

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-28 August 2019

HELMETED HORNBILL (RHINOPLAX VIGIL): PROPOSAL TO AMEND  
RESOLUTION CONF. 17.11, AND THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS  
TO ANNEX 1 IN COP18 DOC. 84 (PROPOSED DECISIONS)

1. This document has been submitted by Malaysia in relation to agenda item 84, "Helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*)".\* Urgent action must be taken to ensure the survival of this species. It is vital that the Conference of the Parties treat this issue with the utmost seriousness, and take action as a matter of urgency.
2. We appreciate the attention of the Standing Committee and Parties to the crisis facing the helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*), due to poaching and trafficking in its casques, including the adoption of Resolution Conf. 17.11 and Decisions 17.264-17.266, at the CoP17, and discussion of the issue at the seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70), held in Sochi, Russia 1-5 October 2018.
3. We appreciate the actions that range States, and some of the consumer and other implicated States, have taken to combat poaching of the helmeted hornbill and trafficking in its casques. However, much more needs to be done to disrupt the criminal networks driving this trade.
4. The urgency of the situation concerning the helmeted hornbill is well summarized in the action plan appended to SC70 Doc. 57, which was developed by the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group, and endorsed by the IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group, and the efforts of all members of the Working Group.
5. We also note that Indonesia, a range State for the species, as a commitment, has established a National Action Plan and Conservation Strategy for this species which include comprehensive measures to be taken including population and habitat management, law enforcement and awareness.
6. We recognize that SC70 agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the draft decisions in Annex 1 of CoP18 Doc. 84. However, there are elements of those draft decisions that we believe do not sufficiently address the urgency of the situation; it is vital that the Conference of the Parties consider ways to progress this issue. We believe those draft decisions would benefit from enhancement.
7. A workshop on the helmeted hornbill was held in Malaysia 19-20 February 2019. The workshop was convened by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation with additional technical and financial support from the Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, IUCN Asian Species Action Partnership, IUCN Hornbill Specialist Group and the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group. The workshop included range and destination States, IUCN, international NGOs, and national NGOs from range States. Some range States were unable to attend, but sent their respective input to the workshop. The objective of the workshop was: "To discuss and decide on a strategy for the May 23-June 3, 2019 meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP18) in Sri Lanka, and how best to stimulate further action to save the Helmeted Hornbill. The focus will be on Document CoP18-084 from the CITES Secretariat, that was agreed by the Standing Committee, and how it can be improved at the CoP to better reflect the urgency of the issues facing the

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\* 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.

helmeted hornbill. All trade is illegal, and the strategy will include the need for action by consumer countries as well as range States.”

8. The workshop noted several gaps in both Resolution Conf. 17.11 and Decisions 17.264-17.266, including the need to: more effectively engage range, transit, consumer, and other implicated States; clarify reporting needs; help ensure that meaningful action is taken; and empower the Standing Committee to make recommendations as needed. The workshop also noted some aspects of the Resolution and Decisions on this species that need to be updated. The workshop agreed on several recommended changes to Resolution and Decisions 17.264-17.266.
9. The workshop could not be held before the deadline to submit documents for consideration at CoP18, and the Secretariat’s further comments on the outcome of the Standing Committee were posted on the CITES website on 21 January 2019 (the workshop was convened one month later).
10. Therefore, at CoP18 we will recommend that the Conference Parties adopt the following amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.11, and the following amendments to Annex 1 in CoP18 Doc. 84 (proposed Decisions).
11. We appreciate the opportunity to share these proposed amendments via an Information document, to make it easier to submit them for consideration of the Parties at CoP18.

Recommended edits to Resolution Conf.17.11:  
Conservation of and trade in helmeted hornbill

Note: new proposed text is underlined; text proposed for deletion is in ~~strikeout~~; other text is directly from the Resolution.

RECALLING that the helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) is included in Appendix I of the Convention, and that all commercial international trade in its parts and derivatives has been regulated by the Convention since 1975;

RECOGNIZING that the helmeted hornbill is of cultural and symbolic significance to local communities in Southeast Asia;

AWARE that the helmeted hornbill is highly vulnerable to overexploitation due to its extensive habitat requirements, naturally low population densities, relatively low reproductive rate, and habit of flocking at fruiting trees where it may be easily shot by hunters;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that the wild population of the helmeted hornbill in Indonesia has been increasingly threatened since 2011 by poaching to supply demand for raw and carved casques, the source of 'hornbill ivory' or 'red ivory';

NOTING ALSO that this increase in poaching has been paralleled by an increase in demand for, and in the black market price of, hornbill ivory as a luxury collectable item in China and among Chinese consumers in Southeast Asia;

NOTING that, in response to recent large-scale poaching, the threat status of the species was formally upgraded in 2015 from Near Threatened to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List;

AWARE that, as populations become depleted in Indonesia, poachers are likely to shift their attention to other range States;

~~NOTING IN ADDITION~~ WELCOMING the work under the auspices of the IUCN Species Survival Commission through the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP), and the IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group, including the development and finalization of ~~an~~ the Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*): Status Review, range-wide conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2027) ("Action Plan") ~~Action Plan for the conservation of the helmeted hornbill;~~

WELCOMING in addition the development and adoption by the Government of Indonesia, of "The National Action Plan and Conservation Strategy of Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) in Indonesia (2018-2028)."

