

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

Species specific matters

Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

ELEPHANT CONSERVATION, ILLEGAL KILLING AND IVORY TRADE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Report on the conservation status of African and Asian elephants, trade in elephant specimens, the African Elephant Action Plan, and MIKE and ETIS

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* to include provisions relating to reports to be submitted to the Conference of Parties and the Standing Committee on trade in elephant specimens and the monitoring of illegal killing of elephants. The report presented in **Annex 1** to the present document has been prepared in compliance with paragraphs 11 and 18 of the Resolution, directed to the Secretariat, as shown below. Issues relating to the National Ivory Action Plan process are covered in document SC70 Doc. 27.4.

Paragraph 11 and 18 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* reads as follows:

11. *DIRECTS the Secretariat, pending the necessary external funding, to:*

- a) *report on information and analyses provided by MIKE and ETIS at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, subject to the availability of adequate new MIKE or ETIS data, at relevant meetings of the Standing Committee; and, in collaboration with TRAFFIC as appropriate, provide other reports, updates or information on MIKE and ETIS as required by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) or Parties;*
- b) *prior to relevant meetings of the Standing Committee, invite the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to provide an overview of trade in elephant specimens as recorded in the CITES database; the IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) African and Asian Elephant Specialist Groups to submit any new and relevant information on the conservation status of elephants, pertinent conservation actions and management strategies; and African elephant range States to provide information on progress made in the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan; and*
- c) *on the basis of the information specified in paragraphs a) and b) above, recommend actions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee;*

18. *DIRECTS the Secretariat to report at each regular meeting of the Standing Committee on any apparent problems in the implementation of this Resolution or in the control or traceability of trade in elephant specimens, and to assist the Standing Committee in its reporting to the Conference of the Parties;*
3. In accordance with paragraph 11 b) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat invited UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and the Chair of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee (Ghana) to provide new and relevant information concerning the trade in and conservation of elephants. The Secretariat is grateful for the submissions received. Adequate new MIKE data were available to the Secretariat to report on information and analyses thereof at the present meeting. The information provided by ETIS does not include any statistical analysis (i.e. there is no update of the trend through 2017, but rather summarises the raw data and highlights issues such as the number of large-scale ivory seizures and the courier trafficking in worked ivory products produced in Africa).
4. The various contributions were integrated into the report presented in Annex 1. It gives an overview of the status, threats and conservation actions concerning African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) and Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*); Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE); legal trade in ivory; the African Elephant Fund and the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan; and illegal trade in elephant specimens (ETIS).

Features of the report in Annex 1

Status of African and Asian elephant populations

5. Based on the African Elephant Status Report (AESR 2016) (Thouless et al. 2016¹), **37 African elephant range States** with a known and possible elephant range of over 3.1 million km² hold a total population of 415,428 (± 20,111) elephants, with an additional 117,127 to 135,384 elephants in areas not systematically surveyed. The AESR 2016 also revealed that Africa's elephant population has seen the worst declines in 25 years, with a loss of approximately 111,000 elephants over the ten-year period 2006-2015. A number of range States have conducted African elephant surveys since the cut-off date for inclusion in AESR 2016.
6. **Thirteen Asian elephant range States** across South and Southeast Asia hold between 44,281 and 49,731 Asian elephants [IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG 2016, unpublished)]. Cases of poaching have increased in Myanmar and Viet Nam, and trade of live wild elephants has also been reported in Myanmar, Cambodia, India and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme

7. There are 61 **designated MIKE** sites in Africa, which together hold an estimated 30 to 40% of the African elephant population, and 28 designated sites in Asia (it is unclear what proportion of the total Asian elephant population is represented in these sites).
8. An additional 7 **voluntary MIKE sites** were nominated by countries in southern Africa (one in Angola, one in Malawi, four in Zambia and one in Zimbabwe) and an additional 3 voluntary MIKE sites were nominated by Cameroon. The nominations from Cameroon were still under consideration by the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) at the time this document was prepared for consideration by SC70. The process for the following sites were however concluded and the inclusion in the MIKE network supported:
- Luengue-Luiana National Park (Angola);
 - Majete Wildlife Reserve (Malawi);
 - Lower Zambezi National Park (Zambia);
 - North Luangwa National Park (Zambia);

