



**SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE**
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND • 18-22 JULY 2011

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

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Opening of the Meeting No Document		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair No Document		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
3. Rules of Procedure AC25 Doc. 3 (Rev. 1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains the Rules of Procedure adopted at AC24 in Geneva, April 2009 with no recommended changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
4. Adoption of the agenda and working programme			
4.1	Agenda AC25 Doc. 4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional agenda for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
4.2	Working programme AC25 Doc. 4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional working programme for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
5. Admission of observers AC25 Doc. 5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available at the time this document was prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
6. Regional reports			
6.1-6.6	Regional reports AC25 Doc. 6.1-6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional reports for Central and South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America, and Oceania were available at the time this document was prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>commends</u> those Parties that have engaged in CITES-related capacity building and other training to improve CITES implementation and enforcement. SSN <u>commends</u> the Government of Canada for making its Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) on polar bear available on their website, as they have done for several other species. SSN encourages other Parties to make their NDFs available online.
6.7	Evaluation of the purpose and content of regional reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the AC Representative for Europe. Notes that the SC is in the process of considering what information should be presented in its regional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC consider regional reports to be for information purposes and that, therefore, the AC does not have to formally approve the contents. Nonetheless, SSN believes that in order to

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	<p>AC25 Doc. 6.7</p>	<p>reports and that PC19 also addressed this issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests that the AC consider whether regional reports are formally presented or simply noted by the Committee. • Encourages the AC to consider what information it wants from regional reports and presents four options for the AC to address this issue, ranging from no reports to no change in regional reporting. 	<p>provide the most useful information, the reports should focus on what the regional representatives have done to fulfill their role as representative in the preceding time period.</p>
<p>7. Cooperation with other multilateral instruments</p>			
7.1	<p>Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (Decision 15.11)</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 7.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
7.2	<p>Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Decision 15.12)</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 7.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 15.12 directs the AC, PC and the Secretariat to participate, subject to external funding, in discussions concerning a possible IPBES (intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services), to provide input into the process and ensure that the role of CITES receives due recognition. The Chairs of the AC and PC and the Secretariat shall report to the SC to seek additional guidance. • Provides the report and recommendations of the “Third Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on An Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” (Annex) held in Republic of Korea, from 7 to 12 June 2010. • Invites the AC to note this information and offer ideas about how the AC and the Parties might be able to interact with and benefit from IPBES, including in relation to scientific capacity-building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to ensure that, as a scientific body, it has a formal role in CITES participation should IPBES be approved.
7.3	<p>Climate change (Decision 15.15)</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 7.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 15.15 directs the AC and PC to identify scientific aspects of the provisions of the CITES Convention and Resolutions that are actually or likely to be affected by climate change, report their findings, and make recommendations for further action at SC62. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC agree to establish a joint AC/PC intersessional Working Group, and that observers be invited to participate. • SSN <u>strongly encourages</u> Parties to consider climate change and its impact on Appendix I and/or Appendix II species when preparing NDFs. Since climate change can impact a species population viability,

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the replies of Secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements (Annex) regarding their activities that may be linked to climate change and CITES, as requested from them by the CITES Secretariat pursuant to Decision 15.16. • Reports that PC19 proposed that the following provisions of the CITES Convention and Resolutions are actually or likely to be affected by climate change, and that they should form the focus for the recommendations by the AC and PC: a) Species listings [RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) and 9.25 (Rev. CoP15)]; b) NDFs (Articles III and IV); c) Periodic Review of the Appendices (RC 14.8); d) Review of Significant Trade [RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), to the extent that this pertains to Article IV (NDFs)]; e) Quotas [RC 14.7 (Rev. CoP15)]; and f) Trade in alien invasive species [RC 13.10 (Rev. CoP14)]. • Reports that PC19 proposed to establish an intersessional Working Group to produce draft findings and recommendations for further action on points a) to f) above that could be finalized at AC25 and PC19. • Invites the AC to decide on future activities, responsibilities and timelines for the implementation of Decision 15.15 taking account of the recommendations of PC19. 	<p>distribution, habitat, movements, and other aspects of its ecology, an assessment of the impact of climate change should become a common component of NDFs.</p>
8. Strategic Planning			
8.1	<p>Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 8.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a list of all instructions directed or related to the AC, from the CITES Resolutions (Annex 1) and Decisions (Annex 2). • Invites the AC to include the above in its work programme for 2010-2013 and to determine priorities and to consider how best to achieve their effective implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
8.2	<p>Establishment of the Animals Committee workplan</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 8.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the interim AC Chair. • The Annex to this document contains the list of all instructions directed or related to the AC found in the current CITES Resolutions and Decisions. • Invites the AC to establish a Working Group to include the above-mentioned instructions in its work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC agree to establish a Working Group on this issue and that observers be invited to participate. • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to give the highest priority to the Review of Significant Trade, NDFs, and Quotas.

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		programme for 2011-2013 to determine priorities and to consider how best to achieve their effective implementation.	
9. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species			
9.1	Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade [Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP14)] AC25 Doc. 9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the Secretariat has made progress in compiling background information as agreed by AC24 and PC18. Notes that some members of the advisory working group have not responded to invitations to join the group and suggests that other Parties be nominated to take their place. Proposes that the regional representatives of Africa and Europe should encourage those Parties (DRC, Guinea, Iceland, and the Russian Federation) that have not replied to the invitation or, with AC Members, nominate other Parties to take their place. Invites the AC to address the membership issue and to note document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>notes</u> that the great majority of members of the advisory group are major exporting countries. SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to include an equal number of countries that are not major exporters so that the group can provide a balanced view. SSN also <u>urges</u> the AC to increase the number of observers invited to participate.
9.2	Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade AC25 Doc. 9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i> (hereafter Review) directs the Secretariat "to report at each meeting of the AC on the implementation by the range States concerned of the recommendations made by the Committee". Provides information on recent decisions of the SC in the context of the Review and gives brief updates on ongoing Reviews Presents (Annex) an overview of recent actions concerning animal species that were selected for Review after CoPs 11, 12, 13 and 14. Invites the AC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC note this document. SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to request the Secretariat to provide an oral report on the development of the Significant Trade Online Management System, which is not addressed in documents for this meeting. SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to request that this database be made accessible to the public as the information is essential for selection of species for inclusion in the Review.
9.3	Species selected following CoP13 AC25 Doc. 9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides background information regarding the inclusion of <i>Mantella</i> spp. (frogs native to Madagascar) in the Review. Notes that on 3 November 2009, in response from a request from the Secretariat, Madagascar provided information (Annex) on <i>Mantella aurantiaca</i>, <i>M. bernhardi</i>, <i>M. crocea</i>, <i>M. expectata</i> and <i>M. viridis</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC's April 2009 recommendations for <i>Mantella crocea</i>, <i>M. expectata</i> and <i>M. viridis</i>, though modeled on the <i>NDF Process as Developed by the Reptiles and Amphibians Working Group</i> at the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (AC24 Doc. 9.1), failed to call for a Provisional Risk Assessment as required by that process. SSN notes that all three species are categorized as Endangered by IUCN, have a decreasing population trend and may

