Briefing on the 74th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

21 February 2022 | 14:00 CET

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SPEAKERS

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Head, French delegation for CITES SC74

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G G E N E V A E N V I R O N M E N T N E T W O R K
Jean-Patrick LE DUC
Head, French delegation for CITES SC74
To avoid international trade of wildlife being a threat

Eviter que le commerce international ne soit une menace
7-11 March: 74th meeting of the Standing Committee in Lyon

19 members (Regional representative, host countries of CoP, depositary)

Others Parties are observers

IGO, NGO, traders organisations may be observers

About 600 participants
SC 74

RHONE
Vaulx en velin 1765 species of plants and animals
COVID
14-25 November: Conference of the Parties in Panama CoP 19

14-25 novembre: Conférence des Parties au Panama CdP 19
Briefing: 74th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

21 February 2022 @ 14:00 CET
Online
CITES Strategic Vision and Cooperation with other biodiversity related Conventions

CITES Strategic Vision: 2021 – 2030

• Secretariat reports on:
  - linkages between the strategic vision and the SDGs; and
  - whether CITES policies in Resolution and Decisions address activities in support of achieving the objective of the CITES Strategic vision

• The SC’s working group:
  - Proposes new or revised indicators of progress to be included in the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030

• Standing Committee to:
  - make recommendations on new or revised indicators of progress to be included in the Strategic Vision 2021-2030
  - consider whether a mapping of the Strategic Vision against the Global Biodiversity Framework would be useful

Cooperation with other biodiversity related Conventions

• The Secretariat presents:
  - a summary of the provisions of existing Resolutions and Decisions related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities;
  - an overview of existing formal agreements with other biodiversity-related Conventions and other entities; and
  - An overview of Resolutions and Decisions adopted by other conventions on cooperation and synergies

• Standing Committee to inter alia:
  - consider the conclusion reached by the Secretariat that a partnership strategy could assist in ensuring a more strategic, streamlined, cohesive and effective approach to cooperation
## Elephants

### Several items relating to elephant matters, including

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review of the ETIS programme</th>
<th>Elephants: Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP 18)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIKE and ETIS Programmes: Operational and financial sustainability</td>
<td>• MIKE – PIKE trend analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory)</td>
<td>• ETIS – trend analysis</td>
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<td>Definition of ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’</td>
<td>• Conservation status – African and Asian elephants</td>
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<td>Closure of domestic ivory markets</td>
<td>• African Elephant Action Plan and African Elephant Fund</td>
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<td>• Trade in Asian elephant</td>
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<td>• Trade in mammoth ivory</td>
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National laws and annual reporting

**National laws for implementation of the Convention**

- Secretariat presents an update on:
  - number of Parties with legislation in Category 1 (108 Parties), 2 (41 Parties) and 3 (31 Parties)
  - progress (or lack thereof) of Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3
- Standing Committee invited to:
  - agree on a recommendation to all Parties to suspend commercial trade with: Dominica, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mongolia and Sao Tome and Principe
  - request the Secretariat to issue a formal warning to the Parties that have not reported any legislative progress for more than three years: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Montenegro, Sierra Leone and Zambia

**National reports: Submission of annual reports**

- The Secretariat provides the list of Parties that had failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years
- Standing Committee invited to:
  - instruct the Secretariat to determine whether the Parties mentioned above 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 closure of this 74th meeting of the Standing Committee) recommending that Parties not authorize any commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties until they have provided the missing reports
Compliance matters

- Implementation of Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES Compliance procedures:
  - Trade in live Asian elephants (Elephas maximus)
  - Trade in Pericopsis elata from Cameroon
  - Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes – European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
  - Timber trade from or to Viet Nam

- Application of Article XIII
  - Lao People’s Democratic Republic
  - Democratic Republic of Congo
  - Guinea
  - Nigeria
- Introduction from the sea of sei whale (Balaenoptera borealis) by Japan
- Malagasy ebonies (Diospyros spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (Dalbergia spp.)
- National Ivory Action Plan processes
  - Totoaba (Totoaba macdonaldi)

Compliance Assistance Programme: Establishment and financial and technical support provided
Compliance matters

• Trade in *Pericopsis elata* from Cameroon
  • Secretariat presents an update on:
    • information received regarding various irregularities relating to the making of the legal acquisition findings, non-detriment findings, falsification and trafficking of permits and internal controls regarding the legal origin of the timber
  • Standing Committee invited to:
    • request the Secretariat to further investigate this case and seek an invitation from Cameroon to provide in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission to understand how the CITES authorities ensure that timber species are legally acquired and exported in full compliance with CITES.

