of Africa's most notorious armed groups, such as the Lord's Resistance Army, the Shabab or Darfur's Janjaweed, may be targeting elephants. The ivory originating from such incidents is, in the vast majority of cases, destined for the international illegal ivory markets. The poached ivory is believed to be sold or exchanged for weapons and ammunition, presumably to support ongoing conflicts in some African countries.
11. Information suggests that it is not just these notorious armed groups that are hunting elephants. Military personnel in some countries have also been implicated in the poaching of elephants and illegal ivory trade. However, the Secretariat believes that the involvement of military personnel in illegal activities is limited to isolated incidents and that interventions by military forces were, on several occasions, the only way through which the poaching activities of armed groups could have been stopped.
12. The Secretariat believes that the dedication and commitment shown by anti-poaching personnel are worthy of much greater recognition than is currently attained. These men and women regularly encounter well-resourced groups of poachers, equipped with high calibre weapons, who often do not hesitate to use violence or threats of violence against them. Yet they determinedly protect the natural resources of their country, often without the recompense allocated to their counterparts in such agencies as Customs, the military or national police.
13. The increasing elephant poaching trends and related illegal trade in ivory are of great concern. It is evident that, in many protected areas, conservation can no longer be seen as an issue for environmental authorities alone. Poaching and illegal trade in wildlife are happening at a scale that poses an immediate risk to both wildlife and to people and their livelihoods. People's lives and jobs are at stake and conservation areas that are threatened by armed groups will require strong government support through improved training for rangers, increased resources and, depending on the level of the threat, swift military or police intervention.
14. The need for increased collaborative and coordinated enforcement responses is evident, and has been recognized by the Standing Committee at its 62nd meeting (SC62, Geneva, July 2012)⁴. The Secretariat noted with concern that mobilization of the military or other forms of enforcement support, in most cases, appeared to be slow and unable to prevent illegal ivory from moving out of the affected countries.
15. The Secretariat believes that national, bilateral and regional measures could be significantly improved to prevent large-scale poaching and related illegal trade, and to respond effectively to groups of poachers that operate across national borders. In this regard, Parties that are affected by elephant poaching could benefit from putting in place, or enhancing, measures and communication channels at the national level to

⁴ See document SC62 Doc. 46.1 (Rev. 1) and the SC62 summary record.

ensure that the required level of support can be brought to conservation areas to support park rangers in close to real time.

16. In addition, Parties are urged to make better use of the communication channels provided by ICPO-INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to facilitate the swift and secure sharing of information and intelligence at the international level.
17. The Secretariat strongly believes that illegal ivory trade can only be successfully combated if:
 - a) full coordination is achieved between the enforcement activities of wildlife authorities, the police and Customs;
 - b) effective use is made of the existing tools and communication channels to facilitate bilateral, regional and international cooperation and intelligence sharing (such as, among others, ICPO-INTERPOL, WCO and the CITES Secretariat); and
 - c) national strategies are put in place to ensure that sufficient resources and enforcement support are available to park rangers confronted with incidents or potential incidents of poaching or threats of attack, and the related illegal trade.
18. Parties are also encouraged to raise awareness of the negative consequences of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife amongst military personnel deployed in and around conservation areas.
19. New initiatives could be developed in cooperation with existing structures such as the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC)⁵ to ensure that they are mutually supportive, complementary and not duplicative. The outcomes of the *Central African Workshop on Wildlife Trafficking and Dismantling Transnational Illicit Networks* (April 2012, Libreville), organized by the Embassies of the United States of America and of the Central African Republic in Gabon, should also be taken into consideration as part of the development of regional responses to poaching. The declaration adopted by participants in that workshop is attached as Annex 1 to the present document.
20. Demand for ivory is widely recognized to be the key factor driving the illegal killing of elephants. The Secretariat believes that, in addition to operational enforcement activities, continued efforts should be made to implement communication and education strategies aimed at discouraging (potential) buyers from purchasing illegal ivory. Excellent work has already been undertaken by Parties and the NGO community, and they are encouraged to further expand these activities.
21. On 24 May 2012, the Secretary-General gave a testimony at a hearing of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate of the United States. The topic of the hearing was *Ivory and insecurity: the global implications of poaching in Africa*. The Secretary-General's testimony is available on-line and his statement included the following⁶.

