



**SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
CITES STANDING COMMITTEE**
6-10 November 2023; Geneva, Switzerland

All meeting documents prepared by the CITES Secretariat unless otherwise indicated.

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

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
1. Agenda SC77 Doc. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the agenda for the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
2. Working programme SC77 Doc. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the working programme for the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
3. Rules of Procedure (RoP) SC77 Doc. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the RoP for the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
4. Credentials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
5. Admission of observers SC77 Doc. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a list of observers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
6. Report of the Chairs of the AC and PC SC77 Doc. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides recommendations from AC32 and PC26 on related SC agenda items. Invites SC to note this information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the document.
7. Standard disclosure form for Members of the AC and PC SC77 Doc. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by SC Chair. Invites SC to consider amendment to the disclosure form as follows (addition <u>underlined</u>): “2. Do you have, or have you had during the past four years, an employment or other professional relationship with any company, organization or institution directly involved in the <u>commercial</u> harvesting, breeding, propagation, domestic or international trade of specimens of CITES-listed species or directly representing the interests of any such entity?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC support disclosure requirements that improve transparency of Committee deliberations.
8. Financial matters SC77 Doc. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights Secretariat’s financial performance since CoP19 and provides information on income/expenditure from 1 January 2022 to 30 September 2023 for both Convention trust funds. Provides Annexes (1-11) related to the Secretariat’s costed work programme, the CITES Trust Fund, the CITES External Trust Fund, and statements of income/expenditures. Invites SC to approve reports on the costed programme of work for the full year of 2022 and for the period up to 30 September 2023; and to note proposal to not charge registration fees for observers for online meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.

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<p>9. Terms of reference (ToR) of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the ToR (Annex) and proposes that they be annexed to RC 18.2 on <i>Establishment of committees</i>. Invites SC to adopt these recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the proposed changes to RC 18.2.
<p>10. Administrative matters</p>		
<p>10.1 Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 10.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports on the Secretariat's administrative performance since CoP20. Invites SC to note report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report.
<p>10.2 Report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on administrative matters</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 10.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports on UNEP's administrative and financial management support provided to the CITES Secretariat. Suggests that SC consider, <i>inter alia</i>, increasing 2026-2028 staff budget to reflect the increased cost associated with the ASHI programme (health insurance for retired staff) and to allow for a transition of a select number of administrative posts to the programme budget so as to reduce risks related to over-reliance on programme support costs (PSC) – for core administrative functions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
<p>11. Rules of Procedure of the CoP</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Chair of SC Working Group on RoP. Decision 18.1 directs SC to review Rules 7.2 a) and 25. Reports that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RoP should enable each proposal to be introduced and considered; Most members considered that a stepwise approach from least to most restrictive is the most practical; and Discussions continue. Invites SC to note progress and agree that the working group continue its deliberations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC agree that the working group continue its deliberations.
<p>12. Emerging operational matters of the committees</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides Secretariat's recommendations if intersessional work and meetings are affected by emerging operational issues and circumstances warrant online or hybrid meetings. Provides a risk matrix for convening meetings, non-fee cancellation deadlines for hosting future meetings of AC/PC/SC (Annex 1); guidance on the application of the RoP for online or hybrid SC meetings (Annex 2); and revisions to proposed amendments to RC 18.2 on <i>Establishment of committees</i> outlining what constitutes exceptional cases (Annex 3). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, suggest other possible guiding principles for exceptional circumstances, agree to use the guidance provided, submit amendments to RC 18.2 to CoP20, and consider a no-objection procedure for intersessional decision-making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree to the amendments proposed to RC 18.2; Establish a working group to review the guidance proposed in Annex 2, noting that the guidance includes interpretations that exceed the scope of the SC's existing RoPs; and Request recommendations from the Secretariat regarding Rule 20, but note that the rule needs to consider inclusion of observer organizations in instances such as establishing intersessional working groups.