• Application of Article XIII in Guinea
  • Secretariat presents an update on:
    • Implementation by Guinea of the recommendations of the Standing Committee
    • CAP : SSFA
  • Standing Committee invited to:
    • renew most of the recommendations made at SC71 and maintain the suspension of trade with Guinea until their implementation
Compliance matters

- **Malagasy ebonies (Diospyros spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (Dalbergia spp.)**
  - Secretariat presents an update on:
    - the assistance provided to Madagascar in the implementation of decisions 18.94 to 18.97
  - Standing Committee invited to:
    - maintain the suspension of exports or re-exports for commercial purposes from Madagascar of specimens of Diospyros spp. (populations from Madagascar; annotation #5) or Dalbergia spp. (annotation #15) from Madagascar, until Madagascar has made a legal acquisition finding and a non-detriment finding for these species,
    - delete paragraphs f) and g) of Decision 18.96 regarding the business plan,
    - request Madagascar to implement all the necessary control measures for the application and respect of annotation #15 in the event of any export of objects made from Dalbergia spp.
    - request the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to assess the administrative and legislative provisions for the implementation of CITES in Madagascar, in accordance with Article XIII of the Convention, to explore the necessary measures and to provide Madagascar with the technical assistance required for implementing the Convention
**Legal acquisition findings:**

- The Secretariat:
  - reports on capacity-building activities related to legal acquisition findings;
  - prepared a revision of the ‘Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings’;
  - presents considerations for the development of digital solutions to automate parts of the ‘Rapid guide’.
- The Standing Committee is invited to review the ‘Rapid guide’ and consider submitting recommendations to the CoP to continue activities to assist parties with legal acquisition findings.

**Introduction from the sea:**

- The Secretariat:
  - reports on the progress made by the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference;
  - reports on training material and training workshops to assist Parties;
  - presents a FAQ it compiled to assist Parties with questions relating to introduction from the sea.
- The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - take note of the report;
  - review the FAQ;
  - recommend to the CoP to continue monitoring the implementation of Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16).
Reservations and Annotations

**Reservations:**

- The Secretariat, in preparation for more detailed discussion at CoP19,
  - presents the practical legal questions linked to the update of references to Resolutions in the Appendices following CoP18;
  - discusses the legal nature and effects of communications of several Parties in response to Notification No. 2019/052;
  - makes suggestions for the consideration of the CoP to better address potential similar issues in the future.
- The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - comment on suggested changes to specific Resolutions;
  - provide input for the document to be submitted by the Secretariat to the CoP.

**Annotations:**

- The Secretariat
  - proposes the establishment of an Annotations Periodic Review (APR) to review existing and proposed annotations;
  - presents initial considerations for the establishment of an information system on the regulated international trade in CITES-listed tree species.
- The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - comment on the draft proposal for the APR and the initial considerations for the information system;
  - recommend to the CoP the establishment of the APR and measures to further explore the feasibility of the information system.
Engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities and livelihoods

Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)

The Secretariat presents information on Parties’ experiences and lessons learned in engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in CITES processes.

Livelihoods:

The Secretariat

- presents an overview of 16 case studies on livelihoods it had commissioned.
- prepared for review by the Standing Committee a draft *Guidance on maximising benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities from trade in CITES-listed species*
- commissioned a study to explore the use of registered marks, certification and traceability mechanisms for products of CITES-listed species produced by indigenous peoples and local communities to enhance conservation and livelihood outcomes.

The Standing Committee is invited to review the above and provide recommendations.
Jaguars

• **Secretariat presents an update on:**
  • The study on illegal trade in jaguars and cooperation with relevant partners in jaguar conservation

• **Standing Committee invited to:**
  • note the main findings and conclusions of the jaguar study;
  • consider the draft decisions on illegal trade in jaguars, including to convene a meeting of jaguar range States, in cooperation with partner organizations and stakeholders, to agree on collaborative activities; and to establish a long-term system for monitoring illegal killing of jaguars, associated illegal trade and other key aspects related to jaguar conservation;
  • request the Secretariat to further engage in consultations with jaguar range States and other stakeholders
Enforcement matters

*Enforcement matters document*

Address amongst others:

- Resolutions and declarations adopted since CoP18 in different fora, that reflects continued concern over the impacts of wildlife crime and the importance of addressing it as a serious crime.

- Continued challenge posed by corruption and need for Parties to continue to take strong measures to mitigate corruption risks and combat corruption.

- The need to scale up efforts to address illicit financial flows from wildlife crime and to integrate the investigation of financial crimes into wildlife crime investigations.

