



**SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS • 2 JUNE 2007**

SC=Standing Committee • AC = Animals Committee • RC=Resolution Conf. • CoP=Conference of the Parties

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman No Document		No comment
2. Agenda SC55 Doc. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional agenda for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption. 	No comment
3. Rules of Procedure SC55 Doc. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes are proposed to the Rules of Procedure adopted at SC53. 	No comment
4. Credentials No document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	No comment
5. Admission of observers No document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	No comment
6. Clearing House SC55 Doc. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the Standing Committee to appoint a new Member of the CITES Clearing House 	Noted
7. Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) SC55 Doc. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A UNEP report provides information on activities through which UNEP supports the work of the CITES Secretariat, and updates the SC on the implementation of the agreement and the administration of the Secretariat. Substantive cooperation between UNEP and the CITES Secretariat included: reinforcement of compliance and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), harmonization of national reporting, knowledge management and outreach for MEAs, development of economic instruments and of wildlife trade policy reviews, contribution to the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora and to the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP). 	Support in part / Oppose in part <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEAs: SSN congratulates UNEP and the Secretariat on the work in progress on the reinforcement of the implementation of MEAs. This will be key to strengthening compliance of CITES Parties. Lusaka Agreement and GRASP: SSN supports the work of UNEP and the Secretariat efforts in regard to GRASP and the Lusaka Agreement. UNEP-WCMC: SSN encourages the SC, AC and PC to scrutinize UNEP-WCMC reports and to provide feedback to UNEP on any concerns raised over the underlying assumptions, methodologies or other aspects of these reports. Economic instruments: SSN supports the use of incentives for effective implementation of CITES, provided that these are designed to enhance the conservation function of the Convention.

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		<p>CITES does not have a mandate to promote wildlife trade or the commercialization of wildlife, including regulation of economic incentives, benefit sharing, quota auctioning, compensatory mechanisms, or property rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Wildlife trade policy reviews:</u> SSN is opposed to the work on wildlife trade policy reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The socioeconomic issues addressed in the national policy reviews are political, and could mire CITES in ‘gray areas’ where such issues take priority over scientific standards ▪ Taxation, property rights, price structures, market access, subsidy schemes or the distribution of trade revenues lie outside the CITES mandate ▪ Trade policy reviews emphasize promoting trade, consumption and profit and ignore the needs for effective implementation and enforcement of CITES and the use of sound science in wildlife management ▪ Plans for policy reviews are extensive and will require the use of scarce Secretariat resources. SSN believes that the reviews will yield few concrete results for species threatened by trade, and that the CITES would be better served if resources were directed instead to key processes such as the Significant Trade Review and towards supporting enforcement and capacity-building
<p>8. Arrangements for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>8.1 Election of officers 8.2 Other matters</p> <p>No documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No documents 	<p>No comment</p>
<p>9. Cooperation with the World Trade Organization</p> <p>SC55 Doc. 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request its Chairman to write again to the WTO requesting observer status for CITES in the General Council and any other WTO bodies deemed relevant for CITES. ● The Secretariat further recommends that the Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, work with WTO to develop a cooperative Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and WTO for signature by the Director General of WTO and the Secretary-General of CITES. 	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSN encourages the Secretariat to continue seeking permanent observer status at meetings of WTO bodies and to attend these meetings, where permitted. This participation is critical for explaining the work of CITES and the importance of measures to protect species from over-exploitation due to trade, and for ensuring the mutual supportiveness of CITES and WTO agreements.