Illegal trade in wildlife is happening at a scale that poses an immediate risk to both wildlife and to people and their livelihoods. An even greater effort is required, and new approaches need to be taken, if we are to adequately address this risk, including through: employing more formidable and coordinated enforcement responses at Global, regional, sub-regional and national levels; making better use of modern enforcement techniques and technologies; attracting additional financial and human resources at national and international level, and through more effectively suppressing the demand that is driving illegal trade.

Strong and clear political messages from the highest possible levels are also required to combat the illegal trade in wildlife.

22. In August 2012, the Secretariat engaged in discussions with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to explore areas for increased collaboration between UNESCO and CITES, in particular with regard to elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade. Several conservation areas, including the Garamba National Park and Okapi Wildlife Reserve mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 7 of this document, are UNESCO world heritage sites. UNESCO reported that several of the world heritage sites

⁵ See document SC62 Doc. 30

⁶ See the full statement at http://www.cites.org/eng/news/SG/2012/20120525_SG_US-Senate_testimony.php.

experience problems with elephant poaching and threats against rangers. The Secretariat will explore possible areas of increased collaboration between CITES and UNESCO, take into consideration activities conducted through the MIKE programme⁷.

23. In September 2012, the Secretariat participated in a brainstorming session on elephant poaching, organized by the World Bank. The Bank indicated that it could support criminal justice activities, which include natural resources. The World Bank, which is a partner in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)⁸, has significant experience in the fields of anti-money laundering and asset recovery, and could contribute to the fight against wildlife crime through training of investigators, prosecutors and judges and the development of related capacity-building material. The Secretariat believes that such capacity-building material and related training will contribute significantly to the fight against organized crime. It will prevent criminals from benefiting from the proceeds of their crimes and will further promote deterrent penalties. The Secretariat has drafted a decision in this regard, which is contained in Annex 2 to this document.
24. The Secretariat, through its MIKE programme, also commissioned a Rapid Response Assessment (RRA) from UNEP-GRID-Arendal on *The illegal ivory trade chain* to strengthen high-level support in catalysing actions to tackle elephant poaching in Africa and illegal trade in ivory. The RRA, to be released at the present meeting, will give an overview of the entire illegal ivory trade chain, the status of elephant populations in Africa, trends in levels of elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade, key markets, transit countries and trade routes, factors identified by MIKE and ETIS as potential drivers of elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade, as well as other threats to elephant populations such as habitat loss and human-elephant conflicts.
25. The Secretariat is conscious that the significance of wildlife crime, and particularly illegal trade in ivory, is not fully appreciated by the law enforcement community. Yet it is vital to attract full support and engagement of Customs, police and judicial authorities in responding to such crime. As described above, the role of military forces in elephant range States can also be highly relevant.

Security of government ivory stocks

26. Given the apparently increasing involvement of organized crime in the illegal trade in ivory, presumably motivated by an expectation of substantial profit, it should come as no surprise that government stocks of ivory have been targeted.
27. Since CoP15, two incidents are known to have occurred where substantial quantities of ivory were stolen from government stockpiles, and it is suspected that thefts may also be occurring from confiscated stocks of ivory in countries outside Africa. The law enforcement community was advised of the government stockpile thefts via CITES Alerts Nos. 44 and 45.
28. It is essential that such thefts be reported to the Secretariat as soon as possible. This will enable it to disseminate relevant information to assist with the recovery of the stolen property and to prevent it from reaching the illegal market. As it is likely that these thefts involve persons with knowledge of, or some control over, the ivory stocks, the Secretariat would welcome being advised of the results of any relevant investigations. The circumstances or *modus operandi* may also be of interest to other Parties and prevent other thefts. The Secretariat intends to include in its future reports to the Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties greater detail on such incidents. The proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15), as presented in document CoP16 Doc. 26, should accommodate for such a role. The Secretariat therefore encourages Parties that are affected by such incidents to submit information to the Secretariat regarding their follow-up actions.
29. To assist in the identification of ivory that may be stolen from government facilities, it is important that Parties rigorously implement the marking provisions contained in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15). This also applies to Parties that have confiscated ivory.

⁷ See document CoP16 Doc. 53.1.