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes that the AC, on 1 March 2011, adopted a proposal to re-instate <i>Mantella aurantiaca</i> into the Review. Requests the AC to establish deadlines for Madagascar to implement the April 2009 recommendations for <i>Mantella crocea</i>, <i>M. expectata</i> and <i>M. viridis</i> that include: a) establishing a zero export quota immediately; b) finding the resources for a long-term standardized monitoring programme c) setting, on the basis of information obtained through its monitoring programme including population estimates and NDFs, precautionary future quotas; and d) implementing adaptive management strategies. Requests the AC to decide whether <i>Mantella bernhardi</i> is a species of priority concern to be selected for review. 	<p>therefore qualify for listing in CITES Appendix I.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding <i>Mantella expectata</i> and <i>M. viridis</i>, it appears that Madagascar is not aware of, or has not implemented, the April 2009 requirement for an immediate zero export quota as it requests that “cautious export quotas” be “maintained” for both species. Export quotas were published for these species as recently as 2010. If Madagascar has not implemented a zero export quota for these species, SSN urges the AC to bring this issue to the attention of the SC and recommend that a trade suspension be imposed. Regarding <i>Mantella aurantiaca</i> and <i>M. bernhardi</i> SSN recommends that the AC should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include them as priority species for Review. Recommend that Madagascar immediately establish a zero quota until it is satisfied that a science-based NDF can be made for both species. <i>M. aurantiaca</i> is categorized as Critically Endangered (IUCN 2010); <i>M. bernhardi</i> is classified as Endangered (IUCN 2010); both species have a decreasing population trend and may therefore qualify for listing in CITES Appendix I. Disregard the recommendation of Madagascar which states that population density data published by Rabemananjara <i>et al.</i>, (2008) were used / should be used to set a “cautious quota” of 2,500 and 650 specimens, respectively. Rabemananjara <i>et al.</i>, (2008) state that the “partly very high population densities in our and previous studies refer to specimens gathering in very small areas and therefore can by no means (emphasis added) be extrapolated to the whole distribution areas of these species.” Additionally, the authors state that, “without long-term and more detailed studies on population structure and dynamics of these frogs, our data are insufficient to quantitatively assess strategies for sustainable harvesting of these species.” SSN notes that at AC24, <i>Mantella milotympanum</i> was removed from the Review in response to Madagascar establishing a zero quota for the species in 2009. SSN is concerned that Madagascar did not report to the Secretariat, a zero quota for this species for 2010 and 2011. SSN recommends the AC to request the Secretariat to post a zero quota for this species and for others for which a zero quota is recommended by the AC or established by a range State in response to the Review.
9.4	<p>Species selected following CoP14</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 9.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a summary of taxa retained in the Review after AC24. Invites the AC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review the report prepared by the UNEP-World 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN reminds the AC that RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) (i)(1) states that “‘species of urgent concern’ shall include species for which the available information indicates that the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), are not being implemented.”

