

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER  
MORNING

28. Domestic controls in consumer markets for specimens of CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal: Report of the Secretariat

The Standing Committee agreed to propose for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting, the amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* contained in Annex 1 to document SC70 Doc. 28; and to present the revised Decisions 17.87-17.88, contained in Annex 2 to document SC70 Doc. 28, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting, as follows:

***Decision 17.87 (Rev. CoP18) directed to the Secretariat***

The Secretariat, subject to external funding and in consultation with relevant Parties, is requested to:

- a) contract independent consultant(s) to undertake a study of the domestic controls in consumer markets for specimens of CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal, other than elephant ivory; and
- b) report the findings and recommendations of this study, as well its own recommendations, to the Standing Committee.

***Decision 17.88 (Rev. CoP18) directed to the Standing Committee***

The Standing Committee, at its 73rd meeting, shall review the findings and recommendations of the report referred to in Decision 17.87 (Rev. CoP18) and any recommendations of the Secretariat and make recommendations for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including appropriate revisions to existing resolutions, to strengthen domestic controls addressing illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal.

49. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

49.1 Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade

The Standing Committee noted the information contained in document SC70 Doc. 49.1 and its annexes.

The Standing Committee reminded Parties to use the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, published in January 2017, when reporting on trade in hunting trophies of *Loxodonta africana*.

The Standing Committee reminded Parties about the reporting requirements relating to ivory stockpile and ivory seizure information and the timeframes for submission of information as contained in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17).

The Standing Committee recognized the contributions that several Parties have made to the African Elephant Fund and the continued need for funding to support the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan.

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to provide financial support to TRAFFIC for the implementation of the request by SC69 concerning ETIS.

The Standing Committee noted that the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup intends to meet in the margins of the present meeting, and report back later in the week.

The Standing Committee encouraged Asian elephant range States to consider the *Guidelines for registration of captive Asian elephants of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) and the AsESG guidelines for captive Asian elephant management for their management of captive Asian elephants*.

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to inform the Secretariat of the status or any changes to the status of the legality of their domestic ivory markets and efforts to implement the provisions of this Resolution, including efforts to close those markets that contribute to poaching or illegal trade, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17).

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to assist the Standing Committee in its reporting to CoP18, summarizing the actions decided and determinations made by the Standing Committee regarding the elements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) addressed by the SC69 and SC70.

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to provide samples of ivory seizures greater than 500 kilograms to forensic analysis institutions.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a notification asking Parties involved in the trade in live Asian elephants to provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 17.217 and to identify gaps that must be addressed by range States, and to include this information in its report to the Conference of the Parties.

The Standing Committee recognized concerns raised regarding the emerging illegal trade in Asian elephant skins and agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the renewal of Decisions 17.217 and 17.218 amended as follows:

***Directed to Parties***

***17.217 (Rev. CoP18)***

*All Parties involved in the trade in ~~live~~ Asian elephants and their parts and derivatives are encouraged to:*

- a) undertake, as necessary, investigations into the illegal trade in ~~live~~ Asian elephants and their parts and derivatives, and endeavour to enforce, and where necessary improve, national laws concerning international trade in specimens of Asian elephants with the explicit intention of preventing ~~the illegal trade in live Asian elephants~~;*
- b) develop strategies to manage captive Asian elephant populations;*
- c) ensure that trade in, and cross-border movements of live Asian elephants are conducted in compliance with CITES, including the provisions in Article III, paragraph 3, for Asian elephants of wild origin;*
- d) collaborate in the development and application of a regional system for registering, marking and tracing live Asian elephants, requesting as necessary assistance from experts, specialized agencies or the Secretariat; and*

- e) *at the request of the Secretariat, provide information on the implementation of this Decision for reporting by the Secretariat to the Standing Committee.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**17.218 (Rev. CoP18)**

*The Secretariat shall:*

- a) request a report from all Parties involved in trade in Asian elephants and their parts and derivatives on the implementation of paragraphs a) through d) of Decision 17.217 (Rev. CoP18);
- b) upon request and pending the availability of external funding, assist the range States of Asian elephants in their implementation of Decision 17.217; and
- c) incorporate information provided by range States in accordance with Decision 17.217 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph e), together with other findings and recommendations concerning trade in ~~live~~ Asian elephants and their parts and derivatives as appropriate, into its regular reporting to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on Trade in elephant specimens.

**49.2 Implementing aspects of Decisions 17.172 to 17.172 on Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory)**

The Standing Committee noted document SC70 Doc. 49.2 and the different initiatives described therein.

The Standing Committee noted that the Secretariat intends to finalise the development and dissemination of practical guidance for the management of ivory stockpiles in time to report to SC71, prior to CoP18, in line with the instruction from the Conference of the Parties in paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 17.171.

The Standing Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting the replacement of Decision 17.172 by the following draft Decision:

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

18.AA The Standing Committee shall review the practical guidance for the management of ivory stockpiles, including their disposal, prepared by the Secretariat and make recommendations as appropriate for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**49.3 Terms of reference for a review of the ETIS programme: Report of the Secretariat to the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup**

The Standing Committee agreed to refer the draft terms of reference for the review of the ETIS programme, as presented in Annex 1 to document SC70 Doc. 49.3, and the assessment of options for carrying out the review of the ETIS programme, presented in Annex 2 to document SC70 Doc. 49.3, to the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup for consideration; and requested the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to take account of the remarks by the Secretariat in paragraph 8 of the document SC70 Doc. 49.3 and the comments made during the plenary session, and report its findings and recommendations to the Committee, for consideration later at the meeting.

**51. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat**

Concerning the implementation of Decisions 17.226 and 17.229 with respect to Asian big cats in captivity, the Standing Committee noted the progress reported in paragraphs 5 to 13 of document SC70 Doc. 51 and requested the Secretariat to take into consideration the concerns expressed during the plenary session in its implementation of Decision 17.229.

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties in whose territory there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity, to be vigilant in their implementation of Decision 17.226, paragraphs a) and b); and

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cats, in particular consumer States, to consider illegal trade in Asian big cats in their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.4 on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species*.

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group on Asian big cats with the mandate to consider Annex 4 of document SC70 Doc. 51 and draft overarching decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

The membership of the working group was agreed as follows: European Union (Chair), China, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Viet Nam; and Association of Zoos and Aquariums, China Wildlife Conservation Association, Environmental Investigation Agency (UK), International Fund for Animal Welfare, Sand Diego Zoo Global, Wildlife Protection Society of India and World Wildlife Fund.

54. African lion (*Panthera leo*)

54.1 Report of the Secretariat and of the Animals Committee

and

54.2 Report of the working group

The Standing Committee noted that Decision 17.243 has not yet been implemented and recommended that it be further discussed at the second African lion range States meeting in November 2018, taking into account the information and draft recommendations in documents SC70 Doc. 54.1 and 54.2.

The Standing Committee encouraged African lion range States to provide further inputs and comments to Niger as Chair of the intersessional working group on lions on the draft recommendations contained in document SC70 Doc. 54.2 prior to the second African lion range States meeting.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to work with the Chairs of the Animals and Standing Committees in preparing and submitting a report on the implementation of Decisions 17.241 to 17.245 on African lion to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.