

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Standing Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

18. Conservation of and trade in great apes SC53 Doc. 18

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 18. The Committee noted an oral report by the Secretariat regarding illicit cross-border movement of specimens of CITES-listed species by UN peacekeeping forces and agreed that the Chairman of the Committee should write to the President of the UN Security Council on this subject. The Committee noted the document and oral reports from the Chairman of the Animals Committee and the Chairman of the Animals Committee's Working Group on Great Apes. It also took note of the recommendations reported by the representative of Kenya as Chairman of that Working Group [to be found in document AC21 WG7 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)]. The Committee instructed the Secretariat to liaise with the GRASP Secretariat with a view to conducting a technical mission to Southeast Asia regarding illicit trade in orangutans. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should investigate ways in which a CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force could be established.

19. Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses..... SC53 Doc. 19

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 19. The Committee agreed to request the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhinoceros Specialist Groups to review the question of indicators in document Doc. SC.42.10.5 and to request TRAFFIC to analyse the data on rhino horn stockpile volumes, seizures, poaching and other variables. The Committee agreed to re-discuss the matter at its 54th meeting on the basis of the results of this work. The Committee called on Parties to support these organizations financially in undertaking these tasks.

20. African elephant

20.1 Control of trade in African elephant ivory SC53 Doc. 20.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 20.1. Considerable discussion ensued on this item and the Committee, as well as noting the document, also noted that many African elephant range States had yet to submit progress reports and that illicit trade in ivory continued to occur at significant levels. It agreed with the recommendation that it was too early to take a decision at the present meeting regarding the possibility of China becoming an importing country for legal ivory. Nevertheless, the Committee congratulated China for its efforts to date. The Secretariat was instructed to continue to monitor closely illicit trade in ivory involving China and other markets around the world, including countries in Africa that are not elephant range States, and report at the 54th meeting of the Committee. The Secretariat was instructed to report in detail at the 54th meeting of the Committee upon implementation of the action plan. The Committee welcomed the offer by the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to

* Revised by the Secretariat after the meeting to incorporate an amendment agreed at the ninth session.

assist relevant range States, especially Angola, Lesotho and Mozambique. The Committee congratulated the Government of Ethiopia on its efforts to combat illicit trade.

20.2 Report of the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup SC53 Doc. 20.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 20.2. The Committee noted the report of the MIKE and ETIS subgroup, agreed to the clarification in the definition of baseline information set out in paragraph 6 of the report and congratulated Kenya on its appointment as Chairman of the subgroup.