¹ C.R. Thouless, H.T. Dublin, J.J. Blanc, D.P. Skinner, T.E. Daniel, R.D. Taylor, F. Maisels, H. L. Frederick and P. Bouché (2016). *African Elephant Status Report 2016: an update from the African Elephant Database. Occasional Paper Series of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, No. 60 IUCN / SSC Africa Elephant Specialist Group. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. vi + 309pp*

- e) Kafue National Park (Zambia);
 - f) Sioma Ngwezi National Park (Zambia); and
 - g) Mana Pools National Park/Sapi Safari Area (Zimbabwe).
9. MIKE data is collected by law enforcement and ranger patrols in the field and through other means in designated MIKE sites. When an elephant carcass is found, site personnel try to establish the cause of death and other details, such as sex and age of the animal, status of ivory and stage of decomposition of the carcass. This information is recorded in standardized carcass forms, details of which are then submitted to the MIKE Programme and recorded in the MIKE database.
 10. The MIKE database used for the analysis of elephant mortality consists of 17,783 **carcass records**, collected by law enforcement and ranger patrols in the field between 2003 and the end of 2017 at 53 MIKE sites in 28 range States in Africa.
 11. MIKE evaluates relative poaching levels based on the **Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE)**, which is calculated as the number of illegally killed elephants found divided by the total number of elephant carcasses encountered by patrols or other means, aggregated by year for each site. Time trends in PIKE at the continental and sub-regional level are provided as a measure of poaching trends. While PIKE provides a measure of poaching trends, it may be affected by several potential biases related to data quality, reporting rate, carcass detection probabilities, variation in natural mortality rates and other factors, and hence results need to be interpreted with caution.
 12. Overall, the reported levels of illegal killing remain of concern, with a PIKE value of more than 0.5 at the continental level, which means that in 2017 more elephant deaths reported based on elephant carcasses found were attributed to illegal killing than to natural causes. PIKE levels above 0.5 are considered as a cause for concern.
 13. At the subregional level, the PIKE estimate for **Eastern Africa** declined and is below the levels recorded in the sub-region in 2009. As in previous years, the two largest contributors to the total number of carcass records in the subregion are the Tsavo Conservation Area (Kenya) and Samburu-Laikipia (Kenya) MIKE sites, which in 2017 together made up approximately 82% percent of all carcass records received from the subregion. The 2016-2017 drought in Kenya affected these two sites and it may have increased the natural mortality rates due to additional drought-related deaths, and may also have increased the detection rate of carcasses because of reduced foliage and improved visibility. The number of illegally killed elephants reported in Tsavo Conservation Area remained relatively unchanged from 37 in 2016 to 38 in 2017, while in Samburu-Laikipia it increased from 58 in 2016 to 87 in 2017. However, even though the number of illegally killed elephants remained similar or increased, the PIKE estimates decreased at both sites. This highlighted again that PIKE could be biased downwards if the total carcass count is raised because of adverse environmental conditions, such as drought (Burn et al. 2011²). Burn et al. (2011) found that if adverse environmental conditions cause high mortality while the true poaching rate remains constant, the PIKE will be lower.
 14. The subregional PIKE estimate for **Southern Africa** increased due to a number of MIKE sites in the region showing an increase in PIKE levels since 2016. These sites include Chobe National Park (Botswana), Kruger National Park (South Africa), South Luangwa National Park (Zimbabwe) and Niassa Game reserve (Mozambique).
 15. Subregional trends in **Central Africa** remain concerningly high, with an average PIKE value of 0.76 over the last three years. In **West Africa**, it is particularly difficult to make reliable inference based on the year-on-year trend due to the low number of carcasses reported, and data quality and quantity remains a challenge. The PIKE is however concerningly high for sites where reporting is being done.
 16. The report in Annex 1 does not include an analysis of MIKE data for Asian elephants. Information on trends in levels of illegal killing of elephants in Asia, based on data covering the period ending on 31 December 2015, was provided in the report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017)³. It is unfortunate that the implementation of MIKE in Asia has not benefited from

² Burn RW, Underwood FM, Blanc J (2011) Global Trends and Factors Associated with the Illegal Killing of Elephants: A Hierarchical Bayesian Analysis of Carcass Encounter Data. *PLoS ONE* 6(9): e24165. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0024165>

³ See document SC69 Doc 51.1, Annex.

consistent long-term support, unlike MIKE implementation in Africa which has been receiving generous financial support from the European Union since 2001. Fortunately, the European Union is now providing financial support to the implementation of MIKE in Asia through the Asia Wildlife Enforcement and Demand Management Project. This has facilitated the re-launch of the MIKE programme in the region. Subregional support units in South Asia and Southeast Asia are engaging countries to obtain information for 2016 and 2017 to be included in the analysis for the report to the 18th Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP18, Colombo, May 2019).