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<p>10. Elephants</p> <p>10.1 Control of trade in African elephant ivory</p> <p>10.2 MIKE baseline information</p> <p>SC55 Docs 10.1 (Rev. 1), 10.2</p>	<p><u>SC55 Doc 10.1 (Rev. 1) Control of Trade in African Elephant Ivory</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At SC54, Japan was designated as an ivory trading partner by the Standing Committee. However, concerns were expressed at SC54 about Japan's ivory trade controls, and the Standing Committee requested that the Secretariat provide an update on the situation at SC55. SC55 Doc 10.1 reports that, subsequent to SC54, posters and leaflets have been distributed, a further 910 ivory dealers have been registered and a further 283 tusks added to the database. Guidance for enforcement officers is also reported to have been distributed. The Secretariat concludes that the national legislation and domestic trade controls of Japan are adequate to ensure imported ivory will not be re-exported, and will be managed in accordance with all requirements of RC 10.10. The Secretariat does not recommend that SC55 review its decision to designate Japan as a trading partner. <p><u>SC55 Doc 10.2 MIKE Baseline Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CoP12 (2002) amended the annotations under which the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa are included in Appendix II, by allowing a one-off trade in registered stocks of raw ivory, subject to a number of conditions, including "...not before the MIKE programme has reported to the Secretariat on the baseline information" and "...only after the Standing Committee has agreed that the...conditions have been met." The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee accept the baseline information as contained in the document. 	<p><u>SC55 Doc 10.1 (Rev. 1)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although SSN welcomes the reported ongoing enforcement activities in relation to the Osaka seizure in August 2006, SC55 Doc 10.1 (Rev. 1), the report <u>does not</u> acknowledge statements in the most recent ETIS data report (CoP14 Doc. 53.2) asserting that illegal ivory trade to Japan has increased in recent years and that Japan remains a significant destination for illegal ivory Between 1998 and 2006, a total of 1,070 raw ivory pieces/tusks and 21,636 worked ivory items were seized in Japan. Seizures of raw ivory in 2006 were at their highest level for 9 years (Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, 2007). The seizure of 6,000kg ivory in Singapore (2002) was marked 'Yokohama' and contained 40,000 blank hankos, indicating that there is illegal ivory trade destined for Japan. The price of ivory on the black market in Japan has reportedly risen to US \$850 per kilo (Mainichi Daily News, March 2007). A recent investigation (Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, 2007) found that 25% of dealers identified by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry remained unregistered at the end of 2006. Legal loopholes have not been addressed by the Japanese government – e.g., members of the public are not required to register all raw ivory tusks in their possession. Ivory imports therefore cannot be adequately monitored and registered as required under RC 10.10 (Rev. 1). National legislation and domestic controls for ivory in Japan are, despite the Secretariat's opinion, not adequate. SSN urges the SC to reconsider its decision to recommend Japan as a trading partner. <p><u>SC55 Doc 10.2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN does not agree that the MIKE baseline data presented in SC55 Doc 10.2 are complete. No data have been provided for two selected sites in Asia. Two replacement sites have been included without agreement by the Standing Committee or the MIKE and ETIS subgroup. No data is presented for three sites in Africa. Data have been reportedly collected for other sites for which no data are actually shown. The baseline therefore appears incomplete for these sites. It is impossible to understand how the varying scores of the 29 <i>influencing factors</i> have been attributed to each site. The

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		<p>Standing Committee cannot be expected to make informed decisions based on incomplete information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIKE sites are strongly biased towards protected areas and are not representative for elephants throughout their range. In Africa, 84% of elephant range lies outside protected areas. The consistency of data presented is questionable. Data for different sites have been collected over varying time periods from six to 73 months. There is significant variation in the number of man-hours spent on patrols at each site. • For 29 African and four Asian sites, the population surveys presented are more than three years old and therefore cannot be relied on to monitor any escalation in poaching following the one-off sales. • For further information, please refer to the SSN Factsheet: <i>SSN Comments on SC55 Doc 10.2: MIKE Baseline Information</i>.
<p>11. Saiga antelope</p> <p>No document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document • <i>Saiga tatarica</i> (saiga antelope) has been listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN since 2002; the population has shown an observed decline of over 90% in the last 10 years due to poaching and illegal trade • Trade in the species from Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation has been suspended by the SC under the Significant Trade Review since 2001 (with the allowance of trade in live specimens from breeding facilities for conservation purposes at SC54) • Nonetheless, CoP14 Doc. 56 reports that both Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation <u>have continued to export specimens</u> of saiga antelopes since 2001, and that seized saiga parts in Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan seem to disappear from government control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN encourages the SC to apply appropriate non-compliance mechanisms to Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, based on reports in CoP14 Doc. 56 that these countries continue to export specimens despite Standing Committee recommendations to suspend imports.
<p>12. Bigleaf mahogany</p> <p>SC55 Doc. 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In lieu of recommending a trade suspension in bigleaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) from Peru, SC54 directed the Secretariat to conduct a mission to Peru to document progress and report back to its 55th meeting. The Secretariat mission was undertaken in March 2007. • The Secretariat's findings include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Though lower than in previous years, the 2007 export quota established by Peru's Management Authority 	<p>Conditional Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN urges the SC to recommend an immediate suspension of trade in mahogany from Peru. Trade should only resume when Peru has demonstrated to the Secretariat's satisfaction that it has implemented the recommendations found in paragraphs 37 and 57(a), (b), (d), (e) and has incorporated accurate yield calculations into its non-detriment findings (described below). • SSN urges the inclusion of an additional recommendation on yield

