

CIC Position Statements for Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CITES CoP19)

Highlighted areas indicated the agenda items that were closely followed as part of conference proceedings.

10. CITES Strategic Vision

CIC Position

The CIC welcomes and fully supports the adoption of the draft decisions on the CITES Strategic Vision contained in Annex 1 of CoP19 Doc. 10.

We are in principle supportive of the revised Strategic Vision as proposed in the Annex of document CoP19 Doc 10, which is more concise than the previous one. We fully support what the CITES Secretariat had proposed with regard to any revision or amendment of respective targets

13. Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities

CIC Position

The CIC is still concerned that, contrary to other MEAs, CITES does not currently have a mechanism allowing for robust participation of IPLCs in the CITES decision-making processes. Without a proper system or an established process which would allow for IPLCs to participate in the decision-making mechanism, CITES will fail to enhance significantly its principal conservation objectives that it might otherwise achieve by fully including IPLCs in the decision-making mechanisms of the Convention.

One way forward to which the CIC would fully agree would be encouraging Parties to allow IPLCs both on the national and international level to better engage in decision and implementation processes as proposed by the CITES Secretariat through the annexed draft Decision.

14. Livelihoods

CIC Position

The CIC was included as an Observer member of the intersessional working group on CITES and livelihoods. Aside from the communication received on 26 Feb 2021 from the CITES Secretariat, no further communication from the Chair or other members of the Working Group was received. We do, however, support the re-establishment of the intersessional working group on CITES and livelihoods, which will collaborate with the CITES Secretariat to implement decision 18.34 (Rev. CoP19) with the mandate as proposed in document CoP 19 Doc 14.

The CIC is further pleased to note the progress made on this important issue and that the useful report on '*Exploring the Use of Registered Marks of Certification and other Traceability Mechanisms for Products of CITES-listed Species produced by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to enhance Conservation and Livelihood Outcomes*' has now been made widely available. However, both the review of this report as well as the review of the report of the livelihood working group requires more time and effort. Therefore, the proposed Decisions in document CoP 19 Doc 14 are fully supported by the CIC and the international conservation hunting community.

15. Participatory mechanisms for rural communities in CITES

CIC Position

The CIC strongly believes that without a system for IPLCs to participate in the CITES decision-making mechanism, it will be difficult to advance in species and habitat conservation. It comes as a great concern that currently CITES does not have a mechanism for the participation of IPLCs in their decision-making processes. Being unable to establish a Rural Communities Committee at CoP18 due to certain disagreements in technical terminology and due to the legal competence of this committee was indeed unfortunate.

The current approach that this document entails in aiming to establish a Rural Communities sub-Committee as an advisory body to the Animals and Plants Committees will serve a great purpose in better representing the IPLCs in the CITES decision making processes. This proposal is also well in line with the 2018 UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

The CIC believes that the establishment of a permanent rural communities committee under Resolution Conf. 18.2 is a great step forward that will engage IPLCs to participate in the CITES decision-making processes. Therefore, the CIC fully supports this proposal submitted by the governments of Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

17.3. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

CIC Position

We recognize the huge potential in increasing cooperation between CITES and IPBES, particularly with regard to fostering "the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings, and related trade resolutions and decisions.

It is of critical importance to the conservation of wild fauna and flora that the science underpinning policy decisions, as far as possible, are unbiased and objective. In this regard, IPBES provides an excellent mechanism for developing such science to inform policy decisions.

In light of the excellent IPBES report on the *Sustainable use of wild species assessment* adopted in July at the 9th IPBES Plenary, the CIC fully supports the decision proposed by the Standing Committee in the Annex 1 of CoP 19 Doc. 17.3. Sustainable utilization of wildlife is one of the key objectives of the CIC's mission with regard to the conservation of wildlife worldwide.