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13. Access to funding SC77 Doc. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides report on, <i>inter alia</i>, extrabudgetary financial support, and information on countries preparing the 'program framework document' under the GEF Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program (Annex). Invites SC to note this report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report.
14. Sponsored Delegates Project SC77 Doc. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides information on the project and reports that the project raised only about 50-60% of its fundraising goal. Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, agree that support for non-Member AC, PC, SC delegates is not possible at this time; and possibly expand the project to support developing country Parties subject to an Article-XIII process to attend SC, by maintaining Decision 19.10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While SSN notes the importance of participation for Parties subject to an Article XIII process at SC, this would further draw on limited funds resulting in less support for delegates for CoP20, particularly if both SC78 and CoP20 take place in 2025.
15. Arrangements for the 20th meeting of the CoP SC77 Doc. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
16. CITES Strategic Vision SC77 Doc. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides, <i>inter alia</i>, a mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision against the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Annex 1); and proposed amendments to RC16.4 on <i>Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions</i> (Annex 2) that, <i>inter alia</i>, instruct the Secretariat to provide to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) any relevant data it has collected on the indicators for the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030, if so requested. Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and amend the text in Annex 1; Submit the amendments in Annex 2 to CoP20 along with new Indicator 1.4.1: "The number and proportion of species listed in Appendices that have been found to meet the criteria for each Appendix contained in RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) or its successors as part of the Periodic Review process or of amendment proposals;" and Consider the merit of refining an additional indicator for objective 1.4 b: Indicator 1.4.2/1.4.3: "The number and proportion of species listed in the Appendices identified as likely/unlikely to be threatened by international trade on the basis of information in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species". 	SSN suggests that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding Annex 1: Remove the reference to KM-GBF¹ Target 9 in relation to CITES Strategic Vision Objective 1.1. Objective 1.1 refers to obligations to ensure that overexploitation does not threaten the survival of species, not the promotion of sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services as contemplated in KM-GBF Target 9. <u>Regarding Indicators for CITES Strategic Vision Objective 1.4:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reject Indicator 1.4.1. Objective 1.4 asks whether CITES is meeting the needs of <u>all</u> species, not just CITES-listed species. Revise Indicator 1.4.2 to ensure that: 1) it compares the number of species listed on the CITES Appendices with the number that, according to IUCN data and other sources, may meet the criteria for listing, and reflects the Convention's listing standards; and 2) to read, "The number and proportion of species listed in the Appendices identified as likely to be threatened by international trade1) threatened with extinction that are or may

¹ Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

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		<p>be affected by trade, or 2) not yet threatened with extinction but may become so if not regulated by CITES, on the basis of information on IUCN data (i.e., Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild and Extinct) <u>and/or other relevant sources</u>, compared to the number that are included in the CITES Appendices.” Other sources of information are needed to account for: out-of-date IUCN assessments; un-assessed species; and instances where the trade threat is new or increasing. Up-to-date information, including published scientific reports, may more accurately reflect species status and threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reject proposed Indicator 1.4.3; an analysis of species unlikely to be affected by trade is not useful when measuring whether the Convention meets the needs of all species.
17. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade		
17.1 Report of the working group SC77 Doc. 17.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that there was no agreement on the establishment of a related CITES advisory body and that the group continues its work. • Invites SC to note the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the report.
17.2 Report of the Secretariat SC77 Doc. 17.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of responses to a related Notification; ▪ Related Decisions adopted at CoP19 (Annex 1); ▪ Draft MoU prepared by the Secretariat and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), and draft joint programme of work (Annexes 2A and 2B); ▪ Relevant Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) work (Annex 3) and related collaboration; and ▪ Related work by other organizations (Annex 4). • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, provide input on the draft MoU and draft joint programme of work, and request SC working group to consider this information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC should encourage further feedback from Parties, including Parties that have not yet responded to the Notification, and encourage collaboration with WOAH to encourage input from its focal points. • <u>Regarding the draft MoU</u>, SSN recommends that SC should endorse the revised MoU with WOAH but with the addition, in Article 2, para. 1 of “<u>The prevention of pathogen spillover</u>”. • <u>Regarding the Programme of Work</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action Track 6 section 6.1.6 should be changed to: “ensure that wildlife-based economies are legal, ecologically sustainable, resilient and inclusive, while managing the risks of unregulated and illegal wildlife farming and trade”. WOAH

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		<p>and CITES should focus on ensuring trade is legal, ecologically sustainable and safe, rather than encouraging or promoting trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC should ensure that proposed workshops, guidelines and other workstreams are open to input from Parties, observers and other relevant experts in animal health and welfare. • SC should advocate for a highly precautionary approach to trade in CITES-listed species posing a high risk of zoonotic pathogen emergence, and, as provided in the Joint Programme of Work, advocate for better support to local communities for alternative sustainable economic activities.
<p>18. Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international organizations</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines a process for the development of the draft CITES partnership strategy to identify priorities for collaboration that specifically enhance the implementation of the Convention, as well as its effectiveness and efficiency, through strategic partnerships. • Describes, <i>inter alia</i>, planned participation in Bern III Conference on synergies (January 2024) and the Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6). • Invites SC to consider the process outlined, coordinate the participation of its Members at the Bern III Conference on synergies, and encourage Parties to participate in the UNEA-6 high-level dialogues to represent the achievements, needs and interests of CITES and its Parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the document, including the process outlined. • Although the CITES Strategic Vision acknowledges the relevance of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal to CITES, Secretariat participation in other MEA processes and international meetings represents a significant workload and risks diverting resources and attention from unimplemented core CITES work. CITES Parties are able to engage in these processes individually (See Decision 17.55 (Rev. CoP19)).
<p>19. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including policy aspects of IPBES Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the SC Chair. • Provides the key findings of the assessment's <i>Summary for Policymakers</i> with a listing of CITES Resolutions, Decisions and processes that the SC may wish to consider in the context of the IPBES assessment. • Invites SC to establish an intersessional working group to facilitate the review of the IPBES assessment and consider the provided draft ToR for the group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC establish the working group. • Regarding the ToR, SSN recommends that the working group be directed to limit the review to IPBES findings relevant to achieving CITES goals and within the mandate of the Convention. • SSN notes that many issues identified in the Annex fall outside CITES' mandate (e.g. land tenure, resource rights, distribution of costs and benefits, human migration and culture, certification schemes).
<p>20. World Wildlife Trade Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends SC invite Parties and observers to provide feedback on the pilot World Wildlife Trade Report (WWTR); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC invite Parties and observers to provide feedback by 30