Legal trade in ivory

17. The **analysis of reported trade** in *Loxodonta africana* specimens using CITES annual trade report data over the period 2015-2016 shows that legal trade principally comprised wild-sourced hunting trophies (including tusks), and skins and skin pieces for commercial purposes.
18. Based on this analysis, no exporting range State appears to have exceeded its annual export quota set in 2015. However, quotas appear to have been exceeded in 2016 by two range States: Botswana and Namibia. It is important to note that quota excesses for elephant tusks can be difficult to establish due to reporting practices that are not aligned with the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, and trade reports that are based on permits issued rather than on actual trade.
19. The *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* encourage CITES Parties to present information in a standard form that enables monitoring of the extent of trade and implementation of the Convention. The most recent version of the Guidelines, published in January 2017, includes further clarification regarding the reporting on hunting trophies to ensure that the CITES trade database reflects more accurately the actual number of animals traded as hunting trophies. In practice, many Parties do not follow the Guidelines consistently, and this can lead to double-counting of trophies, which may explain the anomalies in the reports from Botswana and Namibia for 2016. A more systematic collection of serial numbers in annual reports will also support CITES implementation and analysis of reports to monitor compliance with the Convention.

African Elephant Fund and implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan

20. Progress is reported by the **African Elephant Fund** Steering Committee (AEFSC) in overseeing the implementation of the **African Elephant Action Plan** (AEAP) and managing the Africa Elephant Fund (AEF). Since its inception in 2010, the African Elephant Fund has funded 39 projects in African elephant range States in support of the implementation of the AEAP. The AEFSC has allocated USD 3,249,458.84 of the total funds received (USD 3,458,954.53) from Belgium, China, the European Commission, France, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to support the implementation of the AEAP. During the 10th AEFSC meeting (Kasane, March 2018), new funding pledges were made by Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Illegal trade in elephant specimens

21. A descriptive summary of certain aspects of the raw **Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)** data for 2017, including the most recent developments with respect to the reported number and estimated weight of large-scale ivory seizures, is included in the report contained in **Annex 1** and provides some insights into the illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens. The report does not include a new analysis of bias-adjusted ETIS data, which was not possible given the late receipt of seizure data in this reporting period. The bias-adjusted trend analysis for 2017 (together with a new cluster analysis covering the years 2015-2017) will be presented in the ETIS analysis to CoP18.
22. As of 21 June 2018, there were 28,490 records in ETIS, of which 25,822 represent ivory seizures, while the remainder comprised of non-ivory elephant products.
23. The number of ivory seizure cases reported to ETIS for 2017 totaled 1,008, which represents nearly a 20% drop from the previous year, and a 30% decrease against the 2015 data. There are various reasons why 2017 is believed to have fewer seizures reported to ETIS than would be expected, including failure of certain countries that usually report to submit data, personnel changes at the World Customs Organization that resulted in delays in exchanging information, and a number of countries failing to submit data. It is premature to ascribe the reduction in the number of seizure cases reported to ETIS to a decline in illegal ivory trade at this time.

