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**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment  
Twentieth Session**

Ministerial Segment  
Nairobi, Kenya 16 and 17 July  
2025

**Decision AMCEN/20/Dec.5: Africa's participation at the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

*We, the African Ministers of Environment,*

*Having met in Nairobi on 16 and 17 July 2025 at the twentieth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,*

*Recalling* the objectives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), and reaffirming our collective responsibility to safeguard Africa's biodiversity in line with Africa Union Agenda 2063 and the Africa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2023–2030,

*Aware* of the need to strengthen and consolidate Africa's positions and priorities to secure favourable outcomes in the negotiations under the Convention,

*Recognising* the successful outcomes of the African Elephant Dialogue meeting held in Maun, Botswana, in September 2024, and the technical meeting of the Convention's focal points to prepare for twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties and operationalisation of the Africa Group of Negotiators on Wildlife, in Johannesburg, South Africa, in April 2025, which demonstrated the value of pan-African collaboration and diplomacy,

*Acknowledging* the urgent need for a unified, science-based African position at the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention scheduled to take place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from November 24 to December 5, 2025, to influence global decision-making and safeguard the continent's ecological and socio-economic interests,

*Welcoming* the operationalisation of the Africa Group of Negotiators on Wildlife to serve with the objective of coordinating Africa's common positions, representing and negotiating for African interests and priorities in intergovernmental meetings relating to endangered species, and to regularly report to the African Union Commission and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on developments and outcomes,

*Decide:*

1. To endorse the operational framework of the Africa Group of Negotiators on Wildlife and request the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme to support its secretariat and coordination functions in the lead-up to and during the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention and future meetings.
2. To call upon the Africa Group of Negotiators on Wildlife to finalise and adopt a common African position on all key agenda items for the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, including those contained in the annex to this decision.
3. To encourage member States to strengthen scientific and legal capacity to conduct non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings, and to ensure timely and effective compliance with the decisions and resolutions of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.
4. To urge member States to increase financial, technical, and diplomatic investment in wildlife conservation, including through the mobilisation of national Global Environmental Facility allocations, establishment of a specific funding stream for wildlife conservation under the Global Environmental Facility Family of Funds whilst conceptualisation of a dedicated fund (Africa Biodiversity Fund) is explored and also support the *Wildlife for Climate Action* agenda through adoption of a Declaration, promoting synergies amongst Rio Conventions whilst creating new opportunities for Africa.
5. To call upon partners and development partners to support Africa's coordinated participation in the Convention, including capacity building for negotiators, engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, and promotion of community-based innovative nature conservation models beyond ecotourism and sustainable wildlife use.
6. To call upon the Africa Group of Negotiators on Wildlife, with the support of the African Union Commission and relevant partners to establish a structured African-led dispute resolution and consensus-building mechanism on the African elephant conservation and wildlife trade and other species.

## Annex

### **Africa's key policy messages to twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and its Implementation**

- a) We reaffirm Africa's commitment to the objectives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Convention), while advocating for more equitable, science-based, and socio-economically informed decision-making processes that reflect the continent's unique context and development priorities.
- b) We recognise the importance of implementing Decision 19.167 and commend the successful convening of the African Elephant Dialogue Meeting held in Maun, Botswana, from 23 to 26 September 2024. The meeting, attended by 31 of the 37 African elephant range States, achieved consensus on key issues, as captured in the communiqué published in Convention [Notification to the Parties No. 2024/111](#).
- c) We reaffirm our support for the removal of obsolete provisions under Annotation A10.
- d) We acknowledge the need for Africa to establish sustainable financing mechanisms for elephant conservation. We support the need for Africa to explore innovative approaches for the effective management of ivory stockpiles including non-commercial disposal and other means for the purpose of mobilising the needed resources to support the conservation and management of elephants.
- e) We call for unified support of the Africa-led draft decisions on financing at the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.
- f) We recognise that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities play a critical role in wildlife stewardship yet remain underrepresented in Convention processes. While we welcome the draft non-binding guidance on engaging Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in species listing proposals, we stress the need for Africa to harmonise its position on terminology and ensure alignment with other multilateral environmental agreements, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- g) We call on African States to support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities participation in governance processes, uphold inclusive policymaking, and continue consultations to ensure Africa presents a common position on this issue at twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.
- h) We reaffirm the importance of maximising benefits for rural communities of the Convention implementation and trade concerned, in particular, to support poverty eradication. We note the ongoing lack of consensus within the Intersessional Working Group on proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and livelihoods.
- i) We urge African States to intensify dialogue, strive toward a harmonized position on livelihood strategies, and champion traceability mechanisms and certification standards that empower communities and ensure equitable benefit-sharing from wildlife trade.
- j) We acknowledge the Standing Committee's recommendation to revise Rule 25.6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and its Implementation on the procedure for deciding on proposals for the same taxon that differ in substance. The divergent views on whether to consider proposals from least to most restrictive (*or vice versa*), still need further reflection, including consideration of a stepwise approach.