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<p>SC77 Doc. 20</p>	<p>and request the Secretariat to compile responses and make recommendations to SC78.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CoP19 Doc. 12 states that the aim of the proposed report is to review and analyze aspects of international trade in CITES-listed species including trends, patterns and scale to conservation impacts, socio-economic benefits and the correlation between legal and illegal trade; and “to demonstrate how sustainable, legal and traceable wildlife trade can be a tool for conserving species and healthy ecosystems, enhancing rural livelihoods, local and national economies and human wellbeing”. 	<p>November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aims of the WWTR go far beyond CITES’ mandate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of a WWTR between each CoP would be expensive (~US\$90,000²) and divert limited funding from already-underfunded, high-priority items (e.g. Sponsored Delegates Fund, MIKE, ETIS, the CITES Tree Species Programme and the CITES Illegal Trade Database). Providing price data for species in trade imposes a significant burden on Parties, is sensitive, and could slow the compilation and submission of annual reports and related updates to the CITES trade database. The pilot edition (CoP19 Inf. 24) is biased towards trade promotion and <u>fails</u> to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriately address negative impacts from wildlife trade, including over-exploitation, undermining IPLC livelihoods or minimizing benefits to IPLCs in the value chain; Recognise economic benefits to local communities from alternative uses of wildlife; or Provide any real value to enhance implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
<p>21. CITES and forests</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a CITES Forest Compendium (Annex 1); revised ToR (Annex 2) for proposed interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests; and background on the discussion of CITES and forests (Annex 3). Reports that progress on the study will be provided at SC77. Invites SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider progress made; and Explore options for the implementation of Decision 19.34 paragraph b) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “i) enhance the implementation of the Convention with respect to CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, and CITES’ contribution to global forest relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives, while avoiding duplication and supporting joint action; and, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note progress made. SSN is concerned that although long-term and predictable funding to assist Parties in making NDFs for CITES-listed tree species (via the CTSP) “may not be realistic”³, the proposed new workstream on <i>CITES and forests</i> likely will require substantial funding. SSN believes that making science-based NDFs, including inventories and management plans should be the priorities for any CITES tree-related work.

² https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-CoP19-12_0.pdf

³ SC77 Doc. 25

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) raise awareness of the importance of investing in the conservation, sustainable management and legal trade of CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species". 	
<p>22. Language strategy for the Convention</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that Resolutions and Decisions will be translated into Arabic, Chinese and Russian, in addition to the CITES website; notes cost (US\$205,900) for interpretation into Arabic, Chinese and Russian at CoP20 and invites donors to make contributions; notes travel and <i>per diem</i> of translators are not included and would need to be covered by the host country. • Invites SC to note, update and consider future approach to have all six United Nations languages at CoPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the document and consider the options provided by the Secretariat.
23. Capacity-building		
<p>23.1 Implementation of RC 19.2 on Capacity-building</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 23.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on related activities including funding received and the provision of capacity-building assistance. • Invites SC to note the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the report.
<p>23.2 Report by Sudan</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 23.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on a workshop held in Khartoum in March regarding combating wildlife crime and improving CITES implementation. • Reports that Sudan is in need of technical, logistical and financial support, particularly in regard to wildlife surveys for making NDFs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the report.
<p>23.3 Capacity-building framework</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 23.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that, <i>inter alia</i>, the Secretariat intends to organize one or more regional technical consultations regarding development of an integrated capacity-building framework to improve implementation of the Convention. • Invites SC to note the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the report.
<p>24. Compliance Assistance Programme</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a report and invites SC to acknowledge progress made and acknowledge Guinea, Lao PDR, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Suriname and Togo for their commitment to participate in the Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the report and commend the participating Parties.
<p>25. CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposes that the CTSP and any future bridging projects be considered as one of the funding mechanisms in support of a CITES and forests programmatic approach. • States, <i>inter alia</i>, that long-term and predictable funding for the CTSP's long-term continuation may not be realistic considering the current landscape of extrabudgetary contributions. • Invites SC to recommend that the Secretariat fully align and integrate CTSP as a dedicated funding mechanism of a CITES and forests programmatic approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the highly successful CTSP be retained as a core CITES project and that additional funding be sought as the CTSP provides assistance to range States where it is needed most, assisting them in making NDFs necessary for meeting their Convention obligations.

