

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

Regional reports

AFRICA

The attached report has been submitted by Mr Samuel Kasiki and Mr Zahzah, regional representatives for Africa*. As it was received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith in English only, the language in which it was submitted.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Introduction

1. This report is submitted by Samuel Kasiki (KE) and Khaled Zahzah (Tunisia) on implementation of CITES scientific matters related to fauna in Africa

General information

2. Regional Representatives to the Animals Committee: Samuel Kasiki (Kenya), and
3. Khaled Zahzah(Tunisia). Alternate Representatives to the Animals Committee: Mostafa Ahmed Mahmoud (Egypt) and Moses Maurihungirire (Namibia)

Communication with Parties since AC24 (April 2009)

4. All Parties in the region were contacted through their Scientific and Management Authorities on 17 March 2011 (in English) and on 24 March 2011 (in French) with requests to provide to the representatives, national information to the regional report for both the Animals and Plants Committees. Responses relating to AC report were received from five Parties only: Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Morocco, South Africa and Liberia. Comoros acknowledged receipt of the communication but did not send information for inclusion in this report.
5. Any further information received from the other Parties before and during the AC meeting shall be included to update this report.
6. Kenya communicated with Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and South Sudan to inform of a planned Aerial Elephant count in the Tsavo-Mkomazi ecosystem in February 2011 and invited representatives from the Management and Scientific authorities of the three countries to participate in the count.
7. United Republic of Tanzania communicated with Parties on different CITES related issues, including communication made to parties for seeking support before submission of URT proposal for down listing elephant population to Appendix II in CoP15, also URT communicated with other parties on issues related to export/import permits verification.
8. All African elephant range States participated in the third African Elephant Range States Meeting in Gigiri, Kenya, from 1st to 3rd November 2010 and a Negotiations training meeting organized by UNEP-DEC on 4th to 5th November 2010 also at Gigiri.
9. SADC countries attended the 9th Meeting of the African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Zimbabwe from 8 – 13 November 2010, SADC Rhino management meeting in Namibia from 26 – 30 October 2010 and SADC Joint Technical Committee meeting of Directors of Environment, Forestry and Wildlife.
10. South Africa regularly contacted neighbouring States to discuss various issues relating to conservation, trade and CITES implementation and rhino poaching issues.
11. Morocco regularly participated in meetings of the Arab Group involved in international conventions relating to Combat Desertification and Biological Diversity. During team meetings, representatives of Arab countries, including countries in North Africa, examined issues relating to implementation of Conventions related to biodiversity conservation, including CITES.
12. Follow up on selected agenda items (recommendations) of previous AC meetings from AC24, including Significant Trade Review.
13. United Republic of Tanzania had no recommendations emerging for implementation during previous animal committee meetings except for the recommendations on suspension of imports of specimens of *Agapornis fischeri* in 2008. However, The United Republic of Tanzania undertook population surveys of the species for purposes of making non-detriment findings and based on this, established cautious export quotas and a monitoring system for the species population and exports.

14. Kenya had three species selected as of priority concern for review: Sea horse, *Hippocampus kuda*, Black-Crowned Crane, *Balearica pavonina* and Grey Crowned Crane, *Balearica regulorum*. Unfortunately Kenya did not submit its comments by the set deadline of submission regarding any problem it has in application of Article IV for the species concerned. However, the comments would have indicated that there was no problem with implementation of Article IV of the Convention in regard to the three species and Kenya has not recorded trade in the species in the recent past, and therefore international trade in the three species poses no risk to the Kenyan populations.
15. South Africa provided the CITES Secretariat with the non-detriment finding assessments for *Hippopotamus amphibious*, compiled by the Scientific Authority of South Africa in compliance with Article IV of the Convention. The non-detriment finding demonstrates that international trade poses a low risk to the species in South Africa. In addition to the above, information on the Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*) was also provided in response to the decision made at the 24th Animals Committee to include two African Cranes in the Review of Significant Trade.
16. Morocco: The High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification, CITES focal point for Morocco, ensured regular review, monitoring and strict enforcement, within the limits of national jurisdiction and resources available, recommendations arising from the CITES COPs as well as meetings of the AC