We recognize the significant overlap in the works of IPBES and CITES. Therefore, we are pleased to note and support cooperative efforts that have been implemented by the CITES and IPBES Secretariats in the scope of the extended Memorandum of Cooperation to match the duration of the 2030 rolling work programme of IPBES.

21. Review of the ETIS programme

CIC Position

The CIC supports the proposed amendments to paragraph 27 g) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* to involve in future the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) for global research and analysis of MIKE and ETIS data. Furthermore, the CIC also agrees on the proposed and politically important amendments to Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* in particular on data ownership and data stewardship as outlined in the present document in its Annex 4.

22. MIKE and ETIS programmes

CIC Position

The CIC is very much concerned about the problematic financial situation, with the important MIKE programme in particular likely facing issues in the coming years. Therefore, the CIC does in principle support the three draft decisions in paragraph 38 of document SC 74 Doc. 13. However, the CIC is also concerned about the continuously increasing costs associated with MIKE, a programme that was originally designed to be to some extent self-sustaining. In this regard the CIC would support the Secretariats proposed way forward in draft decision 19 BB iii), i.e. *'...continue to enhance operational performances, including improvements to the MIKE Online Database and online training, and identifying and implementing cost-effective approaches to deliver on MIKE objectives'*.

23. Role of CITES in reducing the risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade

CIC Position

The CIC would like to remind Parties that the mandate of the CITES convention is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. We encourage Parties not to diverge from the key mission of CITES, which is primarily to regulate international trade. Therefore, any CITES Resolution and Decision taken should fall within the mandate of CITES and align with the aim of the Convention.

23.2. One Health and CITES: Human and animal health risks from wildlife trade

CIC Position

The proposed resolution is not only impractical, but goes well beyond the main mandate of CITES. The resolution does not reflect the fact that there are already a number of existing protocols that actively ensure that infected species are not taken beyond borders. Exporting live individuals requires strict veterinary inspections, including a variety of tests for zoonotic diseases. The focus should not be to create new protocols but to try and strengthen the tools and mechanisms already in place.

While certain sections of the resolution that speak about strengthening cooperation with other MEAs regarding One Health Approach are to be encouraged, this resolution looks to be heavily driven by the NGOs who are actively against any form of utilization of wildlife and look to create new visible barriers in order to prevent any sustainable use. The CIC considers this resolution as a clear indicator for eliminating all wildlife trade. As the text stands now, this document should be withdrawn.

51. Quotas for leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hunting trophies

CIC Position

The CIC would like to remind CITES Parties that as a result of the species review, there is no evidence that the adopted quotas by the CITES outlined in Resolution Conf. 10.14 had been considered as being unsustainable or detrimental.

The conservation and management of leopards in Africa is one of the CITES success stories since the adoption of the respective CITES Resolution at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The trade efforts outlined in Res. Conf. 10.14 has never posed concern, unlike the tens of thousands of leopard skins that were traded annually for the fur industry before CITES entered

into force. The quota system has proven to be a useful tool for leopard conservation and sustainable use, except for stricter domestic measures that in some instances have impeded beneficial trade. The Parties should also congratulate the range states that are implementing the quota system for carrying forward robust adaptive management systems that secure the survival of the largest and most successful leopard populations around the globe.

66. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

66.1 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens*

CIC Position

The CIC fully supports the regular review of actions undertaken by the Parties with regard to the implementation of this resolution. The CIC is pleased to note the responses on action taken to close domestic ivory markets that were received from Parties following the two notifications issued by the CITES Secretariat. We note that based on the information supplied by Parties, the vast majority of prohibitions reportedly in place, or envisaged, does concern "commercial imports and exports of ivory" or the "possession of ivory for commercial purposes." This aligns with the requests contained in the relevant Notifications to Parties from the CITES Secretariat. However, the CIC is also concerned about the lack of responses received so far. More needs to be done! Therefore, the CIC concurs with the Secretariat to renew Decision 18.117 to 18.119 as proposed in ANNEX 1 of document CoP 19 Doc 66.1.