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26. CITES gender action plan SC77 Doc. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared jointly by the Secretariat and SC Chair. Provides a draft outline of the CITES Gender Action Plan (Annex). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, provide comments on the draft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
27. Establishment of the CITES Youth Global Network (CGYN) SC77 Doc. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared jointly by Singapore and the Secretariat. Reports that Singapore plans to invite 40 youth representatives to Singapore in March 2024 to be part of the founding members of the CGYN. Founding members of CGYN will organize the inaugural Global Youth Summit in 2025. Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, invite Parties to join Singapore's effort in the establishment of the CGYN and request the Secretariat to support these efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC request information on the planned role of the Secretariat in CGYN and associated costs to CITES.
28. Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities		
28.1 Report of the working group SC77 Doc. 28.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports that the group, <i>inter alia</i>, will continue to review a list of ideas for engagement of IPLCs in CITES, at the national and international level. Invites SC to note the progress made by the group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report. SC should recommend that any consultations with IPLCs on proposals should be undertaken at the national level, include <i>all</i> relevant IPLC stakeholders, and not be limited to IPLCs engaged in international trade.
28.2 Report of the Secretariat SC77 Doc. 28.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides responses from Parties to a questionnaire on IPLC engagement (Annex) and, <i>inter alia</i>, suggests that SC may wish to clarify that the IPLCs in the CITES context should be understood to include rural communities. Invites SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the report; and Consider including the issue of examination of the terminology used in the CITES context when referring to "indigenous peoples", "local communities" or "rural communities" (Decision 17.57 (Rev. CoP19)) in the mandate of the intersessional working group on IPLC engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report and include the issues raised in Decision 17.57 (Rev. CoP19) in the working group's mandate.
29. Livelihoods SC77 Doc. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by the Chairs of the SC Livelihoods Working Group. Reports that the group, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will continue to provide input on <i>guidance on maximizing the benefits to IPLCs from trade in CITES-listed species</i>; and Regarding registered marks of certification for products produced by IPLCs, recommends that Parties be encouraged to share experiences in their use of certification systems; and Continues to make progress. Invites SC to note the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report.

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<p>30. Demand reduction to combat illegal trade</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update on related activities including, <i>inter alia</i>, translation of the <i>Guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species</i> into French and Spanish. Invites SC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the document.
<p>31. National laws for implementation of the Convention</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents legislative progress of Parties (Annex). Recommends that SC, <i>inter alia</i>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree on a recommendation to all Parties to suspend commercial trade with Comoros, Congo, Dominica, Ecuador, Libya, Mongolia and Sierra Leone; and Requests Secretariat to issue a formal warning to the Parties that have not reported legislative progress for >3 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt some of the Secretariat's recommendations. SC should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oppose moving Belize, Liberia, and Rwanda to Category 2 until the revisions to their draft legislation have been officially adopted; and Seek clarification from the Secretariat about the basis of moving Lao PDR to Category 2 due to significant gaps and inconsistencies in Lao PDR's legislation (para. 17, SC77 Doc 33.10).
<p>32. National reports</p>		
<p>32.1</p> <p>Submission of annual reports</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 32.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports that Comoros, Eritrea, Nigeria and Somalia have failed to submit annual reports for 3 consecutive years (or more); and that if Angola, Antigua, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, the Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Maldives, Myanmar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands and Togo fail to submit their 2022 CITES annual report, due on 31 October 2023 without adequate justification, they could also be subject to a SC recommendation to suspend trade. Recommends that SC instruct the Secretariat to determine whether these Parties have failed to provide annual reports, and if so, to issue a Notification recommending that Parties not authorize any commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties until they have provided the missing reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>32.2</p> <p>Revised guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade report</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 32.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides amendments to the guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and the guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports (Annex). Invites SC to approve the amendments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC support the proposed amendments, but remains concerned about the very low response rate (less than half of Parties submitted their 2020 report by the deadline) and the lack of compliance proceedings for non-submission of reports under Res. Conf. 11.17 (Rev CoP18). SSN urges SC to recommend amendments to the Resolution whereby non-submission results in compliance