24. Even though 2017 currently stands at a nine-year low in terms of reported ivory seizure cases, possibly for the reasons described above, the estimated quantity of ivory seized, 38,600 kg, represents only a 1% decrease from the quantity seized in 2016 and a 13% decrease from 2015. One exceptionally large seizure of 7,030 kg of ivory made by China (Hong Kong SAR) authorities in July 2017 is responsible for this result. Regardless, given the deficiencies in reporting described above, and the fact that these data are not yet bias-corrected, it would be premature to interpret this result as evidence of a decline in the quantity of illegal ivory in trade at this time.
25. In 2017, the 11 reported large-scale ivory seizures (i.e. a seizure of 500 kg of ivory or more) occurred in countries participating in the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) process, specifically three each in Cameroon and Viet Nam, two in Malaysia, and one each in Cambodia, China (Hong Kong SAR) and Uganda.
26. Although Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) urges Parties to collect samples from large-scale seizures and to provide these samples for forensic analysis, only six (11.5%) of the 52 seizures of 500 kg or more reported to ETIS in the period 2015 through 2017 had been forensically tested with the information becoming part of the seizure record for the report on illegal trade in elephant specimens. Overall, in terms of fulfilling the mandate for forensic analysis articulated in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), less than one quarter of large-scale ivory seizures are being analyzed (i.e. 19 out of 87 such seizures recorded by ETIS since 2013 when the CITES Parties recommended forensic testing).
27. With regards to the emerging illegal ivory trade pattern that suggests an increase in ivory processing within Africa for the export of products to Asian markets (as described in document SC69 Doc. 51.1, Annex), raw unadjusted data for 2017 continue to provide evidence of this phenomenon with at least 24 seizure cases from four African countries representing 1.11 tonnes of worked ivory being moved from Africa to Asia.
28. The reporting of elephant product seizure data to ETIS remains a major concern because the majority of CITES Parties are not reporting to ETIS in a timely manner; thereby jeopardizing the successful operation of the CITES monitoring system for tracking illegal trade in elephant ivory. Seventy-five percent of the records reported to ETIS in 2017 were received more than 90 days after the occurrence of the seizure. If the time frame for reporting agreed to in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) is adhered to, all seizure data would be available to ETIS by the end of March of each year.
29. A number of datasets also appear incomplete. Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) broadly defines seizures as any event “*that takes place in their territories*” and the ETIS data collection form specifically allows for Parties to identify any number of legal offences when reporting the reason behind individual seizures. In this regard, seizures are not limited to a country’s ports of exit or entry, but also cover internal markets, protected areas or any other location within a country. Unfortunately, some Parties only provide customs data, but fail to address elephant product seizure cases that result from law enforcement actions that occur elsewhere within their borders.
30. The report in Annex 1 to this document also provides information relating to the SC69 request to TRAFFIC⁴ and the steps TRAFFIC have taken to secure funding to implement the four requests that was contingent on the provision of external funding. TRAFFIC developed a funding strategy that contains detailed information on the resources required to implement the SC69 request. The funding strategy was distributed to CITES Parties through Notification to the Parties No. 2018/068 of 19 July 2018.

Observations by the Secretariat

31. The report in Annex 1 provides an update since SC69, highlighting the work being done by the IUCN SSC African elephant Specialist Group and the Asian elephant Specialist Group; the analysis of trade records for elephant specimens contained in the CITES trade database; a substantial new trend analysis of the illegal killing of elephants based on updates of MIKE data for 2017; and information relating to illegal trade in elephant specimens.
32. The Secretariat concurs with the views expressed by most contributors to the report that for CITES-related matters, emphasis should be placed on implementation of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), relating to reporting and the submission of elephant-related data.

⁴ See document SC69 SR paragraph 51.1.

33. In terms of the analysis of annual report data, challenges clearly remain in terms of standardizing reporting relating to trade in elephant specimens, presenting difficulties in monitoring the extent of the legal and illegal trade and identifying possible compliance matters.

MIKE and ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee

34. The MIKE Subgroup was first established by the CITES Standing Committee at its 41st meeting (Geneva, February 1999) to oversee further development, refinement and implementation of the systems known as Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE). At its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003) the mandate of the Subgroup was expanded to include ETIS. At its 68th meeting (Johannesburg, October 2016), the Committee reconstituted the Subgroup with the following composition:

- *Four African elephant range States (2 anglophone and 2 francophone): Congo, Ethiopia, Niger and Namibia;*
- *Two Asian elephant range States: China and Indonesia; and*
- *Two representatives from Europe and North America: Belgium and Canada*

35. At SC69, Canada was elected as the Chair of the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup and Namibia as the Vice-Chair.