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	<p>Conservation Monitoring Centre on these species and the responses received from range States, and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by the consultant; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ refer problems identified that are not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), to the Secretariat. ▪ In accordance with paragraphs m) to o) of RC. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), formulate recommendations for species of Urgent Concern and of Possible Concern with deadlines for their implementation. Such recommendations should differentiate between short-term and long-term actions, and be directed to the range States concerned. Species of Least Concern shall be eliminated from the review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> (hippopotamus): SSN <u>agrees</u> that Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique and South Africa should be categorized as of Possible Concern, and <u>recommends</u> that the AC require that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cameroon provide information on how levels of take, for trophies or teeth, are determined, and the legal basis for takes and export, and clarify the discrepancies between export and import data. ▪ Ethiopia undertake a countrywide population assessment, and clarify the number of animals represented by the quotas for trophies, teeth, and carvings. ▪ Mozambique provide details on the methodology of the 2008 survey, describe the “internal quota system,” including the number of takes (including problem animals and for teeth) and exports, and, address the discrepancies between export and import data. ▪ South Africa clarify the number of animals represented by exports of trophies, skin, teeth, tusks, and legs in 2008 and 2009. SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to refer to the Secretariat, issues concerning illegal trade, and to suggest that the Secretariat recommend that tusks imported, exported or sold within the country be marked. ▪ SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to refer to the Secretariat, issues concerning hunting for meat and illegal trade in West Africa, where populations of the species are reported to be fragmented, in decline, have poor overall conservation status and to be at highest risk. SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC suggest to the Secretariat that these concerns be brought to the attention of CoP16, and that ways be explored to build the capacity of these range States to monitor populations, address enforcement issues, and strengthen hippo conservation in the region. • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to categorize the following species as of Urgent Concern, and to recommend that an immediate zero quota be established until a science-based NDF can be made: <i>Brookesia decaryi</i> (Madagascar), <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> (Niger), <i>Chamaeleo feae</i> (Equatorial Guinea), <i>Cordylus mossambicus</i> (Mozambique), <i>Uroplatus spp.</i> (Madagascar), <i>Gongylophis muelleri</i> (Ghana); <i>Scaphiophryne gottlebeji</i> (Madagascar). • <i>Brookesia decaryi</i> (spiny leaf chameleon): No population information is available for this restricted-range species. If the species is removed from the Review due to no anticipated trade, it should be noted for the record that, should trade occur, the species should be re-evaluated. • <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> (basilisk chameleon): No information is available on population size or trends and there is no scientific basis for the established quotas.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chamaeleo feae</i> (Fe’s chameleon): This species is an island endemic, and there are no published data on population size or trends. Equatorial Guinea should be asked to explain why it reported no exports of the species in 2005-2008, whereas importing Parties reported more than 4,000 specimens from Equatorial Guinea in trade during that period. • <i>Cordylus mossambicus</i> (Gorongosa girdled lizard): There is no information available on population size or trends; no basis is given for the quotas established. • <i>Uroplatus spp.</i> (flat-tailed or leaf-tailed geckos): The 12 species in this genus occur at low densities in the wild; specific information on the size and trends of populations appears to be lacking; habitat degradation and trade are the primary threats; “yields were considered unlikely to be sustainable” (CoP13 Inf. 55); and Madagascar states that exports have been underreported. • <i>Gongylophis muelleri</i> (Müller’s or West African sand boa): No information is available on population size or trends. • <i>Scaphiophryne gottlebei</i> (rainbow burrowing frog): There is no clear basis for a NDF; this species is classified as Endangered (IUCN 2010), is known to be declining, and may therefore qualify for listing in CITES Appendix I. • Regarding turtle and tortoise species, SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to request that the Secretariat recommend that the SC address the concern that many freshwater turtle and tortoise range States that authorize trade, including those addressed in the Annex, are not implementing paragraph m) of RC 11.9 (Rev. CoP13) on Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, which states: “range States of tortoises and freshwater turtles that authorize trade in these species to include in their periodic reporting under Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b), information on progress in implementing this Resolution.” SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to categorize the following species as of Urgent Concern, and to recommend that an immediate zero quota be established until a science-based NDF can be made: <i>Heosemys annandalii</i> (Lao PDR), <i>Heosemys grandis</i> (Lao PDR), <i>Heosemys spinosa</i> (Indonesia), <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> (Tajikistan (non-Party), Uzbekistan), <i>Amyda cartilaginea</i> (Indonesia). • <i>Heosemys annandalii</i> (yellow-headed temple turtle): SSN <u>agrees</u> that the species should be categorized as Least Concern for Cambodia and Vietnam, with the understanding that if the species is removed from the Review due to no anticipated trade, it should be noted for the record that should trade occur, these countries should be re-evaluated. SSN notes that this species is classified as Endangered (IUCN 2010) and may therefore qualify for listing in Appendix I.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Heosemys grandis</i> (giant Asian pond turtle, orange-headed temple turtle): The status of the species is poorly known and the species is reported to be 'Potentially at Risk' in Lao PDR. • <i>Heosemys spinosa</i> (spiny terrapin, spiny or sunburst turtle): SSN <u>agrees</u> that the species should be categorized as Least Concern for Brunei Darussalam. Nonetheless, SSN notes that this species is classified as Endangered (IUCN 2010), is classified as Critically Endangered in Indonesia, is known to be declining, and may therefore qualify for listing in CITES Appendix I. • <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> (Central Asian or Horsfield's tortoise): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation: SSN <u>agrees</u> that these Parties should be classified as Least Concern, noting that should trade occur, these countries should be re-evaluated. ▪ Tajikistan (non-Party): No information is available on population size or trends. ▪ Uzbekistan: SSN <u>recommends</u> categorization as of Urgent Concern as "specific details of the basis for non-detriment findings for the quotas published were not provided" and an expert on the species "suggested that the State Biological Control Service was ineffective in controlling illegal transit ... estimated at approximately 20 thousand individuals per year, and recommended the suspension of collection and trade of the species in Uzbekistan for four to five years." A zero quota should be required until: a population study is conducted and provides data on which to base an NDF; information on the impacts of taking wild stock for ranching facilities is provided; and a plan is adopted to phase out export of wild stock as exports of ranched specimens increase. • <i>Amyda cartilaginea</i> (Asiatic softshell turtle): There are no reliable estimates of population size or trends available, quotas are based on take levels; this is the most heavily traded wild-caught Asian turtle, currently traded at levels of tons per day.
9.5	<p>Species selected at AC24</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 9.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a list of taxa included in the Review at AC24 as of Urgent Concern and responses received from range States regarding possible problems in implementing Article IV. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> (Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin): Solomon Islands reported that it has halved the export quota from 100 to 50 specimens and surveys have been initiated. ▪ <i>Balearica pavonina</i> (black-crowned crane): No responses received. ▪ <i>Balearica regulorum</i> (grey crowned crane): Re- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC maintain all of the species in the Review, subject to consideration of the responses from range States that were not provided in AC25 Doc. 9.5. • <i>Tursiops aduncus</i>: SSN <u>commends</u> Solomon Islands for allocating funds towards research into the status of the population, but <u>urges</u> the AC to maintain the species in the Review until the ability to make science-based NDFs can be demonstrated. SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to: (i) categorize the species as of Urgent Concern, (ii) request an update on the status of surveys/analysis and their likely cost and timeframe, and (iii) require Solomon Islands to immediately establish a zero quota on capture and export as ongoing removals could adversely affect the population

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	<p>sponses received from Swaziland and Zimbabwe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Huso huso</i> (beluga sturgeon): Responses received from Azerbaijan, Croatia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine. ▪ <i>Hippocampus kelloggi</i> (great or Kellogg's seahorse): Responses received from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. ▪ <i>Hippocampus spinosissimus</i> (hedgehog or spiny seahorse): Responses received from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. ▪ <i>Hippocampus kuda</i> (common seahorse): Responses received from Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, New Caledonia (France), Thailand, USA, and Vietnam. ▪ <i>Pandinus imperator</i> (emperor scorpion): The Secretariat released a report on trade in reptiles and scorpions from Togo, Ghana and Benin to AC25 (AC25 Inf. 3) ▪ <i>Tridacna spp.</i> (giant clams): No responses received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invites the AC to review the information and eliminate species from the Review for which the AC is satisfied that Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), is correctly implemented. In the event that the species is not eliminated from the Review, the Secretariat will proceed with the compilation of information regarding the species. 	<p>structure and skew research results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tridacna spp.</i>: SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to maintain the species in the Review as no response was received from Solomon Islands. Also, SSN <u>notes</u> that a request was made at AC24 to investigate the correct source code for <i>Tridacna</i> species reported in trade and urges the AC to take action on this issue. • <i>Pandinus imperator</i>: SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC maintain the species in the Review. SSN notes that the 2006 report (AC25 Inf. 3) needs updating and is on trade only, and therefore provides no information on population estimates, trends or other information to indicate that science-based NDFs are being made for wild-caught or ranched specimens. The report notes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The species is exported in “enormous quantities”; ▪ Ranching operations involve the collection of gravid females from the wild; ▪ Though the quota of 13,500 set by Togo “seems” appropriate, Togo considerably exceeded its export quotas for wild-caught specimens in every year from 1997-2003; exporters in Benin recognize that quotas for that country are “excessive”; ▪ The species’ social behavior, making it easier to collect several individuals from the same site, renders it particularly vulnerable; ▪ Mortality in ranching operations in Benin is high and the animals are kept at inappropriately high densities; the author’s recommendations for improved ranching conditions have been instituted in Togo; ▪ Ghana exports only wild-caught specimens as exporters claim raising the animals takes too long and is too expensive. Exports rose from 600 in 1994 to 107,017 in 2002, with no quota having been set. ▪ Total exports for the three countries rose from 4,668 in 1994 to 146,803 in 2002.
9.6	<p>Selection of species for review following CoP15</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 9.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides data from the CITES Trade Database showing levels of exports for Appendix-II species over the five most recent years (Annex 1). • Describes a process used by UNEP-WCMC to identify candidate species for the Review, and a list of possible candidate species (Annex 2). • Invites the AC to select species of Priority Concern for review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to request the Secretariat to provide an oral report on the development of the Significant Trade Online Management System, which is not addressed in documents for this meeting, in particular to address whether this will be made available to the public. • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC include <i>Macaca fascicularis</i> (long-tailed macaque) in the Review. Data indicate that between 1999 and 2003 the number of live <i>M. fascicularis</i> exported globally was 119,373; between 2004 and 2008, this figure more than doubled to 261,823 (AC25 Inf. 4). • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC, in recognition of the outcomes of the recent Asian snake trade workshop (AC25 Doc. 18), to select significantly traded Asian snake species as a priority for Review including <i>Ptyas mucosus</i>, <i>Naja spp.</i> and <i>Python spp.</i>