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<p>32.3 Revised report format for implementation reports</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 32.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides amendments to the implementation report in order for the Secretariat to collect data against the strategic vision indicators (Annex). Invites SC to agree on the amendments to the report format, and encourage Parties to submit their next implementation report. 	<p>proceedings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the proposed amendments.
<p>33. Compliance matters</p>		
<p>33.1. Implementation of Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on CITES compliance procedures [Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) paragraph 23 c) – e)]</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides updates on potential compliance matters identified at SC74, including the United Kingdom (UK), Viet Nam, India and Suriname, and UK's CITES regulatory regime for captive-bred specimens of Appendix I birds of prey species (Annex). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Kingdom: regarding commercial trade in captive-bred Appendix I species, adopt the same recommendations made in the European Union case (SC77 Doc. 33.1); Viet Nam: request Secretariat to provide in-country assistance, conduct a second technical assessment and a verification mission regarding trade in timber; India: request Secretariat to conduct a technical assessment and verification mission regarding trade in live animal specimens; Suriname: request Secretariat to provide in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission regarding trade in live bird specimens, noting the seizure of 29 specimens of Lear's macaw (<i>Anodorhynchus leari</i>) in 2023; Instruct the Secretariat to prepare guidance on the scope and application of SC recommendations to suspend trade; and Instruct the Secretariat to develop a standard template to assist the Parties in the preparation of compliance action plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC agree to most of the Secretariat's recommendations. Regarding Suriname, SSN recommends that the SC request the Secretariat to issue a Notification alerting Parties that 23 of the 29 Lear's macaws seized in Suriname were later stolen while in custody,⁴ and attempts may be made to traffic these birds overseas. Regarding the proposal for the Secretariat to draft guidance on the issuance of trade suspensions, SSN agrees that the issues raised in Doc. 33.1 are important but also notes that they could be addressed by SC being more precise when recommending trade suspensions.
<p>33.2. Expedited application of Article XIII for West African rosewood (<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>) for all range States</p>		
<p>33.2.1. Report by Senegal</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides background information, reports that range States need additional support for development of LAFs and NDFs, and describes ongoing concerns regarding stockpiles. Recommends that SC, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an in-session working group on <i>P. erinaceus</i> to refine recommendations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create the in-session working group, if needed, to refine recommendations for the three documents under agenda item 33.2; Note that the proposed workshop

⁴ <https://www.amda.org.br/index.php/comunicacao/noticias/6886-das-29-araras-azuis-de-lear-resgatadas-no-suriname- apenas-5-chegam-ao-brasil>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Request range States to secure stockpiles; ▪ Instruct the Secretariat to provide capacity-building specific to making of NDFs and LAFs by affected range States; ▪ Encourage Parties not to authorize the transit or import of any specimen traded in contravention of CITES or the laws of any country involved in the transaction; and ▪ Request range States to report to SC78. 	<p>outlined in paragraph 66 of SC77 Doc. 33.2.3 is an initial step towards meeting the needs identified by Senegal, and that additional support is still needed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend that range States secure and inventory stockpiles of <i>P. erinaceus</i>, in order to ensure that stockpiled timber without NDFs or LAFs is not mixed into future exports of newly harvested timber with NDFs and LAFs; ▪ Note that range States with stockpiles would benefit from guidance on management and controls of stockpiles of timber tree species outlined in SC77 Doc. 50; and ▪ Remind Parties that all range States currently have a zero export quota or recommendation to suspend trade under Article XIII, and that consequently any imports from these Parties are in violation of the Convention.
<p>33.2.2. Updated Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) and Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF) report for <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> in Sierra Leone and a request for special authorization to export the pre-zero export quota harvested stocks of <i>P. erinaceus</i></p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.2.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the updated NDF and LAF for <i>P. erinaceus</i> in Sierra Leone. • Reports that previously identified stockpiles “are now defined as “pre-zero export quota harvested stocks which are privately owned and were legally harvested”. • Invites SC to lift the zero export quota based on the information contained in the Annex and after review of the Annex, make any additional recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note the progress Sierra Leone has made; ▪ Request submission of a revised NDF to PC 27 for consideration under the Review of Significant Trade agenda with, at a minimum: a proposed country-specific sustainable export quota including detailed information on its calculation given the limited quantity of commercially viable standing stocks; an NDF for any timber from the pre-suspension stockpile; and an explanation for any stockpile exports included in the quota; ▪ Remind Sierra Leone that the SC cannot lift the zero export quota until the conditions set out in paragraph 6 of SC77 Doc. 33.2.3 and Notification No. 2022/045 are fulfilled; and ▪ Encourage Sierra Leone to work with the Secretariat on development of LAFs for any trees harvested under a future NDF, and for any future timber exports from the 160,000 m3 stockpile.
<p>33.2.3. Report of the Secretariat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the recommendations of PC via the Review of Significant Trade (Annex) and progress in the implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC adopt the majority of recommendations in