CONCERNED that without urgent and integrated conservation and law enforcement measures, as well as coordinated efforts on the part of both consumer and range States, the species may be in imminent danger of extinction;

CONSCIOUS that effective enforcement, raising awareness of the issue, education and demand reduction, and cooperation with local communities are critically important complements to effective in situ conservation of the species, including control of large-scale poaching;

COMMENDING the initiatives by Indonesia to facilitate cooperation in conservation of the helmeted hornbill and to address illegal hunting of the species; and

RECOGNIZING, however, that strengthened technical cooperation among all relevant Parties, including range and actual or potential consumer States, as well as financial support, would contribute to more effective conservation of the helmeted hornbill;

## THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES all Parties, especially consumer, ~~and~~ range and other implicated States, to:
  - a) adopt as a matter of urgency comprehensive legislation, enforcement controls and effective penalties, with the aim of prohibiting any hunting for helmeted hornbill, eliminating poaching of helmeted hornbill and illegal trade in its parts and derivatives along the entire trade chain;
  - b) prohibit the display, domestic sale and acquisition of helmeted hornbill specimens, including online sales, including parts and derivatives, except for bona fide purposes, including conservation, scientific research, cultural activities, education and forensic investigation;
  - c) designate highest legal protection status for the helmeted hornbill and, in relation to subparagraphs 1 a) to b) above, ~~increase~~ strengthen current enforcement efforts and prosecutions and address legislative and enforcement gaps;
  - d) undertake cross-border cooperation between neighbouring range States for the management of contiguous habitat; strengthen enforcement controls, including anti-poaching measures in helmeted hornbill range States; collate and share information among law enforcement agencies and INTERPOL related to incidents of poaching, trafficking and illegal sale (including online sale), of helmeted hornbills and their parts and derivatives;
  - e) monitor the impact of hunting pressure on hornbill populations in range States and monitor markets;
  - f) undertake public education campaigns to increase awareness of local people about the conservation of helmeted hornbill and its habitat, as well as to reduce demand for helmeted hornbill specimens, including parts and derivatives, and to promote awareness of applicable laws, particularly within the carving industry; and
  - g) engage the corporate sector (e.g. logistics and transport companies including airlines, and online traders/companies) to support enforcement agencies in the detection and interception of illegal shipments of helmeted hornbill parts and products across range, transit and consumer states.
  - g)h) take any other steps necessary for helmeted hornbills range States to develop and implement ~~the~~ national action plans for the conservation of the helmeted hornbill by referring to available Action Plans for the conservation of the helmeted hornbill; and
2. CALLS UPON all governments, donor and funding organizations, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as a matter of urgency, to support efforts to implement the Action Plan, eliminate poaching and illegal trade in helmeted hornbill, including by:
  - a) providing funding to relevant Parties and, for the purposes of this Resolution, to the CITES Secretariat and other relevant partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime; and
  - b) providing assistance with enforcement, training, capacity building and education, population monitoring, and the gathering and exchange of scientific, technical and legal information and expertise.

Note: The Secretariat's proposed changes (in Doc. 84) to the draft decisions are accepted. New proposed text is underlined; text proposed for deletion is in ~~strikeout~~.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON CONSERVATION OF, AND TRADE IN,  
HELMETED HORNBILL (RHINOPLAX VIGIL)

Directed to Parties

18.AA Parties, especially range, ~~and consumer and other implicated~~ States, ~~should~~ shall 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 paragraph 18.BB (d) below.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.BB ~~Subject to the availability of external funding,~~ The Secretariat shall:

- a) ~~assist relevant Parties, upon request,~~ 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") ~~Action Plan for the conservation of the helmeted hornbill,~~ and challenges communicated under Decision 18.AA; ~~and~~
- b) liaise as appropriate with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCW C) and other relevant networks and organisations 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.
- c) solicit information from Parties and other experts on which are the range, transit, consumer and other implicated States;
- d) request Parties, through a Notification, especially, range, transit, consumer and other implicated States, to provide information on their implementation of Paragraphs 1a-1h in Resolution Conf. 17.11; and
- e) make the responses available to the Standing Committee for its consideration at its 73rd, 74th, and all subsequent meetings.

18.CC The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on the information provided by Parties in accordance with Decision 18.AA, and on the implementation of Decision ~~18.BB,~~ as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.DD ~~The Standing Committee shall review the implementation of Decisions 18.AA and 18.BB on the basis of the Secretariat's reporting, and, as appropriate, report to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.~~

- a) The Standing Committee at its 73rd and 74th meetings, and at all subsequent meetings, shall review the implementation of Decisions 18.AA-18.CC and any other information made available to it;
- b) Based on its review and deliberations, pursuant to Paragraph 18.DD a) above, the Standing Committee shall make any recommendations to Parties (range, transit, consumer, and other implicated States) for further actions, and report to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.