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	<p>conflicts with the Scientific Authority's finding on the sustainable level of harvest;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Verifications of concessions by the Peruvian authorities to ensure legal operation have not been sufficiently rapid or vigorous; ▪ Significant illegal logging continues within Alto Purús National Park and surrounding indigenous territories; ▪ There is a lack of political will at the highest level of government to implement the requirements of the Convention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat recommends that Peru adopt the following measures as a matter of urgency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjust the 2007 export quota to the level advised by the Scientific Authority and exclude timber for which no export permit was issued during previous quota years; ▪ Endorse the Strategic Action Plan at the highest political level; ▪ Amend the penal code to increase the penalties for violations of the Convention and relevant laws; ▪ Reestablish the multi-sectoral commission against illegal logging; and ▪ Encourage wood tracking technologies and promote voluntary certification and verification mechanisms. 	<p>calculation to address a loophole, identified in the Secretariat's report, that allows illegal timber to be laundered. Peru's Management Authority estimates that to fill its 2007 export quota of 13,476 cubic meters, 1,601 trees would be harvested. A presentation by an expert at the Workshop on the Making of Non-Detriment Findings, hosted by Mexico in April 2007, demonstrated that approximately four times that number—between 5,600 and 7,100 trees—would be required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five years after bigleaf mahogany was included in Appendix II, Peru's exports continue to violate Article IV of the Convention. The SC gave Peru one last opportunity to fulfill its obligations, but its actions have fallen short. • The SC should direct the Secretariat to continue to monitor Peru's progress and report back at future meetings.
<p>13. Ranching operations SC55 Doc. 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 11.16 recommends that "<i>all Parties prohibit trade in products of ranching operations unless such trade complies with all the terms, conditions and requirements of the approved ranching proposal for the population concerned</i>" • SC54 agreed that the Secretariat should visit Madagascar to examine ranching operations for <i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> to determine their compliance with conditions in RC 11.16 on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II; the visit took place in November-December 2006 • It was confirmed during the mission that Madagascar did not comply with the provisions of RC 11.16: the controls of the farming operations had been insufficient in recent years to prevent abuses, no recent inventories of wild populations are available, and reporting was inadequate • The Secretariat recommends that the SC request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Madagascar to follow the Secretariat's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SC should recommend to Parties that they prohibit trade in products from <u>all</u> operations ranching <i>C. niloticus</i> in Madagascar until the Secretariat's recommendations are complied with in full, as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RC 11.16 makes clear that Parties should prohibit trade in products from ranching operations unless such trade complies with <u>all</u> the terms, conditions and requirements of the approved ranching proposal for the population concerned; the Secretariat's mission to Madagascar confirmed that all the terms, conditions and requirements were not complied with ▪ SSN believes that it is neither sufficient nor enforceable to suspend trade from only one of the ranching operations in Madagascar • The Secretariat's recommendation for an annual export quota of up to 200 skins of source code 'W' should be deleted as the impact of the harvest of wild crocodiles in Madagascar is "<i>largely unknown</i>" (SC55 Doc. 13)

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	<p>recommendations concerning ranching of <i>C. niloticus</i> to ensure compliance with RC 11.16, including a temporary suspension of exports from one of the two operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parties to only allow the import of specimens of <i>C. niloticus</i> from Madagascar that are part of an annual export quota published on the CITES website 	
<p>14. National laws for implementation of the Convention</p> <p>SC55 Doc.14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Secretariat will be holding legislative discussions with and obtaining written indications of legislative progress from many Parties on the margins of CoP14, the Secretariat thinks it would be more practical for a general review of legislative progress be postponed until SC57 in 2008. • Thailand is expected to report to SC55 on the status of prosecution of CITES-related offences, which should enable the Committee to verify whether its legislation is adequate for implementation of the Convention • CoP13 directed Nigeria and Paraguay to enact adequate legislation for implementation of the Convention by SC53 • The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee identify Algeria, Djibouti, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) as countries requiring attention as a priority under the National Legislation Project. 	<p>Conditional Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN supports including those countries identified by the Secretariat as priorities. SSN has the following <u>additional concerns</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thailand should be listed as a priority country until it can verify that its legislation is adequate for implementation of the Convention ▪ Malaysia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Belize, the Comoros, Kazakhstan and Pakistan should not be removed from the list until adequate legislation is enacted.
<p>15. Enforcement matters</p> <p>No document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document 	<p>No comment</p>
<p>16. National reports</p> <p>SC55 Doc. 16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauritania and Somalia remain subject to a recommendation to suspend trade for failure to submit annual reports. • The Secretariat recommends that the SC, pursuant to RC 11.17 (Rev. CoP13), determine whether Djibouti, Dominica, Eritrea, Grenada, Rwanda and the Seychelles have failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years (2003-2005) without having provided adequate justification. If so determined, the Secretariat will issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in CITES-listed species with these Parties until further notice. 	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN supports the Secretariat's recommendation that Djibouti, Dominica, Eritrea, Grenada, Rwanda and the Seychelles be subject to trade suspensions for having failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years (2003-2005).