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
<p>SC77 Doc. 33.2.3</p>	<p>of Article XIII recommendations for selected range States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that no further recommendations with regard to Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Senegal are required as they have adopted zero export quotas; Consider specific recommendations for the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Niger, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sierra Leone; and Consider the organization of a workshop for range States in the making of LAFs and NDFs for this and other species. 	<p>paragraph 67; and, provided Sierra Leone maintains its voluntary export quota,:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend the retention of the long-term RST recommendations; and Request Sierra Leone submit a revised NDF to PC27 (See comment to Doc. 33.2.2).
<p>33.3. Application of Article XIII in Bangladesh</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a report from the Secretariat on a technical mission to Bangladesh regarding, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live birds: Wildlife crime related to CITES-listed birds, including CITES-listed species considered to be "non-CITES" species; movement of CITES-listed species over land borders; inability to prosecute crimes for non-native species under the Wildlife Act 2012 Shark products: Difficulties implementing new shark listings; gaps in monitoring and reporting of export of sharks, rays and their products from Bangladesh, including undocumented shipments to China via Myanmar. Reports that Bangladesh did not issue import permits for birds in Appendix I in 2021 and 2022. Invites SC to recommend, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds from or to Bangladesh until the Party is in a position to adequately regulate and monitor their trade; Bangladesh to strengthen the regulatory framework in relation to management and trade of birds and CITES-listed marine species, increase CITES trade controls, strengthen enforcement, and report on these issues to SC78. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC agree to the recommendations of the Secretariat. SC77 Doc. 33 reports that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh's Wildlife Act (2012) does not provide for penalties, including fines, nor arresting powers; and In May 2023, authorities in Bangladesh found three Appendix I Lear's macaws concealed in an incoming shipment of live birds (the birds reportedly later died); Bangladesh is identified as a major exporter of live birds to India;⁵ SSN notes that no such exports are recorded in the CITES trade database. Gross imports of live psittacines into Bangladesh more than tripled from 2016 to 2020, with the majority of this trade recorded by exporting countries only.⁶
<p>33.4. Application of Article XIII in Cameroon</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document available at the time this briefing was prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
<p>33.5. Application of Article XIII in China</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a report on the Secretariat's technical mission to China regarding the import of 87 live Asian elephants (<i>Elephas maximus</i>) from Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) with source code 'C' from 2010-2018. Reports, <i>inter alia</i>, that: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend that China suspend with immediate effect the authorization of imports of wild Asian elephants from Lao

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specimens were sourced from a wild male and a captive female, and therefore, do not meet the definition of “bred in captivity”; and ▪ The facilities housing, displaying, showing and breeding are of a primarily commercial nature. Imported specimens of Appendix I species should “not to be used for primarily commercial purposes” (RC 5.10 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Definition of ‘primarily commercial purposes’</i>. • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine that CITES Articles III and VII, paragraph 5 are not being effectively implemented in regard to these imports; ▪ Take one or more compliance measures referred in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on CITES compliance procedures; ▪ Encourage China to develop an action plan with cooperative measures that would support in situ conservation of Asian elephants in the Lao PDR; and ▪ Commend China on its efforts to address human-elephant conflict and the work of its Management Authority in Shanghai. 	<p>PDR; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regarding Lao PDR, SC should adopt the recommendations in SC77 Doc. 33.10.
<p>33.6. Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a report on progress made by DRC to address implementation and enforcement concerns, including, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DRC will no longer permit export of pangolin scale stockpiles; ▪ Efforts to address wildlife trafficking and in management and quota setting for <i>Pericopsis elata</i>, <i>Prunus africana</i> and <i>Guibourtia demeusei</i>; and ▪ DRC states that no commercial trade in grey parrots (<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>) have been authorized, yet there are reports that African grey parrots continue to be captured and transported in large numbers.⁷ • The USA has designated officials of the DRC Management Authority as ineligible for entry into the USA.⁸ • Invites SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invite Parties to maintain the suspension of trade in specimens of <i>P. erithacus</i> until, <i>inter alia</i>, DRC can make scientifically based non-detriment findings; and ▪ Urge DRC to continue efforts to address organized wildlife crime, strengthen the regulatory framework for the implementation of CITES; fight corruption associated with illegal wildlife trade; and report to SC78 on these issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>33.7. Application of Article XIII in Ecuador</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document available at the time this briefing was prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.

⁷ “...according to some estimations, in numbers that may exceed 1000 individuals per month.”

⁸ <https://www.state.gov/designation-of-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-drc-public-officials-for-significant-corruption/?s=09>

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<p>SC77 Doc. 33.7</p>		
<p>33.8. Application of Article XIII in European Union (EU)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 47,337 transactions are recorded of captive-bred specimens of Appendix-I animals for commercial purposes using purpose code 'T' from the EU for 2011-2020⁹; no commercial breeding operations are registered by EU Member States, except for falcons. • Provides a report on the Secretariat's technical mission to Germany and Spain noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LAFs for founder stock are not traced back to source; ▪ Significant numbers of specimens are traded and bred for primarily commercial purposes; ▪ Payments for exported specimens are inappropriately termed "non-commercial" because it is claimed that they are "re-invested" to support conservation activities; and ▪ Different requirements for exports within and beyond the EU. • Spix's macaws (<i>Cyanopsitta spixii</i>), classified as extinct in the wild, have been sold within and outside the EU from Germany, for commercial and breeding purposes, reportedly to "re-finance conservation". • In 2018, Germany permitted import of wild, Appendix I listed parrots (<i>Amazona imperialis</i> and <i>A. arausiaca</i>) from Dominica for 'breeding purposes' despite an SC recommendation to Parties not to authorize trade with Dominica. The export permit was not signed by the responsible authority; Germany claims the imports were for emergency reasons in response to a hurricane that struck Dominica five months earlier.¹⁰ • Recommends that SC, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine that Article III and Article VII para. 4 of the Convention are not being effectively implemented by the EU with regard to the registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes, based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Evidence that parental stock has not been obtained in accordance with relevant national laws and the provisions of the Convention; and –The primarily commercial nature of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species in captivity; ▪ Take appropriate action in response to the determination; ▪ Consider the development of additional guidance on the aspects of concern; and ▪ Regarding parrot imports from Dominica, determine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN urges SC to adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat and recommend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU Member States not issue export permits for Appendix I species bred in captivity for commercial purposes unless they have been bred in facilities registered with the CITES Secretariat (RC12.10 (Rev. CoP 15)); this should include all facilities, regardless of their size (including hobby breeders); ▪ Parties to restrict imports to those produced by operations included in the CITES register; and ▪ The import of the parrots from Dominica to have been in violation of CITES requirements and arrange for the birds and any progeny to be returned to Dominica. • SSN also urges SC to recommend that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU to report to SC78 on progress on this matter; ▪ EU to appropriately trace founder stock back to source; ▪ Germany to report on the number, destinations of, and financial proceeds derived from transfers of Spix's macaws; and ▪ Germany to move oversight of movement of CITES species within the EU to the federal level.