36. The MIKE and ETIS Subgroup intends to meet in the margins of the present meeting, and report back to the Standing Committee later at the meeting. The following matters will be discussed by the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup:

- a) Amendment to the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup Terms of Reference adopted at SC61;
- b) Update on MIKE and ETIS implementation;
- c) Membership of the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group;
- d) Terms of Reference for a review of the ETIS programme (document SC70 Doc. 49.3);
- e) Data access and non-disclosure agreements;
- f) Funding in support of MIKE and ETIS; and
- g) Potential review of MIKE network.

Trade in Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)

37. At CoP17, the following Decisions were adopted concerning Asian elephants:

Directed to Parties

17.217 All Parties involved in the trade in live Asian elephants are encouraged to:

- a) undertake, as necessary, investigations into the illegal trade in live Asian elephants, 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 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *upon request and pending the availability of external funding, assist the range States of Asian elephants in their implementation of Decision 17.217; and*
- b) *incorporate information provided by range States in accordance with Decision 17.217, paragraph e), together with other findings and recommendations concerning trade in live Asian elephants 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.*

- 38. Concerning the implementation of Decision 17.218, paragraph a), to date, the Secretariat has not received requests from range States for assistance in their implementation of Decision 17.217.
- 39. Concerning the implementation of Decision 17.218, paragraph b), the Secretariat undertook research regarding the implementation of paragraphs b) and d) of Decision 17.217 by Asian elephant range States. It examined available data and literature, and contacted the 13 Asian elephant range States, as well as 14 relevant organizations and experts [including the IUCN/SSC Asian elephant Specialist Group (AsESG)]. Seven range States, and all expert non-governmental organizations and individuals responded to the questionnaires that had been developed for this purpose.
- 40. The results of the study is available to the present meeting as an information document. They include: an overview of information concerning the management of captive Asian elephants in the 13 range States; information on the status of registration and marking systems for live Asian elephants in the 13 range States; and a comparison between different marking and registration systems for live animals such as Asian elephants.
- 41. In conclusion, for their management of captive Asian elephants, Asian elephant range States are recommended to consider the *AsESG Guidelines for registration of captive Asian elephants* and the *AsESG guidelines for captive Asian elephant management*. Where possible, range States are encouraged to adopt double marking and registration systems (e.g. DNA markers combined with microchips or electronic tags).

Ivory stockpiles

- 42. Paragraph 6. e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev.CoP17) urges Parties to:
 - e) *maintain an inventory of government- held stockpiles of ivory and, where possible, of significant privately held stockpiles of ivory within their territory, and inform the Secretariat of the level of this stock each year before 28 February, inter alia to be made available to the programme Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) for their analyses, indicating: the number of pieces and their weight per type of ivory (raw or worked); for relevant pieces, and if marked, their markings in accordance with the provisions of the Resolution; the source of the ivory; and the reasons for any significant changes in the stockpile compared to the preceding year.*
- 43. On 29 December 2017, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2017/079 to remind Parties of the above reporting obligation. The table below shows the number of Parties making ivory stock declarations received in recent years. It should be noted however, that not all replies contained all the information requested in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), and some did not provide the total amount of such stockpiles.

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of Parties submitting ivory stock declarations	10	24	13	16	22

44. The Secretariat is aware of a number of thefts of ivory from government-held stockpiles in recent years and in order to avoid elevating potential security risks, it has not included details of the information that it has received from the Parties in the present document. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat has made country-specific data from the ivory stock declarations of Parties available to MIKE and ETIS for analysis.
45. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.171 on *Stocks and stockpiles of elephant ivory* which directed the Secretariat as follows:

Where appropriate, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with Parties and subject to external funding:

- a) develop practical guidance for the management of ivory stockpiles, including their disposal, based on an analysis of best practices and in accordance with provisions in Resolutions Conf. 17.8 on Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species and Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on Trade in elephant specimens;*
- b) disseminate the guidance to the Parties and make it available on the CITES website; and*
- c) report on the implementation of this Decision as part of its regular reporting to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), prior to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

and Decision 17.172 directing the Standing Committee to make recommendations for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

46. Following the Committee's discussions at SC69 on this matter, the Secretariat met with the non-governmental organizations TRAFFIC and Stop Ivory with a view to analyzing the ivory stockpile management system developed by the latter as an example of best practice. This analysis has begun with a review of its deployment in Mozambique. In order to assist the completion of this work, the Secretariat has received a donation of USD 20,000 from a group of non-governmental organizations: Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, IFAW – International Fund for Animal Welfare, Natural Resources Defense Council, Stop Ivory and Species Survival Network and would like to put on record its grateful thanks to them for their support.
47. The Secretariat intends to complete this work in time to report to the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee, in line with the instruction from the Conference of the Parties in paragraph c) of Decision 17.171.