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<p data-bbox="98 140 495 165">17. Review of Significant Trade</p> <p data-bbox="98 201 271 226">SC55 Doc. 17</p>	<p data-bbox="537 140 1292 256">Invites the Standing Committee to review progress of two species in the Review of Significant Trade and take note of and adopt the recommendations and actions outlined by the Secretariat. The species are:</p> <p data-bbox="537 292 909 319"><u>Falco cherrug (Saker falcon):</u></p> <ul data-bbox="537 331 1292 874" style="list-style-type: none"> • Classified as Endangered by IUCN (2006) “<i>as it has undergone a very rapid population decline, particularly on the central Asian breeding grounds, owing to inadequately controlled capture for the falconry trade.</i>” • In 2006, nine range States (the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) implemented trade suspensions for this species in response to recommendations by the AC. • At SC54, the SC recommended a suspension of trade with 10 Parties for which the species was found to be “<i>of possible concern</i>” if they failed to respond to the recommendations of the Animals Committee by 1 January 2007. • On January 22, 2007, the Secretariat issued Notification No. 2007/004, recommending all Parties to suspend imports of specimens of <i>Falco cherrug</i> from Armenia, Bahrain, Iraq, Mauritania and Tajikistan. <p data-bbox="537 906 1059 933"><u>Psittacus erithacus (African grey parrot):</u></p> <ul data-bbox="537 946 1292 1445" style="list-style-type: none"> • Classified as Near Threatened by IUCN (2007). With exports totaling more than 350,000 specimens from 1994-2003, <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> is one of the most heavily-traded CITES-listed bird species. Included in Phase 1 of the Review, it was reinserted in Phase VI in 2004 in response to continuing population declines and unsustainable and illegal trade. • The Secretariat reports that five Parties (Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) for which the species was identified as “<i>urgent concern</i>” failed to adopt trade moratoria that were to be implemented by 1 January 2007. The Secretariat recommends that a zero export quota for live, wild specimens of <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> be included in the list of 2007 export quotas for these countries. • The Secretariat reports that two countries (Congo and DRC) where the species was identified as “<i>of possible concern</i>” established reduced quotas of 4,000 and 5,000, respectively, 	<p data-bbox="1319 140 1688 167"><u>Falco cherrug (Saker falcon):</u></p> <ul data-bbox="1319 180 2085 264" style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>supports</u> the issuance of Notification No. 2007/004 recommending all Parties to suspend imports of <i>Falco cherrug</i> from Armenia, Bahrain, Iraq, Mauritania and Tajikistan. <p data-bbox="1319 300 1839 327"><u>Psittacus erithacus (African grey parrot):</u></p> <ul data-bbox="1319 339 2141 911" style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>urges</u> the Standing Committee to recommend a suspension of trade with Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone for failing to implement recommended trade moratoria for all specimens of the African grey parrot, and not merely to record a zero quota for wild specimens in the list of established export quotas for 2007. • These Parties, one of which responded that a trade moratorium is “<i>inappropriate</i>” and another which responded that it “<i>wanted to avoid</i>” a moratorium, need to receive a clear message from the SC that the recommendations of the AC must be implemented. • Establishing a 2007 zero quota for wild specimens <i>only</i>, which would expire at the end of this year, would be a significantly weaker action than establishing of a trade suspension for all specimens which “<i>should be withdrawn only when that State demonstrates... compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a)</i>” (RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)). • SSN <u>commends</u> Congo and DRC for adopting reduced export quotas as recommended by the AC.

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	by 1 January 2007, as recommended by the Animals Committee.	
18. Periodic Review of the Appendices: plants SC55 Doc. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests that the Standing Committee endorse the species selected by the Plants Committee for inclusion in the Periodic Review. 	Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN supports the recommendations of the Plants Committee
19. Any other business No document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	No comment
20. Determination of the time and venue of the 56th and 57th meetings No document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	No comment
21. Closing Remarks No document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	No comment



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