⁸ See document CoP16 Doc. 15.

Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory

30. In compliance with the *Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory*, adopted through Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15), the Secretariat reported on implementation of this plan at the 61st and 62nd meetings of the Standing Committee (SC61 and SC62, Geneva, August 2011 and July 2012, respectively)⁹.
31. Paragraph 2 of the *Action plan* recommends that all elephant range States cooperate with relevant research projects studying the identification of ivory, especially by supplying samples for DNA and other forensic science profiling. Forensic analyses can play an important role in the investigation of wildlife crime, and elephant range States are encouraged to provide relevant samples to institutions with the capacity to determine the age and geographical origin of elephant ivory. In this context, Parties are reminded of document SC61 Inf. 4, regarding a research project commissioned by Germany on *Determination of age and geographical origin of African elephant ivory*.
32. Further to the above, all Parties are encouraged to perform DNA testing in conjunction with large-scale ivory seizures. The 34 large scale ivory seizures of 800 kg or more made between 2009 and 2011 totalled nearly 61 tons of illegal ivory. Large scale ivory seizures suggest the involvement of organized crime syndicates and the increased use of available wildlife forensic technology can greatly enhance international enforcement efforts to address the entire crime chain. It would also facilitate a better understanding of illegal ivory trade routes.
33. Seaports in eastern Africa are currently the main exit point for illegal consignments of ivory. ETIS statistics indicate that 54 % of the large-scale illegal ivory consignments seized between 2009 and 2011 transited through ports in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. Adding the volume of ivory seized in Uganda, the eastern African trade accounts for 68 % of the total volume of international consignments of ivory seized.
34. In addition, to those countries mentioned in paragraph 33 above, South Africa is identified by ETIS as another significant exit point for illegal ivory. Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam are currently major transit countries or territories for large quantities of ivory, and the two countries most heavily implicated as destinations for illicit trade in ivory are China and Thailand¹⁰.
35. The Secretariat believes that it would be useful to convene a CITES Ivory Enforcement Task Force consisting of representatives from China (including Hong Kong SAR), Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, in cooperation with ICCWC partner organizations, to review existing strategies and develop new strategies as appropriate, to combat the current high levels of ongoing illegal ivory trade. The Secretariat has drafted a decision relating to this suggestion, which is contained in Annex 2 to this document. This draft decision is in line with recommendations adopted at SC62 concerning most of these countries (see paragraph 38 below).
36. A workshop on *Establishing a Network of Controlled Delivery Units for Forest and Wildlife Law Enforcement* was organized by WCO, under the auspices of ICCWC, from 7 to 9 December 2011 in Shanghai, China¹¹. The Secretariat is convinced that this workshop was timely and useful, and contributed to building the capacity of law enforcement officers to combat the smuggling of ivory. The value of the workshop became evident when authorities in South Africa conducted the successful controlled delivery of a consignment of illegal ivory in February 2012, resulting in the discovery of a second consignment of ivory and the arrest of a Chinese businessman. The Secretariat encourages Parties to increasingly use specialized techniques in the investigation of wildlife crime offences. Investigations often end at the point of seizure, but the increased use of techniques such as controlled deliveries could significantly impact on organized crime syndicates and their activities, by ensuring that the entire crime chain, from countries of origin and transit to the countries of destination, is addressed.
37. The workshop on controlled deliveries described above could be of great benefit to a wider number of elephant range States. The Secretariat therefore proposes that a similar capacity-building initiative be conducted for those elephant range States that were not involved in the initial workshop. This will not only be of benefit in the context of elephants, but also for combating other wildlife crimes more effectively. The Secretariat has drafted a decision in this regard, which is contained in Annex 2 to this document.

⁹ See documents SC61 Doc. 44.1 and SC62 Doc. 46.1 (Rev. 1).

¹⁰ See document CoP16 Doc. 53.2.2.

¹¹ See document SC62 Doc. 14.7.