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<p>9.7 Programme for the conservation and sustainable use of <i>Falco cherrug</i> in Mongolia</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 9.7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted at the request of Mongolia. Notes that SC58 withdrew its recommendation to Parties to suspend trade in specimens of <i>Falco cherrug</i> (Saker falcon) from Mongolia on the condition that Mongolia maintains an export quota of 300 specimens for the years 2009 and 2010 and, before establishing a quota for 2011, reports at AC25 and takes advice from the AC about its program. Provides a report from Mongolia (Annex) that also includes Mongolia's ministerial order regarding Saker falcon and a short report on an artificial nesting program for the species in Mongolia. Invites the AC to review the report from Mongolia and provide advice on the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>is concerned</u> that there does not appear to be a reliable estimate of population size. The report states that, according to researchers, a 2010 government survey "did not produce any biologically meaningful population estimates or information on population trends." Furthermore, excluding the recently initiated artificial nest project, "there has previously been a lack of adequate management planning or reliable data on the impacts of annual harvest quotas on the Saker population." SSN <u>notes</u> that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although a management plan for Saker falcon was developed in 2003, no specific financial or other resources have been allocated to its implementation. In 2010, a total of 696 artificial nests in five study areas resulted in only 59 nesting pairs. The total number of young fledged is unknown, except at one site. Fledging success from this site, however, may not be representative of all areas, as average clutch size in another area was significantly lower (4.4 vs 1.7 average clutch size). The short report provides no information on the basis for its proposed quotas, admits that the total number of young fledged from the artificial nests is unknown, and notes that local people and government officials do not have direct access to monies generated from the trade. SSN <u>is concerned</u> that export quotas are based on takes of surplus fledglings from artificial nests yet current and planned takes are only of free-flying adults. SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC advise Mongolia to establish a zero export quota until: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A science-based population survey of the wild population has been undertaken; and Takes are restricted to known surplus fledglings from artificial nests.
<p>10. Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendices I and II (Decisions 15.28 and 15.29)</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 15.28 directs the Secretariat to prepare a report on its experience in applying criterion Annex 2 a B and the introductory text to Annex 2 a of RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II</i> to some or all of the commercially exploited aquatic species that were proposed for inclusion on Appendix II at CoPs 13, 14, and 15 and, to request IUCN/TRAFFIC and the FAO to each prepare a report on the same subject. Decision 15.29 directs the AC to receive these reports and, develop guidance on the application of the aforementioned criterion B and introductory text to commercially exploited aquatic species proposed for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>strongly supports</u> the view of the Secretariat, stated in paragraph 13 of its report, that listing decisions for marine species should be guided by the best interest of the conservation of these species. SSN <u>notes</u> that this is a complex and difficult issue that is unlikely to be resolvable in the present meeting. SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC establish an intersessional Working Group to consider this issue and report to the next AC meeting, where it can then be decided which, if any, recommendations should be forwarded to SC62. SSN <u>recommends</u> that observers be invited to participate in the Working Group.

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	<p>inclusion on Appendix II; “recommend the best way to incorporate the guidance for use when applying RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to commercially exploited aquatic species, without affecting the application of RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to other taxa”; and submit its conclusions and recommendations to SC62.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides reports from the Secretariat (Annex 1), FAO (Annex 2), and IUCN/TRAFFIC (Annex 3). • Invites the AC to develop guidance, conclusions, and recommendations for SC62. 	
<p>11. Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species – Draft guide on the appropriate use of source codes</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>12. Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II (Decision 15.51)</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 15.51 directs the AC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate the merit of reinstating the ability to transfer suitably qualified populations that continue to meet the criteria for listing on Appendix I found in Annex 1 of RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), from Appendix I to Appendix II pursuant to RC 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II</i> or RC 9.20 (Rev.) and RC 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals</i>; and ▪ If merit is found, draft a revision of the terms of paragraph A. 2 in Annex 4 of RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to eliminate the requirement that downlisting proposals pursuant to RC 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) or RC 9.20 (Rev.) must also meet the criteria in Annex 1 of RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC consider the following revision to paragraph A.2 in Annex 4 of RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) (changes marked as underlined or strikeout): “2. <u>Species included in Appendix I should only be transferred to Appendix II if they do not satisfy the relevant criteria in Annex 1 and only when one of the following precautionary safeguards is met:</u>— a) <u>a ranching proposal is submitted consistent with the applicable Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and is approved; or (formerly paragraph d.)</u> b) <u>they do not satisfy the relevant criteria in Annex 1 and only when one of the following precautionary safeguards is met:</u> ai) the species is not in demand for international trade, nor is its transfer to Appendix II likely to stimulate trade in, or cause enforcement problems for, any other species included in Appendix I; or bii) the species is likely to be in demand for trade, but its management is such that the Conference of the Parties is satisfied with: i-A) implementation by the range States of the requirements of the Convention, in particular Article IV; and iiB) appropriate enforcement controls and compliance with the requirements of the Convention; or eiii) an integral part of the amendment proposal is an export quota or other special measure approved by the Conference of the Parties, based on management measures described in the supporting statement of the amendment proposal, provided that effective enforcement controls are in place. d) a ranching proposal is submitted consistent with the applicable Resol-