⁹ data includes the United Kingdom

¹⁰ <https://dominicanewsonline.com/news/homepage/news/birdscaribbean-welcomes-renewed-support-for-dominicas-native-parrots/>

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	<p>whether a natural disaster is an acceptable justification to authorize the transaction in question.</p>	
<p>33.9. Application of Article XIII in Guinea</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides related recommendations from SC74 (Annex). • Reports: that the Secretariat will conduct a mission in Guinea in October 2023; on work focusing on export of a stockpile of pre-Convention <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>; and on assistance that Guinea is receiving via the Compliance Assistance Program. • Recommends that SC maintain the suspension as the new Management Authority still needs to make progress on the recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC maintain the suspension while Guinea makes progress on these issues.
<p>33.10. Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides SC74 recommendations regarding CITES implementation in Lao PDR (Annex 1); report on progress made by Lao PDR (including a zero export quota for <i>Dalbergia</i> spp.); and an <i>Overview of the Status of Implementation of the Recommendations</i> (Annex 2). • Invites SC to recommend that Parties suspend trade (import and export) in specimens of all CITES-listed species for commercial purposes until Lao PDR has substantially achieved certain recommendations relating to, <i>inter alia</i>, national legislation, law enforcement, trade in live Asian elephants, and tiger facilities (measures to limit the number of tigers to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers). 	<p>SSN urges SC to recommend the suspension and, in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding tigers, adopt the recommendations in paragraph 38.g) to n) with amendments to paragraph 38.h) and 38.i) to clarify that breeding of any identified pure specimens of <i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i> should take place only for conservation purposes as part of an established, science-based population management program, such as those following IUCN Guidelines on the Use of Ex-Situ Management for Species Conservation; and • Recommend reporting on the number of long-tailed macaque (<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>) in captive facilities and LAFs for acquisition of breeder stock, because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC32 requested that the Secretariat investigate the issue of legal acquisition of founder stock for captive-breeding facilities for the species in Lao PDR;¹¹ ▪ <i>M. fascicularis</i> is a highly valuable species in trade, making laundering a lucrative business;¹² ▪ From 2022 to 2023, Lao PDR's quota for 'C' exports increased by 30%; and ▪ A recent survey estimated that only 500 wild individuals remain in the country, a reduction of almost 400% in the last 10

¹¹ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/32/E-AC32-SR.pdf%20p20>

¹² Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, after which both demand and market value significantly increased, the international trade in long-tailed macaques constituted a market worth of ~US \$1.25 billion: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcosc.2022.839131/full>