38. As indicated above, a number of recommendations related to elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade were adopted at SC62. Parties identified in the ETIS analysis as being involved in substantial illegal ivory trade as a source, transit, or destination country (China, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Viet Nam) were requested to submit a written report to the Secretariat on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15) concerning their controls of trade in ivory, including measures to control domestic trade. The Secretariat is also engaging with these States at the diplomatic level in Geneva.
39. In compliance with SC62 recommendations, the Secretariat will also liaise directly with a number of Parties that have been identified in ETIS analysis as involved in substantial illegal ivory trade as a source, transit or destination country, but that have reported few seizures of elephant specimens, or none, to ETIS. The Secretariat will seek in particular clarification on how these Parties implement Resolution 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15) concerning controls of trade in ivory.
40. The Secretariat shall evaluate the reports and information submitted in compliance with the SC62 recommendations referred to in paragraphs 38 and 39 above, and convey its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 63rd meeting (Bangkok, March 2013). These findings will also assist the Secretariat in determining any further recommendations for consideration at the present meeting.
41. Paragraph 4 of the *Action plan* calls for particular priority to be given to several countries, including Thailand. At SC61, the Secretariat reported that Thailand's domestic ivory trade controls fell short of what was called for in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15). The Standing Committee requested Thailand to submit a written report describing progress with regard to regulating domestic trade in ivory and combating illegal ivory trade to SC62. This report was subsequently submitted by Thailand¹².
42. The Standing Committee noted the written and oral reports of Thailand. It also noted the invitation by Thailand for the Secretariat to undertake a mission to the country before SC63, to verify the implementation of the recommendations on internal ivory trade contained in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) and the *Action plan for control of trade in elephant ivory* in Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15).
43. At the time of writing (October 2012), the Secretariat was in communication with Thailand to arrange a mission to the country in October 2012, to conduct a preliminary assessment of progress made, and provide guidance and assistance to authorities in Thailand with regard to actions needed to ensure that Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) and the *Action plan for control of trade in elephant ivory* in Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15) were adequately implemented.
44. The Secretariat intends to visit Thailand immediately before SC63 to carry out a further assessment of the measures taken to regulate domestic ivory trade effectively. The Secretariat will report its findings and any further recommendations at SC63 and at the present meeting.

Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15)

45. A draft revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) will be considered at the present meeting¹³. It is proposed that the *Action plan for control of trade in elephant ivory* in Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15) be integrated to the extent possible into the revised version of that Resolution. The aims of the proposed revision include: streamlining activities concerning the controls of trade in ivory and other elephant specimens; better defining the roles of the Parties, Secretariat and Standing Committee; and incorporating new provisions concerning the registration and securing of stockpiles, traceability of ivory, and the MIKE and ETIS monitoring tools.
46. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to stress once more the importance of submitting information on seizures of elephant specimens to ETIS. As far as reasonably possible, these submissions should include the actual measured weight of the ivory seized, to enable ETIS to generate information that is as complete as possible in support of enforcement efforts to combat illegal trade in ivory.

¹² See document SC62 Doc. 46.2.

¹³ See document CoP16 Doc. 26.

Final remarks

47. Current levels of illegal killing of African elephants for their ivory may drive certain African elephant populations to extinction. Whilst complete data for elephant populations in Asia are lacking, it appears that they too may be at risk from human-elephant conflicts and habitat degradation.
48. It is vital that elephants receive appropriate levels of *in situ* protection, but it is equally important that there be an adequate cross-border response to illegal trade in ivory. Seizing illegal goods is essential and there have been many commendable interceptions of illegally traded ivory. However, seizures alone are not sufficient to halt the illegal trade in ivory and the Secretariat is concerned that there is often no or ineffective follow-up through investigations, prosecutions and penalties. The entire enforcement chain must work together. There is great need for much better communication, collaboration and coordination on these cases at the national and international levels. Apart from the potential of using controlled delivery techniques and wildlife forensic technology, as referred to in this document, the prompt exchange of relevant information to enable investigations in all relevant Parties is of paramount importance. This should be followed by successful prosecutions and adequate deterrent penalties.
49. The organized and sophisticated nature of crimes against elephants deserves an equally organized and sophisticated law enforcement response. The establishment of ICCWC represents an important development in this regard¹⁴, but the first and arguably most important level of response must always be at the national level.

Recommendation

50. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note this document and adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 2.

¹⁴ See document CoP16 Doc. 15.