- k) We call on the Africa Group of Negotiators on Wildlife to continue refining a unified position and emphasize the importance of procedural clarity and fairness at the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.
- l) We note the increasing relevance of One Health approaches in global environmental governance. We call for the development of guidelines on the integration of one health approaches into the Convention processes. We caution against overly prescriptive or burdensome obligations (financial and other) in the new resolution proposed for consideration at the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties.
- m) We welcome the outline of the draft gender action plan aligned with the resolution on gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora. We encourage African Member States to actively contribute to finalizing the document and to mainstream gender equality across Convention decisions and institutional frameworks.
- n) We recognize the scientific distinction between *Loxodonta cyclotis* and *Loxodonta africana*. And while recognising that divergence remains on whether listing should occur at the species or genus level, we commit to work together to find a way forward on the matter.
- o) We urge African Parties to engage in consensus-building ahead of the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention and agree on a common position that reflects both scientific evidence and conservation priorities.
- p) We also call upon the Africa Group of Negotiators on Wildlife to thoroughly review and provide recommendations on administrative and financial matters, strategic matters, compliance, illegal trade and enforcement, regulation of trade, species conservation and trade as well as Appendices for the implementation of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as per twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties agenda.
- q) We underscore the importance of advancing unified African positions on each of these items and call for urgent consultations to ensure Africa's voice is coherent and influential at twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.
- r) We direct the African Group of Negotiators on Wildlife to thoroughly review and provide recommendations on the following proposals, among others: <https://cites.org/fra/cop/20/amendment-proposals>

| # | Species                                                                 | Proponent(s)                                                                   | Proposal                                                                                                                      |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i><br>(Bontebok)                       | South Africa                                                                   | Delete from Appendix II                                                                                                       |
| 2 | <i>Gazella dorcas</i><br>(Dorcas Gazelle)                               | Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia | Include in Appendix II                                                                                                        |
| 4 | <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i><br>(Giraffe)                              | Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe                   | Delete the populations of Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II |
| 5 | <i>Okapia johnstoni</i><br>(Okapi)                                      | Democratic Republic of the Congo                                               | Include in Appendix I                                                                                                         |
| 9 | <i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i><br>(Southern Square-lipped Rhinoceros, | Namibia                                                                        | Amend the annotation of the population of <i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i> of Namibia listed in Appendix II                   |

|    |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                  |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | Southern White Rhinoceros)                                                                                              |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10 | <i>Diceros bicornis</i><br>(Black Rhinoceros, Hook-lipped Rhinoceros)                                                   | Namibia                                                                                                          | Transfer the population of <i>Diceros bicornis bicornis</i> of Namibia from Appendix I to Appendix II                                            |
| 12 | <i>Cercocebus chrysogaster</i><br>(Golden-bellied Mangabey)                                                             | Democratic Republic of the Congo                                                                                 | Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I                                                                                                          |
| 13 | <i>Loxodonta africana</i><br>(African Elephant, African Savannah Elephant)                                              | Namibia                                                                                                          | To allow Namibia to trade in registered stocks of raw ivory (whole tusks and pieces) of Namibian origin, owned by the Government                 |
| 14 | <i>Loxodonta africana</i><br>(African Elephant, African Savannah Elephant)                                              | Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Zimbabwe                                                             | Amend annotation A10 pertaining to the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to harmonize the conditions of trade |
| 15 | <i>Bycanistes spp.</i><br><i>Ceratogymna spp.</i>                                                                       | Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo                                              | Include in Appendix II                                                                                                                           |
| 16 | <i>Gyps africanus</i><br>(White-backed Vulture)<br><i>Gyps rueppelli</i><br>(Ruppell's Vulture)                         | Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Gambia, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo | Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I                                                                                                          |
| 24 | <i>Bitis harena</i><br>(Ethiopian Mountain Adder; Ethiopian Viper)<br><i>Bitis parviocula</i><br>(Bale Mountains Adder) | Ethiopia                                                                                                         | Include in Appendix I                                                                                                                            |
| 26 | <i>Kinixys homeana</i><br>(Home's Hinged-backed Tortoise)                                                               | Cameroon, Guinea, Nigeria, Togo                                                                                  | Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I                                                                                                          |
| 28 | <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i><br>(Oceanic whitetip shark)                                                              | Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, European Union, Fiji, Gabon,                   | Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I                                                                                                          |

|    |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                 |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                                                                                          | Honduras, Lebanon, Oman, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland                                                                       |                                                                                                 |
| 29 | <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> (Tope, Flake, Oil Shark, School Shark)<br><i>Mustelus spp.</i> | Brazil, Ecuador, European Union, Panama, Senegal                                                                                                                                                                | Include in Appendix II                                                                          |
| 30 | <i>Mobulidae spp.</i>                                                                    | Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Gabon, Jamaica, Maldives, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sudan, Togo                                                                  | Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I                                                         |
| 31 | <i>Rhincodon typus</i> (Whale Shark)                                                     | Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Gabon, Maldives, Panama, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Togo                                           | Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I                                                         |
| 32 | <i>Glaucostegus spp.</i>                                                                 | Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo | Annotation "A zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes" |
| 33 | <i>Rhinidae spp.</i> (Wedgefishes)                                                       | Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo    | Annotation "A zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes" |
| 34 | <i>Centrophoridae spp.</i>                                                               | Brazil, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, European Union, Lebanon, Nigeria, Panama,                                                                                                                         | Include in Appendix II                                                                          |

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|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                               |                                                                     | Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |                                                                                                  |
| 39                                            | <i>Haliotis midae</i><br>(South African Abalone, Midas Ear Abalone) | South Africa                                                                        | Include the population of South Africa in Appendix II with the annotation "dried specimens only" |
| <b>Other proposals of interest for Africa</b> |                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                                  |
| 6                                             | <i>Hyaena hyaena</i><br>(Striped Hyaena)                            | Israel, Tajikistan                                                                  | Include in Appendix I                                                                            |
| 17                                            | <i>Falco peregrinus</i><br>(Duck Hawk, Peregrine Falcon)            | Canada, United States of America                                                    | Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II                                                          |