

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

Reports on the actions taken by regional representatives and additional information from Parties,
relevant to regional cooperation and the work of the Animals Committee

AFRICA

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1. General information

A call for information for national reporting in the regional report was sent to all Parties in the region by AC regional representative from Kenya, via email on 19 January 2012 with a reminder on 7 February 2012

Only South Africa and Kenya sent in their national reports. This regional report is therefore based on the information received from the two Parties and that which the representatives were aware of from the rest of the Parties and have captured in this report.

**2. Communication with other Parties in the sub- region and region since AC25 (July 2011)/
PC19 April 2011**

Communication on African Elephant

- South Africa coordinating with Nigeria as interim facilitators of the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund hosted the 1st meeting of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee held in Kruger National Park from 12-15 December 2011. The objective of the meeting was to operationalize the functions of the Steering Committee by among others, reviewing elephant project proposals for funding from the African Elephant Fund. All members of the Steering Committee; Botswana and South Africa (Southern sub-region representatives), Kenya and Sudan (Eastern sub-region), Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon (Central sub-region), Nigeria, and Burkina Faso (Western sub-region). The Federal Republic of Germany and The Netherlands as Donor States and CITES Secretariat participated in the meeting.
- 5 proposals from Ethiopia, Malawi, Gabon, Benin and provisionally Nigeria were approved for funding from the African elephant fund. These would be pilot projects.
- The 10th meeting of the African Wildlife Consultative Forum took place in Swaziland from 10 – 14 October 2011.

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3. CITES activities in the country in respect to:

a. Review of Significant Trade

Kenya reviewed trade in the species selected following CoP13 and 14: *Balearica pavonina*, *Balearica regulorum* and *Hippocampus kuda* and CoP15: *Chamaeleo gracilis*, *Kinyongia tavetana* and *Pterogyra sinuosa* respectively. Except *Kinyongia tavetana* whose trade in live specimens is permitted since 2010 and also traded as *Kinyongia boehmei* and earlier as *Kinyongia fischeri*, no trade in the other species has been authorized by the CITES Management Authority for the last five years. Trade in specimens of *Kinyongia tavetana* is however controlled and trade is only allowed for specimens from registered breeding operations which qualify for source code F and Source Code C.

b. Periodic Review of the Appendices

Following acceptance by Kenya and Namibia to volunteer in undertaking periodic review of the African Lion, *Panthera leo*, a questionnaire was sent out to all African Lion range States seeking information on conservation and management status of the species. Submissions were received on populations of Benin, Central Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

These submissions have been compiled and the resulting report would be shared with the range States for comments and validation before the final report is released. An oral presentation on this process and resulting preliminary findings would be made during this meeting.

c. CITES projects

d. Registration of operations breeding/Artificial propagation Appendix-I animal/plant species for commercial purposes

The process to register nurseries for artificially propagating *Encephalartos* species is ongoing. South Africa has not submitted a request to register an Appendix I captive breeding operation.

e. Others

4. Promotion of CITES in the country

a. Capacity building activities, awareness campaigns

A training session for CITES Management Authorities of South Africa took place from 31 November to 4th Dec 2011. The training session was presented by the Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa.

The Scientific Authority of South Africa worked together with TRAFFIC East and Southern Africa to develop a species identification tool for law enforcement officers. The tool, which focuses on priority South African taxa listed in the CITES Appendices, will be available on a CD and also through the internet. The tool provides a decision trees for CITES species, has links to relevant legislation, allows photos to be uploaded and links to other sites with further identification materials, and enables the enforcement officer to send messages to an expert. The tool has been approved for use in South Africa and training is ongoing.

Two training sessions in Kenya on CITES and control of trade in plant specimens were conducted for Customs officers and Kenya Plant Health Inspectors at border points in 2011. The training was meant to create awareness among the officers on CITES provisions with respect to control of international trade in wildlife and identification of specimens in the trade.

Kenya, working together with Lusaka Agreement Task Force, the Secretariat of the Lusaka Agreement, created awareness in the country and in the Lusaka Agreement Party States in July 2011 on CITES and impacts of illegal trade to wildlife during disposal in Kenya of ivory contraband seized in 2002 in Singapore. The event to dispose off the contraband was organized by Kenya and the Agreement Taskforce to also publicize the work of the Task Force as it relates to CITES and conservation and management of wildlife in Africa.

b. The scientific community in the country and CITES agenda

The Scientific Authority of South Africa has worked with scientists and other stakeholders to undertake NDFs on 16 species, including 12 critically endangered cycad species, cheetah, leopard, white rhino and hippopotamus. The interim findings (NDFs) will be published for public comment.

Kenya has reconstituted its National CITES Technical Committee for enhanced delivery of tasks with respect to implementation of CITES provisions, especially matters of Non-Detriment Finding studies. Through the National Committee, a comprehensive database on conservation status of species of conservation concern has been developed and national species-specific conservation strategies formulated. Such species include the large carnivores (lion, hyena, cheetah, etc) Conservation Strategy, Grevy's Zebra Conservation Strategy, the Elephant Conservation Strategy, and Sea Turtles Strategy etc. The National CITES Technical Committee is in the process of engaging the wildlife authorities of United Republic of Tanzania to share information on conservation status of East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) with a view to developing a joint conservation strategy for the species, including consideration for listing in CITES Appendices.

Kenya in August 2011 formulated policy guidelines and procedures for capture and use of non-human primates for biomedical research. The guidelines and procedures are part of stricter domestic measures the country is applying to Article VII of the Convention to regulate exchange of specimens of non-human primates for scientific purposes.

Kenya through its CITES Management Authority is cooperating with South Africa through Veterinary Genetics Laboratory of University of Pretoria and with support from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to build Kenya's capacity in rhino forensic work and develop forensic database on rhino population in Kenya. Using samples of known rhinos in Kenya shipped to Veterinary Genetics Laboratory of South Africa where, Kenyans undergoing training to undertake DNA fingerprinting and profiling of the specimens to build a Kenya country database.

c. Collaboration with other MEAs

Kenya launched in November 2011, a National Strategy for Bioprospecting within and outside Protected Areas. This strategy aims at mainstreaming sustainable utilization of wildlife in the country in line with the provisions of CITES with respect to international trade and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with respect to access to genetic resources and equitable and fair sharing of benefits accruing from the use of the resources. Also Kenya collaborated with Lusaka Agreement on control of illegal trade in wildlife specimens by confiscating illegally traded elephant ivory and other animal specimens.

d. Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

Kenya has been engaging conservation NGO's and development partners who are stakeholders in wildlife conservation and partnered in implementation of CITES. Formulation of a national strategy for conservation of the African elephant was realized through partnership and cooperation with several NGOs and other stakeholders.

e. Emerging issues

There has been increase in illegal trade in rhino horn and elephant ivory. In 2011, 448 rhinos were illegally killed in South Africa; and during the same period a total of 232 arrests were made. In a recent conviction, poachers were given a 25 year jail sentence each. Cooperation and collaboration with other rhino range States remains essential as well as the finalization of agreements on issues relating to wildlife trafficking and increased compliance monitoring and enforcement between South Africa, the People's Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

In Kenya, similar trend in increase of poaching especially in elephant for elephant ivory has been witnessed. There has been discussion between the Government of Kenya and Government of Republic of China on cooperative arrangement with respect to control of illegal trade in wildlife specimens and implementation of CITES.

There has been unprecedented increase in poaching of elephants in Central Africa region especially in Cameroon resulting in killing of over 400 elephants within one week in 2012.