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<p>13. Non-detriment findings (Decisions 15.23 and 15.24)</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the interim Chair of the AC, PC Chair and the Secretariat. • Decision 15.24 directs the AC and PC to, <i>inter alia</i>, provide advice for improving the Secretariat's NDF training materials; prepare for consideration at CoP16, draft guidance on the making of NDFs; and, if appropriate, prepare a draft Resolution on the establishment of non-legally binding guidelines for the making of NDFs. • Provides PC19 recommendations that, <i>inter alia</i>, a Resolution on NDFs is warranted, a Notification be sent to the Parties requesting their input on the making of NDFs, and the AC and PC establish a joint intersessional Working Group to prepare draft guidelines and a discussion paper. • Requests AC to consider the PC19 recommendations, improve them if necessary and adopt them. 	<p>utions of the Conference of the Parties and is approved.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to support the recommendations of PC19. • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to also direct the intersessional Working Group to review and make recommendations on the improvement of the CITES Secretariat's training materials on NDFs, as required by Decision 15.24. • In addition, SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to include more than four NGOs in the proposed intersessional Working Group (PC19 recommended a maximum of four NGOs and IGOs).
<p>14. Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species (Decision 12.91) – Secretariat report</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 15.24 directs the AC and PC to, <i>inter alia</i>, review the NDF training materials used by the CITES Secretariat when conducting regional capacity-building workshops and provide advice for their improvement. • Reports that the Secretariat, <i>inter alia</i>, presents information on quotas and NDFs in its training materials, has a project to strengthen the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries, will present the results of a questionnaire on CITES implementation at AC25, and provides interactive e-learning course on CITES with a section on NDFs. • Invites input from the AC regarding materials that may be used in the Secretariat's capacity-building work relating to voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species, that go beyond the guidance provided in the Guidelines annexed to RC 14.7 (Rev. CoP15). • Invites AC input regarding materials that relate to the making of NDFs, particularly in regard to NDF case studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to establish an intersessional Working Group, with observer participation, to review and make recommendations on the improvement of the Secretariat's training materials related to NDFs, including those pertaining quotas, the Secretariat's project on “sustainable wildlife management”, and non-detrimental trade. • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the Secretariat issue a Notification to the Parties requesting materials or information that may assist Parties in setting export quotas or making NDFs, including case studies that may be used by the Secretariat in its training and capacity building work. • SSN <u>notes</u> that Decision 15.22 calls on the Secretariat to seek funding to convene a capacity-building workshop and regional meeting for the Africa region before the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee, in order to improve regional implementation of the Convention. SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC ask the Secretariat to use this workshop and regional meeting as an opportunity to seek regional input from CITES Parties on ways to improve its training material based on the priority needs of countries in that region.
<p>15. Periodic review of animal</p>		

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species included in the CITES Appendices			
15.1	Overview of species under review AC25 Doc. 15.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 14.8 on <i>Periodic review of the Appendices, inter alia</i>, directs the Secretariat to maintain a list of species previously reviewed by the AC and PC, including dates of the review and links to the appropriate documents. • Provides the list of animal species selected for review between CoP13 and CoP15 (Annex). • Invites the AC to note the information presented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>agrees</u> that the AC should note the document.
15.2	Periodic review of Felidae		
	15.2.1 Periodic review of Felidae [Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP15)] AC25 Doc. 15.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the USA at the request of the AC Chair. • Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP15), <i>inter alia</i>, directs the AC to include the Felidae in its Review of the Appendices and provide a report at CoP16 on the progress of the review and particularly on the review of <i>Lynx</i> spp. and look-alike issues. • Provides a status update on the remaining Felidae species and recommendations for completion of the review, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A final Notification to the Parties urging range States of the Felidae species remaining on the list for review to consider taking the lead on these reviews. ▪ That both <i>Prionailurus spp.*</i> and <i>Panthera leo</i> (lion) receive the highest priority for review and that they be completed prior to CoP16. ▪ That the following species be maintained as a lower priority for review, as recommended by AC23: <i>Catopuma badia</i>, The genus <i>Felis</i> (including <i>F. bieti</i>, <i>F. chaus</i>, <i>F. manul</i>, <i>F. margarita</i>, <i>F. nigripes</i>, and <i>F. silvestris</i>), the genus <i>Leopardus</i> (including <i>L. braccatus</i>, <i>L. colocolo</i>, <i>L. geoffroyi</i>, <i>L. guigna</i>, <i>L. jacobitus</i>, <i>L. pajeros</i>, <i>L. pardalis</i>, <i>L. tigrinus</i>, and <i>L. wiedii</i>), <i>Profelis aurata</i>, and <i>Puma yagouaroundi</i>. <p>* <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> (Leopard Cat), <i>Prionailurus planiceps</i> (Flat-headed Cat), <i>Prionailurus rubiginosus</i> (Rusty-spotted Cat), <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> (Fishing Cat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to adopt the recommendations that <i>Prionailurus</i> spp. and <i>Panthera leo</i> receive the highest priority for review, and that the reviews be completed prior to CoP16. • SSN <u>agrees</u> that the remaining species considered to be low priority at AC23 be maintained on that list.
	15.2.2 Review of Lynx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the USA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC support the proposal and

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<p>species under the periodic review of species included in the CITES Appendices [RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP15), RC 14.8, and Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP15)]</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 15.2.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a draft proposal to maintain <i>Lynx rufus</i> in Appendix II pursuant to Criterion A of Annex 2 b of RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) (look alike provision), noting that the Parties rejected proposals to remove the species from the Appendices at CoP14 and CoP15. • Believes that the same look-alike concerns would apply to the other two Appendix-II lynx species, <i>L. canadensis</i> and <i>L. lynx</i>, and therefore, recommends these species remain in Appendix II. • Recommends that <i>L. pardinus</i> be maintained in Appendix I, based on the results of the <i>Lynx</i> spp. range State survey in the Annex. 	<p>recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>acknowledges</u> efforts made by the USA and other <i>Lynx</i> species complex range States to address this issue. 	
<p>15.2.3 Review of the status of the jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>) in the Appendices</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 15.2.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by Mexico. • Provides the results of a project on the Periodic Review of <i>Panthera onca</i> (jaguar) in the CITES Appendices that included a symposium of specialists titled “The Jaguar in the 21st Century: A Continental Perspective” held in Merida, Mexico, November 2009. • Concludes that the species meets the criteria for listing in Appendix I and recommends that the species be maintained in Appendix I. • Reports that, “The main threat to jaguar populations, identified during the Symposium, is direct hunting of individuals, either because of human-jaguar conflicts arising from opportunistic predation of livestock, for skin and teeth, or for sport hunting. Other threats include the hunting of jaguar prey species and the conversion and fragmentation of habitat.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the AC support the recommendation of Mexico that the species be maintained in Appendix I. • SSN commends Mexico for undertaking this work and coordination among the range States on this issue. 	
<p>15.3</p>	<p>Review of <i>Colinus virginianus ridgwayi</i></p> <p>AC25 Doc. 15.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the USA. • Provides a draft proposal to maintain <i>Colinus virginianus ridgwayi</i> (masked bobwhite quail) in CITES Appendix I. • Notes that the subspecies (native to USA and Mexico) has a very small total population size, perhaps as many as 50 individuals in the wild, and occupies a very small geographic range. • Notes that 129 dead birds were exported from Mexico to the USA for commercial purposes in 1994 and there were exports of ‘meat’ in 1995. In 1999, 15 dead birds were imported into the USA for ‘personal’ purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC support the proposal.