On trade in mammoth ivory, the CIC notes with concern that the requested study - which should have focused on the impact of trade on the illegal trade in elephant ivory, and poaching - couldn't be been undertaken due to lack of funding. The CIC considers such research as an important undertaking to better cope with the still ongoing - but reduced - illegal ivory trade. Therefore, the CIC fully supports the two decisions in ANNEX 2 of this document.

On enhancing the enforcement, management and monitoring of private and government ivory stockpiles, the CIC supports the proposal of new draft decisions in ANNEX 4 of the present document for adoption. The sharing of information relating to new techniques and technologies related to practical guidance on ivory stockpile management is an important step forward to better cope with ongoing illegal trade in ivory originating from stockpiles.

66.2 Ivory stockpiles

66.2.1 Ivory stockpiles: Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on Trade in elephant specimens

CIC Position

The CIC does not support the document as submitted by Benin, Burkina Faso and eight other African Parties. The CIC would rather like to align itself with the CITES Secretariats comments and recommendations made on this document on page 10 and 11, specifically as this document is to some extent in sharp conflict to document CoP 19 Doc 66.1.

66.5 Report on the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)

CIC Position

The MIKE report as prepared by the Secretariat and mandated via CITES Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) is in principle for information of Parties and all stakeholders. The data collected shows positive downwards trends for West, Southern and Eastern Africa on monitoring illegal killed elephants. However, with regard to Central Africa, the trend in the last five years (2017-2021) shows no evidence of a downward trend which the CIC notes with great concern.

The CIC notes the findings of paragraph 31 with particular interest as follows:

*"Previous reports to the Conference of Parties and the Standing Committee reflected on the potential impact of CITES decisions relating to the international sale of government-owned raw ivory stocks from four populations of *Loxodonta africana* included in Appendix II (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) to approved trading partners (China and Japan) on the levels of illegal killing of elephants (documents CoP16 Doc. 53.1; SC65 Doc. 42.1). These reports indicated that no evidence was found to suggest that illegal killing of elephants increased or decreased as a result of the one-off ivory sales or the nine-year moratorium. The illegal ivory trade is a complex dynamic system involving many different countries and players with different drivers acting at different places and on different temporal and spatial scales along the trade chain. It is therefore difficult to determine causation of specific events and decisions. To understand whether a particular event has affected the illegal killing of elephants and the illegal ivory trade, its role would need to be assessed in relation to all other potential drivers of the trade. Any analysis should therefore look at the relative contribution of different drivers, rather than attempting to attribute any changes to a single cause. However, it is extremely challenging, and perhaps impossible, to disentangle these effects in the context of broader trends that lie beyond the control of CITES"*

66.6. Report on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)

CIC Position

As with the MIKE report **the ETIS** report as prepared by the Secretariat and mandated via CITES Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) is in principle for information of Parties and all stakeholders.

The CIC notes the findings of paragraphs 7-9 with particular interest as follows:

7. Countries that presented new illegal trade dynamics are mentioned as Category C as they are deemed as "countries to watch". More refinements might be made in future categorization of Parties to Category C (**affected by trade in ivory**), as well as Categories A (**most affected by illegal trade**) and B (**markedly affected by illegal trade**), based on the implementation of the proposed recommendations emanating from the review of the ETIS programme (see document CoP19 Doc. 21).

8. The Secretariat concurs with this assessment in Annex 1:

- a) Category A: **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Viet Nam;**
- b) Category B: **Cambodia, China, Gabon, Malaysia, and Mozambique;** and
- c) Category C: **South Sudan** (non-Party).

9. The Secretariat will develop recommendations for consideration by the 75th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC75, Panama City, November 2022) in line with the Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plans Process in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) and provide an oral update at the present meeting.