Promotion of CITES in the country

17. Under the auspices of the Capacity Building Program of the CITES Secretariat and with funding support from European Commission through the Secretariat, a 3-days capacity building workshop for the English Speaking (Anglophone) African countries was held in Kampala, Uganda on 19-21 January 2010 to assist Parties with implementation of CITES requirements especially on Non detriment findings. Invitations to the workshop were for three participants per country and all Anglophone countries participated. Participants for the said workshop had an opportunity of learning several issues regarding Non-Detrimental findings (NDF), preparations for CoP meetings; Resolutions, Decision and how to make negotiations.
18. South Africa conducted a training session for CITES Management and Scientific Authorities from 4 – 8 October 2010. The training session was facilitated by the representatives of the CITES Secretariat.
19. South Africa's CITES regulations under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 were published in Government Gazette on 5 March 2010 and will advance implementation of the Convention in the country.
20. Kenya organized two CITES trainings in 2010 for the officials of Customs and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services at border points to better understand their roles in trade controls at border points and how these roles relate to implementation of the provisions of the CITES Convention and the synergies between Customs and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) on one hand and the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities for the country on the other.
21. A total elephant count in Kenya, jointly organized in 2010 by the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, for Amboseli-West Kilimanjaro and Magadi - Natron cross-border landscapes documented 1,420 elephants (KWS & TAWIRI, 2010).
22. Kenya conducted its regular aerial count of the African elephant in the Tsavo-Mkomazi ecosystem in February 2011 and invited representatives of the CITES Authorities of United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan as part of regional collaboration and capacity building in elephant aerial counts.
23. Kenya, on invitation from the CITES Management Authority for Liberia, participated in January 2011 in a workshop in Liberia to reconstitute and train the CITES Scientific Authority for Liberia. At the end of this workshop, the University of Liberia was designated the Scientific Authority for Liberia and Kenya through the support of Born Free Foundation donated office equipment (Computer and Printer) to the Authority to support its activities.
24. Liberia, with funding from the CITES Secretariat for capacity building, in January 2011, held a two-days workshop to reconstitute its CITES Scientific Authority and build up the capacity of its CITES Management Authority.

25. The workshop was attended by more than 70 participants from government institutions, the private sector and civil society. The CITES Authorities for Kenya supported two representatives from Kenya Wildlife Service to participate in the workshop as technical facilitators and share experiences in implementation of CITES. Participants to the workshop received information about applicable standards protecting CITES species in Liberia and the role of respective government authorities (Customs, and Management and Scientific Authorities) in the implementation of CITES. The workshop concluded with re-designation of The University of Liberia (UL) as the country's Scientific Authority.
26. The workshop participants agreed on a list of recommendations to strengthen CITES enforcement in the country, including through, *inter alia*, establishing a database indexing Liberia's fauna and flora and compiling information relevant to the issuance of non-detriment findings, organizing training for the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, creating a herbarium, and carrying out species assessments.
27. United Republic of Tanzania has the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) as the designated CITES Scientific Authority. However, plans are underway to designate more Scientific Authorities for purposes of promoting implementation of the Convention in the country. Among other institutions to be considered for designation is Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI).
28. Morocco organized a training session on 14-16 October 2009 for officials operating at customs border posts in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Species Survival Network (SSN).
29. In partnership with the International Technical Assistance Program of the U.S. Department of Interior and the United States Embassy in Rabat, Morocco organized a regional workshop on capacity building of Scientific Authorities on Implementation of CITES. This workshop was held from 27 to 30 October 2009 and was intended for Scientific Authorities for CITES countries of the Middle East and North Africa and facilitated by trainers from United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the CITES Secretariat.
30. A follow up training session was done in May 2011 as part of the Moroccan- American cooperation in implementation of CITES. This training was designed for customs officials operating at two border posts in Casablanca and Tangier.
31. Also, training courses or introduction to the principles of international conventions whose objectives are the conservation of biodiversity in general, including CITES, are provided by research professors at some schools and universities.
32. A program of capacity building has been set up as part of the Moroccan-American cooperation and Morocco-EU cooperation. The objective of this program is to provide technical assistance and training in Morocco to strengthen enforcement of CITES with a focus on capacity building for customs officers who carry out trade inspections
33. Representatives of the Board of Management and the Customs Administration participated on November 5, 2010 in Group Meeting on "Application of Regulations" that brings together, under the presidency of the European Union, the authorities of the Member States EU responsible for enforcement of the CITES Convention. This meeting comes within the framework of cooperation between Morocco and the EU within the framework of the implementation of CITES. Participants had the opportunity to exchange information to improve knowledge on trade in CITES-listed species and jointly develop solutions to resolve identified problems.
34. Africa Elephant Range States reported progress, during their meeting at UNEP, Gigiri, Kenya in November 2010, of implementation of the African elephant Action Plan finalized and adopted at CoP15. Strategies for implementation of the action plan, including establishment of the African Elephant Fund and the Fund's Steering Committee, were discussed by the range States at the meeting.