Implementation of provisions relating to domestic ivory markets contained in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev.CoP17)

48. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties amended Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in Elephant specimens* to, *inter alia*, address the issue of domestic ivory markets that contribute to international trade in ivory.
49. The relevant new provisions are set out in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 8 of the Resolution as follows:
- 3. RECOMMENDS that all Parties and non-Parties in whose jurisdiction there is a legal domestic market for ivory that is contributing to poaching or illegal trade, take all necessary legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures to close their domestic markets for commercial trade in raw and worked ivory as a matter of urgency;*

4. *RECOGNIZES that narrow exemptions to this closure for some items may be warranted; any exemptions should not contribute to poaching or illegal trade;*
5. *URGES those Parties in whose jurisdiction there is a legal domestic market for ivory that is contributing to poaching or illegal trade and that have not closed their domestic ivory markets for commercial trade in ivory to implement the above recommendation as a matter of urgency; [...]*
8. *REQUESTS Parties to inform the Secretariat of 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;*
50. At its 69th meeting, the Standing Committee directed the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties drawing their attention to paragraph 3 of the Resolution Conf. 10.10 (see SC69 SR, paragraph 51.2).
51. As directed, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2017/077 of 19 December 2017, requesting concerned Parties to provide information on the status of the legality of their domestic ivory markets, and efforts to implement the provisions of the Resolution, including efforts to close domestic markets that contribute to poaching or illegal trade, pursuant to paragraph 8 of the Resolution Conf. 10.10, as soon as possible and no later than 15 April 2018.
52. At the time of writing, the following 12 Parties had submitted information in response to the Notification: Australia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Greece, Hong Kong SAR (China), Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. The responses are contained in the Annex 2 to the present document. The Secretariat would like to express its appreciation to the 12 Parties that submitted information regarding 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.
53. The Secretariat would like to draw attention to Notification to the Parties No. 2018/057 of 1 June 2018 concerning stricter domestic measures on ivory trade in Hong Kong SAR, China as well as to Notification to the Parties No. 2018/061 of 13 June 2018 concerning Japan's tightened regulations on ivory transactions.
54. The Secretariat would further like to draw attention to document SC70 Doc. 28 on *Domestic controls in consumer markets for specimens of CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal*, prepared under Decision 17.87. The first phase of this study focuses on the controls of domestic ivory trade in nine selected markets. Based on the findings of the study, the Secretariat has prepared some recommendations for the Standing Committee contained in that document.

Reporting by the Standing Committee to CoP18

55. Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), in paragraph 16, directs the Standing Committee to:
- a) *review actions taken by the Parties to implement the provisions of this Resolution, particularly – but not limited to – the provisions concerning trade in elephant specimens; [...]*
- c) *report the results at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
56. The present document and its annexes and document SC70 Doc. 27.4 provide information relating to the implementation of some provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17). In order to assist the Standing Committee in its reporting at CoP18, the Committee could request the Secretariat to draft a report on its behalf, 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.

Recommendations

57. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the information contained in this document, as well as the annexes to the present document;
- b) remind 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*;
- c) remind 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);
- d) recognize the contributions that several Parties have made to the African Elephant Fund and the continued need for funding to support the implement the African Elephant Action Plan;
- e) encourage Parties to provide financial support to TRAFFIC for the implementation of the request by SC69 concerning ETIS;
- f) note that the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup intends to meet in the margins of the present meeting, and report back later in the week;
- g) encourage Asian elephant range States to consider the *AsESG Guidelines for registration of captive Asian elephants* and the *AsESG guidelines for captive Asian elephant management* for their management of captive Asian elephants;
- h) note 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 paragraph c) of Decision 17.171;
- i) encourage 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); and
- j) request the Secretariat to draft a report on its behalf for consideration by 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.