67. CITES Big Cats Task Force (Felidae spp.)

CIC Position

The CIC agrees in principle with the adoption of the draft decisions 19.AA and 19.BB concerning the re-establishment of the CITES Big Cats Task Force contained in Annex 1 to the CoP19 Doc. 67.

The CIC would like to stress that while the Big Cat Task Force activities should be, and according to the TOR, focused on preventing illegal trade in big cat species, the important role that sustainable use and legal trade can and does play in the conservation of the respective species should inform any outputs. This is particularly important when considering best practices to prevent and detect attempts to launder illegal specimens through legal trade. This is an important issue which must be addressed, but prevention measures must not undermine any incentives that legal trade can provide for the conservation of species. The CIC would therefore urge that the re-established Task Force would not lose sight of this important aspect with regard to the conservation of the respective target species.

68. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

CIC Position

The CIC is pleased to note the progress made to implement Decisions 18.100 – 18.107 directed to the Parties. However, continuous seizures of Asian big cats specimens, including those that originated from captive breeding facilities, remains of considerable concern. Hence, the CIC encourages the Parties to further scale up their efforts to address illegal trade in Asian big cats and strengthen the exchange of information by bringing significant seizures and/or findings to the immediate attention of relevant authorities. The CIC agrees with the recommendations of the Secretariat in encouraging Parties to enhance any regular monitoring and inspections of facilities for keeping Asian big cats in captivity. In addition, the CIC encourages the range states to conduct more and continuous research in all range states regarding big cats and share the results to allow for better management strategies. In conclusion, the CIC fully endorses the proposed amendments to CITES Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP 18) on

72. African lions (*Panthera leo*)

CIC Position

The CIC is concerned about the limited progress made to implement CITES Decisions 18.244 – 18.250. Therefore, the CIC supports the renewal of these decisions beyond CITES CoP 19.

In addition, the CIC took note of the report on the review of the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa (GCLA) prepared by the co-chairs of the working group on African lions. While the CIC recognizes the GCLA as a significant guidance document for the conservation of African lion, the CIC would however like to remind that the document was first worked on in the early-mid 2010s. Since then, new research and data have emerged and it is important to include these findings in the guidelines. The CIC further notes that the document focuses too extensively on the Southern African states where the lion populations are doing well. The Guidelines should instead focus elsewhere where lion populations are in decline.

The issue of captive breeding as well as trade in lion parts would need more comprehensive coverage to provide more targeted guidance where necessary. The CIC considers nonetheless that such guidelines are crucial and therefore welcomes the initiative to develop the next version of the GCLA, so that this might include the most recent updates, thus ensuring that the guidelines are up-to-date and contain relevant and meaningful information that can support the effective conservation of African lions.

The CIC welcomes the establishment of the CMS-CITES webportal on African lions, referred to in Paragraph d) of Decision 18.244 and believes that it will serve in future as an important tool for information sharing and guidance on the conservation and management of African lions.

Poaching, both of captive bred and wild lions, for the bone trade has been an ongoing serious enforcement and management issue far beyond the range of African CIC State Members such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Tanzania. However, these CIC State Members - who are still among the most significant range states of African lion – as well as the CIC Administrative Office staff and CIC Experts, have significant expertise to offer to help advance on activities listed under paragraph c) of decision 18.246.

75. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)

CIC Position

First of all, the CIC would like to commend both India and Nepal for their outstanding efforts to efficiently protect their greater one-horned rhinoceros populations. The highly worrying negative population trend of the Sumatran rhino definitely merits closer attention including research into the causes of the downwards trend.

With regard to African rhino populations, the CIC notes with pleasure the positive trends of black rhino populations during the past five years in several major range states such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Kenya.