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		<p>Illegal shipments were seized upon entry into the USA in 1983 and 1993.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that if the subspecies was to be delisted from the CITES Appendices or recovery efforts were successful, “there is a likelihood that additional trade would resume.” 	
15.4	<p>Review of <i>Tympanuchus cupido attwateri</i></p> <p>AC25 Doc. 15.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the USA. • Provides a draft proposal to delist <i>Tympanuchus cupido attwateri</i> (Attwater’s greater prairie chicken) from CITES Appendix I. • States that the subspecies (native to the USA) meets the biological criteria for listing in Appendix I as the subspecies has a very small total population size and each sub-population is small and occupies a very small geographic range. • Notes that two legal shipments occurred in 1996 and 1998, of captive-bred scientific specimens and that an illegal shipment of two specimens occurred in 1998. • States that the subspecies “is not demand for international trade (not “affected by trade” as defined in Annex 5) nor would any trade be anticipated if it were delisted from the CITES Appendices”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC support a transfer of this subspecies from Appendix I to II rather than a deletion, as RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), Annex 4, A. 1. states that “No species listed in Appendix I shall be removed from the Appendices unless it has been first transferred to Appendix II, with monitoring of any impact of trade on the species for at least two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.”
15.5	<p>Review of <i>Crocodilurus amazonicus</i></p> <p>AC25 Doc. 15.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the USA. • Provides a draft proposal to retain <i>Crocodilurus amazonicus</i> (crocodile tegu, dragon lizard, jacararana lizard, formerly <i>C. lacertinus</i>) in CITES Appendix II. • Notes that the species (native to Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Peru, and Venezuela) has a wide geographic distribution. • This rare and poorly-known lizard is not thought to be undergoing a population decline, nor – were the species to be delisted from the CITES Appendix II -- is any significant decline anticipated as a result of current or future trade or habitat loss or conversion. • While <i>C. amazonicus</i> is not affected by trade, potential look-alike issues have been raised with other taxa. During the period 1975-2009, a total of 17 specimens of <i>C. amazonicus</i> were reported in international trade. Trade in <i>Varanus</i> spp., a similar lizard from Asia and Africa, is substantial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC agree that <i>Crocodilurus amazonicus</i> should be retained in CITES Appendix II.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While a case could be made to delist the species from the CITES Appendices, given that the species is not affected by trade and the absence of significant conservation threats, four range States (Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and France on behalf of French Guiana) have expressed identification concerns and recommended or suggested that the species be retained on Appendix II in order to enhance domestic enforcement, as well as to monitor the impact of potential trade on that taxon and other similar species. 	
15.6	Selection of species for review following CoP15 AC25 Doc. 15.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 14.8 on <i>Periodic review of the Appendices</i> requires that the AC, <i>inter alia</i>, identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of CoP. Provides a selection of candidate species (Annexes 1, 2, and 3) for Periodic Review. Invites the AC to establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of fauna species included in the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the CoPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
16. Sturgeons and paddlefish			
16.1	Secretariat's report AC25 Doc. 16.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish</i> directs the Secretariat to provide at each AC meeting a written report on activities related to the conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish. Reports that, in comparison with previous years, the Secretariat has received relatively little intelligence relating to illegal trade in caviar. States that, despite the best efforts of the CITES community, "the goal of legal and sustainable harvest of caviar at a level anywhere near what was achieved in the past, especially in its historical centre in the Caspian Sea, appears unattainable for the present." Reports that a 2009 caviar workshop noted that the current domination of aquaculture in caviar supply may soon make it "difficult for caviar from wild sturgeon populations to find a place in the international market." and that "Crime, corruption and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC note this report. SSN <u>notes</u> that there is no way to distinguish wild and farmed sturgeon products and there is a risk of the trade in aquaculture products becoming a conduit for laundering illegally harvested wild product. SSN <u>believes</u> it an unrealistic goal to aspire to have a current wild-source caviar trade that resembles, in volume, that which occurred historically. The amount of wild-sourced caviar in trade, if any, should reflect the status of wild populations. It is not the role of CITES to ensure that caviar from wild sturgeon can continue to compete with other forms in the marketplace.

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		<p>a lack of political will have perhaps created bigger obstacles to sturgeon recovery than any physical obstructions which prevent fish accessing their traditional spawning grounds.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invites the AC to note the report. 	
16.2	<p>Progress report on the evaluation of the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology in the Caspian range States</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 16.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish, inter alia</i>, directs the AC to carryout, on a three year cycle, an evaluation of the assessment and the monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species and provide its recommendations on actions to be taken to the SC. • Notes that SC58 requested the Caspian range States to report to AC25 on progress made in improving the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology and in implementing the recommendations of the 2009 Technical Workshop on Combating Illegal Sturgeon Fishing and Trade (AC24 Doc. 12.2). No replies were received by the deadline, although Azerbaijan replied on 5 April 2011. • Reports that, because of the poor response, an expert provided analysis of the stock assessment and TAC determination for sturgeon species in the Caspian Sea more generally (Annex). • Recommends that the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources of the Caspian Sea should establish a stock assessment committee that will be responsible for data analysis, stock assessment and development of management recommendations. • Invites the AC to draft recommendations for the SC on its evaluation of the assessment and the monitoring methodologies used for shared stocks of Acipenseriformes species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>notes</u> that the document and Annex state that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No stock assessment models are officially agreed upon at present for Caspian sturgeon stocks. ▪ Despite recommendations made at stock assessment workshops, no changes were made in the assessment methodology used by any Caspian country. ▪ In February 2011 delegations of all five Caspian countries discussed the need for a five-year moratorium on take of all sturgeon species in the Caspian Sea. • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to request the SC to endorse the recommendations contained in the Annex and require the Caspian range States to establish zero quotas on sturgeon product exports until the SC finds that the recommendations have been complied with.
	<p>17. Conservation and management of sharks – Report on the implementation of NPOA-Sharks and regional plans, and on relevant information from the range States</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes), inter alia</i>, urges Parties to develop National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management (NPOAs) for sharks and to report to the Secretariat and the AC on implementation; and directs the AC to examine this information and report their analyses to CoP16. • Provides a summary (Annex 1) and full text (Annex 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>commends</u> the Parties that submitted reports. • SSN <u>is concerned</u> about the failure of many Parties to develop and implement a NPOA for sharks, or to provide information to this meeting. • SSN <u>notes</u> that the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-SHARKS) is not making the positive impact on shark conservation that was intended, making the adoption of binding measures under other agreements, including CITES, increasingly urgent.