DECLARATION OF THE "SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO COMBAT WILDLIFE TRADE AND
DISMANTLE TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL NETWORKS"¹⁵

The participants in the Central African sub-regional workshop to combat wildlife illegal trade and dismantle transnational criminal networks

- Recognizing that poaching and illegal trade of wildlife species have become serious threats at national, sub-regional, regional, and international levels because of their economic, social and security-related impacts,
- Recognizing that national initiatives to fight against poaching and illegal trade in wildlife species have so far yielded unsatisfactory results,
- Recognizing that a sub-regional approach, leveraged through international cooperation, requires efficient strategies to fight against wildlife trafficking and to dismantle cross-border criminal networks, and
- Supporting the goals and objectives embedded in the COMIFAC Action Plan aiming at strengthening the enforcement of national wildlife-related legislations in order to:
 - Strengthen cooperation and collaboration between monitoring authorities and judiciary personnel involved in the enforcement of domestic wildlife legislations, as well as between countries within the COMIFAC area,
 - Increase checks, especially, at specific points of transit or borders, in local markets and in cross-border areas,
 - Implement efficient dissuasion measures to fight against poaching and illegal trade of wildlife species, ensure that legal proceedings are conducted in full compliance with applicable provisions and that the outcomes of monitoring and legal proceedings are followed-up, published and widely-publicized,
 - Increase awareness about issues on wildlife illegal trade.

Recommend to Central African countries to:

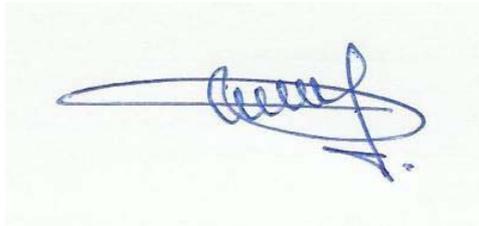
1. Identify all national coordination units and fully operate them in order to improve on communication and information sharing in relation to poaching and wildlife species trafficking between affected countries; this should occur before the establishment of an official network for wildlife law enforcement;
2. Set up a coordination and communication network for law enforcement (in relation to the fight against poaching, and illegal trade of wildlife species, etc.);
3. Identify agencies and ministries in charge of law enforcement in each country of the sub-region to support the establishment, before the end of June 2012, of a Sub-Working Group on Wildlife and Protected Areas;
4. Collaborate with other governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental partners that can assist in the creation and operation of the network;
5. Develop and/or implement, with partners' support, sub-regional strategies and mechanisms that would contribute to the fight of illegal trade of wildlife species and the dismantling of transnational illegal networks;

¹⁵ *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

6. Harmonize sub-regional legislations by punishing poaching-related violations¹⁶;
7. Strengthen cross-border cooperation in compliance with international conventions, including the United Nations conventions against transnational organized crime and against corruption, as well as the UN Convention International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in order to dismantle corruption networks that favor fund flows and illegal markets wherein illegal entrepreneurs and facilitators meet and influence supply and demand on the markets of products of poaching and illegal trade of wildlife species;
8. Establish, among other criteria, the number of jail terms as a marker for the efficiency of the established network; and
9. Fight efficiently against favoritism and any type of corruption related to the illegal trade of wildlife species by collaborating, for example, with special government agencies.

Done at Libreville, on April 5, 2012

**For the Participants
Nathalie NYARE ESSIMA**



Reporting Secretary

¹⁶ *Rewording proposal by DRC: "Harmonize sub-regional legislations by applying deterring sanctions for infringements on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife species".*

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Secretariat

16.A The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, convene a CITES Ivory Enforcement Task Force, consisting of representatives from China (including Hong Kong SAR), Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, in cooperation with ICCWC partner organizations and, as appropriate, other Parties and experts, to review existing strategies and develop new strategies to combat illegal trade in ivory;
- b) subject to external funding, convene a workshop for Parties on the use of controlled deliveries, in collaboration with ICCWC partner organizations, with the aim to expand the application of this investigation technique, particularly in Africa and Asia; and
- c) subject to external funding, develop, in cooperation with the World Bank and other ICCWC partners, an anti-money laundering and asset recovery manual with a specific focus on wildlife crime, that can be used for the training of investigators, prosecutors and judges.

The Secretariat shall report on progress on the implementation of the present Decision at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee, and formulate recommendations as necessary.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.B The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decision 16.A, at its 65th and 66th meetings, and determine whether any further actions are necessary.