However, the CIC has great concerns with the continuing poaching and illegal trade of horns from white rhinos, which - despite recent progress - needs continuous special efforts particularly those concerning range states such as South Africa, but also important transit nations such as Qatar, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates or principal consumer destinations such as Vietnam and China. The CIC therefore fully supports both the proposed amendments to CITES Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and Trade in African and Asian Rhinoceroses* in ANNEX 2 of Document CoP 19 Doc75 (Rev.1) and the 8 draft Decisions on rhinoceroses in ANNEX 3 of Document CoP 19 Doc75 (Rev.1)

76. Saiga antelope (Saiga spp.)

CIC Position

The CIC applauds the implementation of the decisions 18.270 to 18.274 of the CoP19 Doc. 76 and is pleased to see that the efforts have resulted in increasing Saiga population numbers in several range states. While it is crucial to focus the practical conservation activities on increasing the population numbers, it is important to remain aware of the possible human-wildlife conflict that may arise as a result of large Saiga populations. Therefore, we emphasize not only the conservation and protection of this species but also the need for management of their populations through sustainable use by involving local communities.

The CIC encourages all range States of the Saiga antelope and important consumer and trading countries of Saiga parts and derivatives, to implement the measures directed to them in the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025 [MTIWP (2021-2025)]. In this regard, the CIC welcomes the feasibility study on the sustainable use of Saiga antelopes titled "*The Sustainable Use of Saiga Antelopes: Perspectives and Prospects*". The CIC is especially pleased to see strong priorities being set in the MTIWP (2021-2025) with regard to enhanced anti-poaching initiatives, which call for updating national anti-poaching strategies and strengthening anti-poaching units and, where needed, establishing more anti-poaching units for the protection of all Saiga populations in all Range States. In light of the pending conservation challenges and threats, the CIC fully agrees to renew Decisions 18.270 to 18.274.

87.1. Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

CIC Position

The CIC does in principle support any decision that assists in enhancing the livelihoods of resource dependent communities worldwide. The proposed amendment will definitely be of particular relevance for developing countries by addressing CITES listing decision-making, taking into consideration the importance of the interaction between human beings and the environment. The CIC, which fully supports the proposal by Botswana, Cambodia, Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe, would also like to take this opportunity to remind the international CITES conservation community that decisions and resolutions already adopted at past CoP's are more important than ever before in addressing the dire needs of livelihoods, local communities and food security worldwide.

88. Reservations entered after the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

CIC Position

The CIC supports the principal intention behind the CITES's Secretariat document with the respective recommendations for consideration at the 19th Conference of the Parties in order to start a process to clarify the practical legal questions that have arisen after CITES CoP 18 in relation to the update of references to Resolutions in the new Appendices, concerning the African elephant. In addition, the CIC strongly recommends that more substantial legal expertise on this particular issue - expertise that touches fundamental basics of international law and far beyond the provisions of CITES - should be sought from respective UN bodies.

89. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

Hippopotamus (CoP19 Prop. 1 Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo)

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

CIC Position

The CIC, as well as the CITES Secretariat and the IUCN Red List, considers the hippo population on the global scale neither as restricted in its distribution area nor small in its size. The IUCN 2016 Red List assessment even estimated the global hippo population at 115-130 thousand specimens, which does not suggest that hippos are threatened with extinction. The most active exporter countries of Hippopotamus derivatives are those in Eastern and Southern Africa. In these states, the populations have even been increasing significantly in numbers (such as in Zambia), or are maintained at stable levels.

It is unclear that international trade is the main driver of the reduction of Hippo numbers. As with other species such as rhinos, elephants, and pangolins, there is a high risk that any Appendix I listing will move the trade of hippo products into illegal channels. Furthermore, in many cases of CITES Appendix I listings, there is little evidence that shows the respective species have been helped as a result of the listing. The CIC is seriously concerned that the listing of hippos in CITES Appendix I could even lead to increased poaching and illegal trade of their parts and derivatives. Therefore, any trade ban would be totally counterproductive. Hence, the CIC recommends that Parties should reject this proposal as submitted by the respective Parties.