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	<p>of responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027 of 24 August 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes that the final report of an FAO-CITES <i>Workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of elasmobranchs</i> may be submitted as an information document at AC25. Invites the AC to note the document, examine the information, and report to CoP16 on their analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> that AC25 consider making species-specific recommendations to improve the conservation status of sharks at CoP16, as directed by RC 12.6 (Rev. CoP15). SSN <u>notes with concern</u> that most of the reports fail to provide information on trade in shark products, making it difficult for the AC to fulfil its directive in RC 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) to review such information. SSN also <u>notes with concern</u> that the catch and landings data provided for this meeting differ considerably in some cases from that provided to FAO. SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take urgent action to improve the status of sharks identified by the AC as “species of concern”. Recommend that Parties explore the use of Appendix III listings as a tool for obtaining international trade data on shark species. Urge Parties to provide accurate, detailed trade data to the AC and CoPs. Examine the status of shark species and make species-specific recommendations to CoP16. Acknowledge that the landing of detached shark fins creates a serious obstacle to accurate identification of species in trade species-specific trade data. Work with Parties to identify the linkages between international trade in shark products and IUU fishing. Urge Parties to comply with RC 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) by collaborating with their Customs authorities in the expansion of their current trade classification system “to allow for the collection of detailed data on shark trade including, where possible, separate categories for processed and unprocessed products, for meat, cartilage, skin and fins, and to distinguish imports, exports and re-exports and between shark fin products that are dried, wet, processed and unprocessed fins.” Work with the Parties to ensure that the collection, analysis and presentation of catch and trade data are consistent across all agencies responsible for provision of national data.
<p>18. Snake trade and conservation management (Decisions 15.75 and 15.76)</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 15.76 directs the AC to consider the results of the CITES Asian snake trade workshop, held in Guangzhou, China, 11 to 14 April 2011 and provide recommendations to the SC. Workshop conclusions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The commercialized trade in Asian snakes is not sustainable and follows the Asian turtle crisis.” “The research base on dynamic populations, which is the most pertinent to NDFs (how snake populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to recommend that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SC request the CITES Secretariat to prepare an Alert on “Illegal trade in snakes in Asia”. A study be commissioned to investigate snake farms claiming to ranch and/or breed snakes in captivity and investigate available techniques to differentiate between wild and captive-raised snakes in trade. A desk-based study be commissioned on the extent and nature of trade in parts, products and derivatives of Asian snakes, including sea-snakes. This may be combined with a related study on turtle parts and products (see “SSN Recommendations” under Agenda item 19).

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	<p>respond to harvesting), is virtually non-existent.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The illegal trade in snakes and their products is thriving...” ▪ “Overall, the number of non-CITES species affected by trade is alarming.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop recommendations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolution of nomenclature issues ▪ Conduct NDF case studies ▪ Investigate the venom trade ▪ Identify species of snakes for CITES listing ▪ Study production systems ▪ Study the nature of trade in snake parts and products ▪ Issue an Alert to law enforcement agencies on ‘Illegal trade in snakes in Asia’, and ▪ Collation of snake identification and training materials. • Invites the AC to consider the workshop results (Annex) and to provide recommendations to the SC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Secretariat issue a Notification requesting information on existing snake identification and training materials and report to AC26. ▪ Snake species that would benefit from inclusion in the Appendices be identified. ▪ CITES-listed snake species that would benefit from inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade be identified. ▪ A draft Resolution regarding the trade in snakes be prepared for consideration at CoP16. The Resolution should urge Parties to, <i>inter alia</i>: enhance and increase enforcement efforts with regard to the national and international trade in snakes; establish science-based annual export quotas for traded snake species; support and undertake research on the ecological and biological attributes of wild snake populations subject to trade; update legislation identifying protected snake species; institute protocols for monitoring and enforcement regarding snake farms, and ranching and captive-breeding operations; and improve management strategies for native snakes.
<p>19. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Decision 15.79)</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 15.79 directs the AC to review the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group study of progress on conservation of and trade in CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles in Asia and to make recommendations to the SC and/or CoP16. • Invites the AC to review the final study in the Annex and to make recommendations as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend that a study be undertaken on the trade in shells, bones, and cartilage of tortoises and freshwater turtles and trade in medicinal preparations and other parts and derivatives from tortoises and turtles. The objective of the study would be to provide recommendations to the Parties to address this trade including measures for training and enforcement. ▪ Recommend that the SC address issues involving illegal trade in these species and concerns that wild-caught animals are traded as captive-bred specimens, as recommended in the report. ▪ Recommend that Parties be encouraged to adopt the report’s recommendations that are directed to the Parties. ▪ Identify CITES-listed turtle and tortoise species that would benefit from inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade. ▪ Recommend that the Parties be encouraged to list traded turtle and tortoise species in the CITES Appendices and, as a priority, to submit proposals to list in Appendix II, the following highly traded taxa: the genus <i>Cyclemys</i>, the genera <i>Chelydra</i> and <i>Apalone</i>, and the species <i>Hardella thurjii</i>, <i>Morenia petersi</i>, <i>Aspideretes leithii</i>, <i>Dogania subplana</i> and <i>Nilssonia formosa</i>. ▪ Forward to CoP16 a recommendation to include applicable recommendations of the report under ‘ÚRGES’ in RC 11.9 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles</i>.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss the possibility of future work on trade in tortoises and fresh-water turtles in other CITES regions, including Madagascar and the Americas in particular, as RC11.9 (Rev. CoP13) is not limited to only Asian species/Parties. • SSN <u>is concerned</u> about the large numbers of smuggled tortoises offered openly for sale in some Asian countries, whose authorities apparently lack regulatory powers to deal with these animals once they have been imported. • SSN <u>would support</u> the establishment of a Working Group, including observer participation, to discuss these issues, with the aim of formulating recommendations for the SC, the Secretariat and the CoP.
<p>20. Sea cucumbers [Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15)]</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15) directs the AC to evaluate the outcomes of the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, conducted in 2007, and recommend appropriate follow-up actions at CoP16. • Provides a list of related FAO publications (Annex). • Statements from the paper produced from the outcome of the workshop include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “With retail prices of up to USD300–500 per kg (dried), exploitation has often been indiscriminate and excessive.” ▪ “The total global catch of sea cucumbers is in the order of 100,000 tonnes of live animals annually ...” ▪ “Apart from a few developed countries, only a small number of sea cucumber fisheries are currently being managed sustainably.” ▪ “The life-history traits of holothurians make them especially vulnerable to overfishing, which poses a great challenge to fishery management.” ▪ “CITES may be beneficial for deterring illegal fishing and trade of sea cucumbers and for conserving threatened species. CITES listing could also help in standardizing trade names and codes.” ▪ “Lack of political will is a major impediment to CITES listing and endorsement from countries.” • Invites the AC to evaluate outcomes of the FAO workshop and recommend appropriate follow-up actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC agree that CITES should contribute to international efforts to address sea cucumber conservation and trade concerns. • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to compile a list of priority species for attention and explore listing of these species in CITES Appendix II. • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to recommend that materials be developed to allow identification of sea cucumbers in trade to the species level. • SSN <u>urges</u> the AC to recommend to CoP16 that the Parties adopt a Resolution on the trade in sea cucumbers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognizing that sea cucumber stocks are under intense fishing throughout the world and many high-valued species are depleted or over-fished; with some fished to reproductive extinction in some regions. ▪ Encouraging Parties to assist in building financial and technical capacity in developing countries for sea cucumber conservation and management measures. ▪ Encouraging Parties to improve data collection, management and conservation measures for sea cucumbers, and implementing, enhancing and enforcing these actions through domestic, bilateral, RFMOs or other international measures. ▪ Encouraging Parties to utilize the FAO publications produced on sea cucumbers, including <i>Managing sea cucumber fisheries with an ecosystem approach</i>, in order to achieve sustainable management of these species.
<p>21. Transport of live animals</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 15.59 directs the AC and PC to, <i>inter alia</i>, prepare for consideration at CoP16, revisions to RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Transport of live specimens</i> and RC 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Permits and certificates</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC take note of the report, adopt the recommendations contained in this document, and invite the participation of observers in the intersessional Working Group.