- SC will consider recommendations prepared on these matters.
Enforcement matters

*Wildlife crime linked to the Internet*

Provides an update on the implementation of Decisions on *Wildlife crime linked to the Internet* adopted at COP18, including matters such as:

- Capacity established by INTERPOL to assist Parties in their efforts to combat these crimes.

- INTERPOL guidelines entitled *Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet: Practical Guidelines for Law Enforcement Practitioners*.

- The *Wildlife crime linked to the Internet* webpage available on the CITES Secretariat website, which include information on best practices and model measures to combat these crimes.
Enforcement matters

Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

At CoP18 - West and Central Africa Threat Assessment report - based on this several Decisions and Recommendations related to the two sub-regions were adopted.

SC74 - Several documents related to this Agenda item:

The document prepared by the Secretariat:

• Highlights several initiatives undertaken by Parties in West and Central Africa since CoP18 and provides an update on support provided to date and planned.

• Secretariat developed a suite of activities that could be delivered in support of strengthening implementation and enforcement of CITES across West and Central Africa.

• Secretariat wrote to Parties in the two subregions inviting expressions of interest to receive capacity-building support under this initiative. More than 10 requests for support received and work in this regard is ongoing.
Enforcement matters

Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

- Documents from the Plants Committee and Senegal concerning widespread illegal trade affecting *Pterocarpus erinaceus* tree species and the inclusion of this species in the Review of Significant Trade process.

- Document submitted by Nigeria, Benin and Niger on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its member States:

  - highlight adoption of the *West Africa Strategy on Combating Wildlife Crime (WASCWC)*; and

  - propose decisions for submission to CoP19 to be considered by SC.
CITES Task Forces

Secretariat report to SC74 on two CITES Task Forces:

*Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species*

- Convened online February 2022.
- Measures and activities to elaborate strategies to prevent and combat illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species:
  - Forest legality, traceability;
  - International and regional cooperation;
  - Physical inspections, species identification, risk assessment and profiling; and
  - Addressing corruption and financial crimes linked to the forestry sector.
- Outcomes of the Task Force meeting will be presented to the SC for review and to make further recommendations as appropriate.

*CITES Big Cats Task Force*

- Still to be convened.
- Secretariat to draft terms of reference and a modus operandi for the CITES Bigs Cat Task Force for review and adoption by the SC prior to convening the task force meeting.
- Revised draft terms of reference and modus operandi are ready and will be considered at SC74.
International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

- Secretariat will report on the activities conducted by ICCWC.
- Collaborative effort between the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO).
- Continues to play a critical role in assisting Parties globally to combat wildlife crime using a coordinated and cohesive approach and providing Parties with the tools, services and technical support needed to bring the criminals involved in wildlife crime to justice.
- ICCWC Vision 2030.
Species-specific enforcement matters

**Rhinoceroses**

- Measures and activities implemented by Parties to address crimes involving rhinoceroses.
- The Committee will consider reports from Namibia, South Africa, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, as well as any oral updates that may be provided by China, Mozambique and Myanmar, in accordance with Decisions on Rhinoceroses adopted at CoP18 directed to these Parties.
- Decision 18.110 - Parties to ensure timely reporting of seizures to countries of origin and submit DNA samples for forensic analyses in support of investigations across illegal trade chain.
- Room for improvement remains and not all Parties seem to be making use of the simplified procedures provided for in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates*, to facilitate more frequent and effective sharing of samples.
- Work undertaken to explore options regarding how information on challenges and best practices associated with addressing rhino poaching and horn trafficking, could be incorporated and reflected upon in the report on rhinoceroses prepared for each meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses*.
- Detailed report on this work is included as an Annex to the document prepared for SC74 and based on this work the Secretariat propose an amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.14.
Species-specific enforcement matters

Pangolins

- Pangolins continue to be significantly affected by illegal trade.
- Secretariat reports on ongoing work to develop conversion parameters for all pangolin species.
- Secretariat as directed by CoP18 commissioned a report on:
  - the national conservation status of pangolin species;
  - legal and illegal trade in pangolins;
  - stocks of specimens of pangolins and stockpile management; and
  - enforcement issues.
- SC will consider this report and recommendations prepared by the Secretariat, as well as draft decisions proposed by the Animals Committee and Secretariat for submission to CoP19. These include recommendations and decisions on matters such as:
  - the conversion parameters mentioned;
  - development and implementation of *in situ* pangolin management and conservation programmes;
  - identification and reference materials on pangolins;
  - stockpile management, and others.
Species-specific enforcement matters

Asian big cats

- Continued seizures of Asian big cat specimens, including specimens that originated from captive breeding facilities, and the potential impact of this illegal trade on Asian big cat populations remains of concern.