White rhinoceros population of Namibia (CoP19 Prop. 2 Botswana and Namibia)

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II with the following annotation: For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in:

- a) live animals for in-situ conservation only
- b) hunting trophies. All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly

CIC Position

We note in particular Namibia's National Strategy on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement 2021 to 2025, and the Operation Blue Rhino Special Report 2021/01, which result in a shift from reactive to proactive law enforcement to combat wildlife crime, and also the associated reductions in rhinoceros losses reported both by Namibia and by South Africa.

The CIC supports this proposal strongly as it presents to the international conservation community a well-documented and great conservation success that meets entirely the criteria for a transfer to CITES Appendix II as laid down in CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24.. Namibia now has the second largest white rhino population in the world, one that has more than doubled in the last 10 years. Therefore, the CIC fully supports this proposal and recommends that the Parties adopt it as it stands.

African elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe (CoP19 Prop. 4 Zimbabwe)

Amend Annotation 2 pertaining to the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. (Proposed amendments are shown in blue)

For the exclusive purpose of allowing:

- a) trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes
- b) trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations, as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17), for Botswana and Zimbabwe and for in situ conservation programmes for Namibia and South Africa;
- c) trade in hides;
- d) trade in hair;
- e) trade in leather goods for commercial or non-commercial purposes for Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe *and for non-commercial purposes for Zimbabwe;*
- f) trade in individually marked and certified ekipas incorporated in finished jewellery for non-commercial purposes for Namibia and ivory carvings for non-commercial purposes for Zimbabwe;
- g) trade in registered raw ivory (for Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, whole tusks and pieces) subject to the following:
 - i) only registered government-owned stocks, originating in the State (excluding seized ivory and ivory of unknown origin);
 - ii) only to trading partners that have been verified by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to have sufficient national legislation and domestic trade controls to ensure that the imported ivory will not be re-exported and will be managed in accordance with all requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) concerning domestic manufacturing and trade;
 - iii) not before the Secretariat has verified the prospective importing countries and the registered government-owned stocks;
 - iv) raw ivory pursuant to the conditional sale of registered government-owned ivory stocks agreed at CoP12, which are 20,000 kg (Botswana), 10,000 kg (Namibia) and 30,000 kg (South Africa);*
 - v) in addition to the quantities agreed at CoP12, government-owned ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe registered by 31 January 2007 and verified by the Secretariat may be traded and dispatched, with the ivory in paragraph (g)*
 - iv) above, in a single sale per destination under the strict supervision of the Secretariat;*
 - vi) the proceeds of the trade are used exclusively for elephant conservation and*

community conservation and development programmes within or adjacent to the elephant range; and
vii) the additional quantities specified in paragraph g) v) above shall be traded only after the Standing Committee has agreed that the above conditions have been met; and
h) no further proposals to allow trade in elephant ivory from populations already in Appendix II shall be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for the period from CoP14 and ending nine years from the date of the single sale of ivory that is to take place in accordance with provisions in paragraphs g) i), g) ii), g) iii), g) vi) and g) vii). In addition, such further proposals shall be dealt with in accordance with Decisions 16.55 and 14.78 (Rev. CoP16).

CIC Position

The CIC strongly recommends that the Parties to the Convention support Zimbabwe's proposal as it presents a well-documented and great conservation success. The CIC supports at least the removal of those sections of the current listing annotation as a consolidation process, as they are out of date.

African Elephants populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe (CoP19 Prop. 5 Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Syrian Arab Republic)

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

CIC Position

The CIC does not support this proposal and would like to note in this context the positive trend in the reduction of illegally killed African elephants across the continent in the past few years, which documents well that the significant efforts taken by most range states are finally paying off. Furthermore, the CIC takes positive note that since its peak in 2014 – 2015, there has been an overall decreasing trend in illegal ivory trade activity up to 2020, with 2020 estimates comparable to the baseline levels of 2008. Furthermore, Burkina Faso et al have submitted this kind of proposal before without much support by Parties.