Session 8 – Identification of key wildlife crime trends and associated matters and engagement in operational activities at global/regional level

Clio Di Giovanni, CITES Secretariat

2. Species affected by wildlife crime under discussion at CoP19
Main species under discussion at CoP19

- CITES listed tree species
- Big cats
- Rhinoceros
- Totoaba
- Big cats, cheetahs, pangolins, tortoises and freshwater turtles
- Marine turtles
- Eels
- Many others
Illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species continues to be a matter of concern = Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species (February 2022) – CoP19 Doc.35

The CITES Tree Task Force meeting identified measures and activities to elaborate strategies to prevent and combat illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, including measures to promote and further strengthen regional and international cooperation.

**Outcome document:**
1. Improve legality and traceability and strengthen the implementation of CITES provisions regarding trade in CITES-listed tree species:
2. Strengthen regional and international collaboration to address illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species
3. Detection and identification of illegal consignments of CITES-listed tree species and mobilizing available tools
4. Addressing corruption and mobilizing investigations into illicit financial flows from illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species
CITES Listed tree species under discussion at CoP19

• Malagasy ebonies (Diospyros spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (Dalbergia spp.) – CoP19 Doc. 29.3

• Agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 62.1

• Boswellia trees (Boswellia spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 63

• Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)] - CoP19 Doc. 70
Draft terms of reference and modus operandi agreed by SC74.

The CITES Big Cats Task Force will focus on big cat species from Africa, Asia and Latin America, and consisting of representatives from Parties most affected by the illegal trade in big cats.

The Secretariat shall provide support to the Task Force to allow it to:

i. discuss enforcement and implementation issues related to the illegal trade in specimens of big cats;
ii. as deemed appropriate, exchange intelligence and other information on the illegal trade in big cats; and
iii. develop strategies and make recommendations to improve international cooperation

The Task Force is to be convened in 2023.
Other species under discussion at CoP19

- Cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus) - CoP19 Doc. 59
- Asian big cats (Felidae spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 68
- African lions (Panthera leo) - CoP19 Doc. 72
- Jaguars (Panthera onca) - CoP19 Doc. 73
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 75

- Key matters concerning African and Asian rhinoceroses as outlined in the report prepared for CoP19 are highlighted in its executive summary. Some matters:
  - National and continental conservation status and trends for African and Asian rhinoceroses
  - Illegal killing of rhinoceroses in Africa and Asia
  - Illegal trade in rhinoceros’ horn and enforcement efforts
  - Poaching and trafficking challenges
  - Activities to reduce demand for rhinoceros’ horn

- The document also includes a section on Parties most affected by illegal trade in rhinoceros’ horn. These are: South Africa, China (including Hong Kong SAR of China), Viet Nam, Malaysia, Mozambique, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. In addition, the Secretariat includes Botswana as Party for which a significant decline in rhinoceros’ populations was observed.

The Secretariat also provide reporting on the updating of the Directory of illegal trade in rhinoceros horn focal points
Other species under discussion at CoP19

• Totoaba (Totoaba macdonaldi) - CoP19 Doc.29
• West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.) - CoP19 Doc.58
• Eels (Anguilla spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 61
• Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 64.1
• Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 65
• Elephants (Elephantidae spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 66
• Seahorses (Hippocampus spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 69
• Pangolins (Manis spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 71
• Songbird (Passeriformes spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 74
• Saiga antelope (Saiga spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 76
• Queen conch (Strombus gigas) - CoP19 Doc. 77
• Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) - CoP19 Doc. 78
• Etc…
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