



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/134

Geneva, 27 November 2023

CONCERNING:

Illegal trade in African great apes

1. This Notification is published at the request of the Standing Committee on behalf of Liberia.
2. Parties and observers are invited to provide inputs and comments to Liberia on the draft decisions they submitted to the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting contained in Annex 1 to document SC77 Doc. 42 and their proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in great apes* in Annex 2 to document SC77 Doc. 42.
3. For ease of reference, the draft decisions and the proposed amendments are included as Annex 1 and 2 to the present Notification.
4. Comments should be sent to the Management Authority of Liberia to Mr. Blamah Sando Goll at blamahg@yahoo.com.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Secretariat

- 20.AA The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding,
- a) re-establish and convene the CITES African Great Apes Task Force consisting of representatives of range, transit and consumer States affected by poaching and illicit trafficking in such specimens (bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas), non-range States whose territories have commercial or unaccredited facilities or individuals with African great apes in captivity, GRASP, ICCWC partner organizations, representatives from African great ape rehabilitation centres and sanctuaries, and other relevant experts;
 - b) assist the Task Force in reviewing the implementation of RC13.4 (Rev. CoP18) and the identification of gaps and current needs of range, transit and consumer states affected by the illegal trade in African great apes, including the development of concrete strategies with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, such as specific outreach to actors in the energy, extractive, and agricultural sectors, to minimize impacts on great ape populations and habitats in line with the 2005 Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes;
 - c) report on the work and recommendations of the Task Force no later than the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC81).

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 20.BB In consultation with the Animals Committee, develop Terms of Reference for the CITES Great Apes Task Force

Directed to Parties

- 20.CC Parties affected by illegal trade in African great apes are encouraged to report on the implementation of Resolution Conf.13.4 (Rev.CoP18) and pursue joint investigations and operations aimed at halting the international trafficking of African great apes.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF.13.4 (REV.COP18) ON
CONSERVATION AND TRADE IN GREAT APES

The following new provisions in underlined text are proposed for inclusion in the resolution:

Operative section

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

7. CALLS UPON all governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, non governmental organizations and other donors, as a matter of urgency, to assist the range States in any way possible in supporting the conservation of great apes including through:
- a) the provision of funding;
 - b) assistance with enforcement, training, capacity building and education;
 - c) population monitoring, and the gathering and exchange of scientific, technical and legal information and expertise;
 - d) habitat management and restoration;
 - e) mitigation of conflict between humans and apes in a manner that conserves in situ viable ape populations and habitat;
 - f) the development of projects and African great ape species specific national and regional Action Plans which deliver tangible benefits to local communities such as studies on alternative sources of protein and monitoring the efficacy of such alternatives;
 - g) the development and utilization of technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) facial recognition to build a global database of captive great apes and wild great apes monitored by camera traps, and a DNA database to facilitate the geolocalization of the wild origin of confiscated animals;
 - h) sustainable livelihoods and habitats restoration projects for fringe communities residing around Protected Areas, Community Conservation Areas and other landscapes in range States, to enable and incentivise continued protection and management of African great ape populations;
 - i) support of range States' One Health Program for prevention and mitigation of zoonotic diseases;
 - j) short, medium, and long term strategies to ensure that accredited ape sanctuaries adhere to high operational standards including sustainability and that the welfare of the rescued African great apes remains a priority in the conservation of the species.