- Further strengthened and scaled up efforts needed.

- Document includes information on reporting received from Parties regarding their implementation of the Decisions on *Illegal trade in Asian big cats* and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*. This includes reporting on matters such as:
  - Conservation status of Asian big cats;
  - Management practices and controls concerning facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity;
  - Enforcement measures and activities to address illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens;
  - Reduction of demand for illegal tiger and other Asian big cat specimens.

- Was not yet able to undertake missions to Parties in whose territories there are facilities which may be of concern keeping Asian big cats in captivity. Secretariat will endeavor to undertake the missions as soon as resources and current restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic permit.

- SC will consider the reporting received from Parties and recommendations prepared by the Secretariat concerning amongst others regular monitoring and inspections of facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity and the sharing of images from tiger skin seizures.
**Species-specific enforcement matters**

**Totoaba**

- Illegal fishing of totoaba and the threat this poses to the Vaquita remains a matter of great concern.

- SC will consider reports from the Secretariat, Mexico, and other Parties and stakeholders on their implementation of the COP18 Decisions on *Totoaba*.

- SC will in particular consider the reporting from Mexico on the measures and activities it conducted to implement the Decisions on *Totoaba* directed to it.

- Secretariat will also report on the outcomes of the online *Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba* convened in October 2021.

- Further, SC will consider application from Mexico for registration of a totoaba breeding facility in the *CITES Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes*. 
Species-specific enforcement matters

Other species-specific enforcement matters

• Tortoises and freshwater turtles – report from Madagascar

• Tibetan Antelope

• Illegal trade in cheetahs – Document submitted by Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Yemen
CITES SC74 Briefing

David MORGAN
Chief, Science Unit, CITES
CITES and Forests

Proposal for future CITES activities on forests to be clustered around three main axes:

- **Collaboration**

- **Resource mobilization**

- **Outreach and visibility**
Role of CITES in reducing the risk of future zoonotic disease

• *Changes to the animal transport guidelines adopted by CITES to include measures to mitigate risks to animal and human health*

• *Proposal for further discussion on the role CITES could or should play:*
  - Review of measures already taken by CITES Parties on wildlife trade and markets
  - Joint programme of work with OIE on reducing pathogen spillover in wildlife supply chains
  - Identification of other collaboration opportunities for reducing pathogen spillover or zoonotic disease transmission in international trade
  - Consider development of a CITES Resolution to enhance a ‘One Health’ approach over international wildlife trade
Review of significant trade

Ongoing review of the biological sustainability of trade permitted under CITES

Remedial measures to address over-use

86 species/country combinations are currently subject to review.

48 of these are currently subject to a Standing committee recommendation to suspend trade

At SC74, actions to implement remedial measures are proposed for a number of the other species/country combinations
Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity

Increasing trend for international wildlife trade to be in specimens bred in captivity

CITES has a special derogation to permit trade in such specimens

A definition of the term ‘bred in captivity’ has been agreed

Need to ensure that the derogation is only applied to specimens that qualify as bred in captivity

15 species/country combinations under review at SC74
Capacity building and sponsored delegates

**Capacity building**

**Standing Committee to consider:**

- A draft resolution and draft decisions on capacity-building prepared by the Working Group, chaired by New Zealand

**The Secretariat updating on:**

- the provision of capacity-building support to CITES Parties and collaboration with external partners to provide training opportunities to Parties; and
- the revision of the CITES Virtual College

**Sponsored delegates project**

- Aims to cover the costs of two delegates from developing countries to take part in meetings of the CoP
- The project for CoP19 was launched on 1 October 2021 with a target of 1,000,000 USD
- Pledges to date: almost 300,000 USD – see [https://cites.org/eng/disc/sponsored_delegates_project](https://cites.org/eng/disc/sponsored_delegates_project)
- Deadline for application for support: **30 April 2022**
THANK YOU – See you in LYON
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WHAT'S NEXT?

Geneva Environment Network

event-virtual
Briefing on the CBD Resumed Sessions of SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3
22 Feb 2022 15:00 - 16:30
Online | Webex
GEN

SDG15 | SDG14

event-cinema
Killing the Shepherd | Wednesdays for the Planet | World Wildlife Day
23 Feb 2022 13:30
Online
GEN, CITES

SDG15 | SDG5 | SDG2 | SDG1

event-cinema
World Wildlife Day Film Showcase: Nature's Fear Factor | Wednesdays for the Planet
02 Mar 2022 13:30 - 14:30
Online | Webex
GEN, CITES

SDG15 | SDG4
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