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	<p>and, new guidelines for non-air transport of live animals and plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 15.60 directs the Secretariat to: a) explore ways to establish enhanced cooperation between CITES and organizations that deal with transport (OIE/World Animal Health Organization, International Maritime Organization, etc.); and b) incorporate the transport-related guidance found in paragraphs 77-89 of document AC24 Doc. 15.2 into the CITES National Legislation Project. • Reports that the Secretariat has already incorporated transport-related guidance into the CITES National Legislation Project and states that “there does not seem to be an opportunity or a need at this time to explore the development of a Memorandum of Understanding or the creation of an additional liaison group with OIE, IMO and other organizations that deal with transport.” • Reports that PC19 agreed to the establishment of a joint Transport Working Group, which would work intersessionally until CoP16 to assist the AC and PC with Decision 15.59 and recommends that the AC agree to establish such a group and designate at least one representative to participate in this group. Invites the AC to take note of the report. 	
<p>22. Nomenclatural matters</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the AC Specialist on Zoological Nomenclature. • Provides updates/recommendations regarding: the use of the name <i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i>; a major new taxonomic publication on the whole genus <i>Uromastyx</i>; a standard reference for the Varanidae; recommendations on taxonomy from the CITES Asian snake trade workshop (Annex 1); the need for a nomenclature standard reference for the genus <i>Agalychnis</i>; other taxonomic changes for amphibians (Annex 2); an extract from an on-line reference for fish species that might replace the current outdated reference for fish species (other than the genus <i>Hippocampus</i>) (Annex 2); and new nomenclatural changes in CITES-listed animal species identified since AC24 (Annex 3). • Questions whether the AC should consider recommending an amendment to RC 12.11 on <i>Standard no-</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agree to return to the species name <i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i>. ▪ Agree to the nomenclature specialist’s proposed changes regarding <i>Uromastyx</i> spp., Varanidae, and the reference for fish species. ▪ Seek more information on the nomenclature changes suggested by the CITES Asian snake trade workshop before making a decision on these issues. ▪ Note the progress made on references for the genus <i>Agalychnis</i>. • Regarding Decision 15.62, SSN <u>agrees</u> that the AC should recommend a respective amendment to RC 12.11 (Rev. CoP15). • Regarding Decision 15.63, SSN <u>agrees</u> that the AC should ask for volunteers to intersessionally carry out analyses of higher taxon listings for animal groups besides Testudines.

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	<p><i>nomenclature</i> in response to Decision 15.62 that states that if nomenclature changes are identified affecting Appendix-III listings, the AC nomenclature specialist shall advise the Secretariat whether these changes also result in changes in distribution affecting the countries issuing certificates of origin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests that volunteers undertake the analysis required by Decision 15.63 that directs the AC and PC to identify taxa listed in the Appendices that can be included under the name of a higher taxon without altering the scope of the listing. Notes that a first analysis of Testudines (Annex 4) has been done. • Provides the references currently used (Annex 5) as nomenclature standard references for CITES-listed corals noting that Decision 15.64 requests the AC to identify additional references to that could be adopted. • Regarding the issues identified in the document, suggests that the AC consider possible problems of changes identified, develop recommendations and defer final recommendations until AC26. 	
<p>23. Identification of CITES-listed corals in trade [Decision 15.64 b)]</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 15.64 directs the AC to, <i>inter alia</i>, update its list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible (Annex), and provide the updated list to the Secretariat for dissemination. • Invites the AC to update the list in order for this to be transmitted to the Parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>24. Progress report on the Identification Manual</p> <p>AC25 Doc. 24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an update on the first year of use of the CITES Wiki Identification Manual. • Invites Parties, organizations and experts to contribute content to the CITES Wiki Identification Manual. • Invites the AC to note this report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC note this report. • SSN <u>remains concerned</u> that many Parties may not have regular, reliable access to the Internet and <u>urges</u> the AC to recommend that the Secretariat ensure that paper copies of the identification manual are available and distributed in sufficient number in developing countries where availability of computers and the Internet is problematic.
<p>25. Time and venue of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee</p> <p>No document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<p>No comment.</p>
<p>26. Any other business</p> <p>No document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<p>No comment.</p>
<p>27. Closing Remarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<p>No comment.</p>

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No document		



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