Collaboration with other MEAs

35. United Republic of Tanzania is signatory to other Multilateral Environment Agreements such as UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These conventions are co-coordinated by the Vice President's Office-Division of Environment and the CITES Authorities for Tanzania collaborate with the focal points for the other treaties in implementation of these treaties.

36. Kenya is signatory to other wildlife related and Environment Agreements and Conventions such as Convention on Conservation of Migratory species of Animals (CMS), RAMSAR, and World Heritage Convention, etc. While the CITES Authorities are also country focal points for some of the Conventions, implementation of some of the Conventions is managed by other agencies. The CITES Authorities for the country collaborate with the focal points for the other convention in implementation of the provisions of those agreements.
37. Kenya's CITES Authorities collaborate with Lusaka Agreement Task Force; Secretariat of the Lusaka Agreement and is implementing decision of Governing Council of the Agreement regarding disposal of contraband ivory seized in Singapore in 2002. The Disposal of approximately 7.2 tonnes (raw ivory of weight 6.3 tonnes and worked ivory- 42,120 hankos weighing over 800 kilograms) would be by repatriation of a total 2.2 tonnes weight of samples of the ivory to Malawi and Zambia for education and law enforcement and the rest through destruction by burning in July 2011. The CITES Scientific Authority for Kenya is participating in the sorting out of the specimens and collection of samples for reference and future scientific work on the contraband.
38. Morocco's High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification, the focal point of CITES, is the same focal point of Ramsar, CMS, AEWA, UNCCD, which facilitates greater collaboration between its agreements at national level. Also, the CITES MA for Morocco is a member of the National Committee for Environment and regularly and actively participates in COPs of the CBD, whose focal point is the Department of the Environment and collaborates in the implementation of the Treaties and Agreements that Morocco is signatory to.

Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

39. United Republic of Tanzania cooperated with stakeholders and NGOs to ensure that conservation roles of the natural resources are met. WWF in particular has participated in different projects aimed at providing support in establishment of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Also WWF through TRAFFIC supported the government in conducting identification training for *Lygodactylus williams*, which is an endemic species in Tanzania.
40. Kenya in collaboration and with part funding from International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) conducted aerial Elephant count of the Tsavo-Mkomazi ecosystem in February 2011. Through this collaboration, Kenya was able to bring in representatives from United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Government of Southern Sudan to participate in the count.

CITES Activities concerning the Region: Emerging Issues

41. United Republic of Tanzania has listed more than 70 species in CITES appendices and therefore, assessment of these species call for more financial resources which continue to be a challenge for the Party.
42. Conducted Elephant census in 2009 and from the survey data formulated an Elephant Management Plan in 2010. The State has also formulated a country Rhino Management Plan in 2010 in line with the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 enacted in 2009.
43. Prepared a new CITES Regulation for implementation of the convention in Zanzibar.
44. Is currently soliciting for funds to be used for a review on significant trade for all species listed in Appendix II. In this aspect the URT has nominated Dr Denis Ikanda from Scientific Authority (Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute- TAWIRI) to participate in a Region Working group for the Review of Significant Trade.
45. Has a number of project involving CITES listed species as follows:
 - Kihansi Spray Toad project.
 - Rhino project in Serengeti.
 - Jane Goodal project on Chimpanzee of Gombe.
 - Serengeti lion project.
 - Cheetah project.

46. Morocco: Most species of animals listed in the CITES Appendices and which Morocco is part of their range are protected by national law and their trade is prohibited.
47. Morocco has developed a draft law on the protection of flora and fauna species and regulating trade. This project was adopted on 18 June 2009 by the Council of Ministers and the House of Councilors in 2010. Currently it is in final review by the House of Representatives before its adoption in plenary.
48. Kenya initiated the process of formulating policy guidelines on introduction and donations of wildlife species. Once finalized, these guidelines will be adopted and gazetted as supplementary regulations to control imports of exotic species of fauna and flora in the country and donations to other States for conservation and education purposes.
49. Kenya formulated new policy guidelines and procedures for capture and use of Non-Human Primates for Biomedical (Scientific) research. This would provide for a stricter domestic measure on permitting of non-human primate specimens for research.