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<p>33.11. Application of Article XIII in Nigeria</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides related recommendations from SC75 (Annex 1) and a table of seized ivory reported (Annex 2). • Notes that SC77 Doc. 33.2.3 reports on progress by Nigeria regarding <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and other legislation and enforcement issues. • Invites SC to maintain the suspension of trade in <i>P. erinaceus</i> and adopt revised recommendations regarding <i>P. erinaceus</i>, legislation, enforcement, permitting systems and disposal of seized CITES specimens. 	<p>years.¹³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
<p>33.12 Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.) and ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.): Report of Madagascar</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a report from Madagascar on measures to combat illegal forest exploitation. • Invites SC to note the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note this report.
<p>33.13 Totoabas (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>)</p>		
<p>33.13.1 Report presented by Mexico as Chairman of the Trilateral Contact Group on law enforcement to combat the illegal trade in totoaba</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.13.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on the creation of a Trilateral Law Enforcement Contact Group to Combat Totoaba Trafficking by China, Mexico and the United States; and the development of the related ToR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note this report but expresses its deep disappointment that the establishment of ToRs for this enforcement group has taken six years, preventing this group from operating.
<p>33.13.2 Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 33.13.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides related Decisions (Annex 1); SC75 decisions regarding totoaba (Annex 2); Responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/069 (Annex 3); Mexico's report on progress with implementation of the compliance action plan (CAP)(Annex 4); Conclusions of the Secretariat regarding progress made by Mexico on its compliance action plan (Annex 5); and ToR of a study on vaquita (<i>Phocoena sinus</i>) and totoaba (Annex 6). • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note progress made; ▪ Request Mexico to report to SC78 on implementation of its CAP; ▪ Review Mexico's progress at SC78 and consider if any further compliance actions or measures are needed; ▪ Request China and USA to invite the Secretariat for a related technical mission; and ▪ Request the Secretariat to work with INTERPOL and 	<p>SSN recommends that the SC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise serious concerns about the content of the CAP and its implementation including, <i>inter alia</i>, that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CAP is inconsistent with Mexico's September 2020 Agreement to stop illegal fishing in vaquita habitat in that it does not include actions to: prohibit possession, manufacture, sale, or transport of gillnets; prohibit night fishing; require disclosure of information regarding bycaught marine mammals and lost and misplaced fishing gear; inspect <i>all</i> fishing vessels; and seize illegal gillnets; ▪ The CAP reporting period (April to July, 2023) is when fishing activities are

¹³ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ajp.23547>

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	<p>UNODC to convene a Wildlife Inter Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meeting and a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting (RIACM) on totoaba</p>	<p>typically in decline in the Upper Gulf and, therefore, the reported results do not reflect months when fishers are more active;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Despite the 1,631 inspections reported by Mexico, large numbers of vessels with illegal gillnets enter the Upper Gulf without inspection and with no enforcement of existing rules; ▪ Enforcement actions are lacking, including the imposition of penalties against illegal fishers; ▪ Little progress has been reported on efforts to transition fishers to alternative gear; the majority of fishers do not have access to such gear; ▪ Illegal fishing in the Upper Gulf, particularly outside the Zero Tolerance Area (ZTA), remains rampant (over 8,500 meters of illegal nets, including 6,000 from the ZTA, seized since April; confiscation of 1,360 totoaba maws by Mexico since 2019; two large shipments of maws seized by US since April; and ▪ Establish a Technical Advisory Group to assess Mexico's implementation of the CAP and provide recommendations to SC78; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Propose amendments to the Secretariat's recommendation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Request Mexico to amend the CAP to include: action and goals for all Articles in September 2020 Agreement; host a meeting of CIRVA (International Committee for Recovery of the Vaquita); host a workshop on development and implementation of alternative gear; and fund two vaquita surveys per year (spring and fall); ▪ Recommend the Secretariat to reissue Notification 2023/069 to seek any new information in response to Decisions 18.292 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.275 from range, transit, and consumer countries; request third mission to Mexico after September 2024 when CAP is to be fully implemented;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strongly encourage all Parties to seek opportunities to aid Mexico, including with funding, to combat illegal totoaba fishing and trafficking; and ▪ Strongly encourage all consumer countries, including China, to: increase inspections of fish traders/markets, take enforcement actions against offenders, increase demand reduction efforts, and submit reports to SC78 for review and recommendations as necessary.
<p>34. National ivory action plan process</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 34</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides related Decision (Annex 1); reports from Angola, Cambodia, Cameroon, Mozambique, Nigeria, Qatar and DRC (Annexes 2-8); and Secretariat's summary of, and recommendations for each Party. • Invites SC to consider, <i>inter alia</i>, categorization of the Parties as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achieved: Cambodia; ▪ Partial progress: Mozambique, Nigeria, Qatar; ▪ Limited progress: Cameroon; ▪ Issue a written caution: Angola, Congo, Gabon, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Togo, Viet Nam; and ▪ Possible trade suspension: DRC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the Secretariat's recommendations to suspend trade with the DRC, and to instigate compliance proceedings against Angola, Congo, Gabon, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Togo, and Viet Nam should these Parties fail to submit a progress report in the 60 days following SC77; ▪ Reject the Secretariat's requests for non-reporting countries to provide oral updates at SC77, as this goes against the NIAP Guidelines and does not provide adequate time for Parties and the SC to consider and analyze progress; and ▪ Explore additional funding streams and consider the recruitment of an independent, external assessor to undertake the NIAP assessments. This could, for example, be considered as part of the NIAP review decided at CoP19.
<p>35. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species (RST)</p>		
<p>35.1. Overview of the Review of Significant Trade</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 35.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an update species/country combinations currently in RST (Annex). • Invites SC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note this document.
<p>35.2. Implementation of recommendations of the Animals Committee</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 35.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides report on long-standing cases and species selected following CoP17, including updates along with Secretariat's recommendations (Annex 1). • Invites SC to adopt the Secretariat's recommendations regarding these species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC agree to the recommendations, with the exception of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ South Asian box turtle (<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>)/Indonesia: Request Indonesia to amend its minimum size restrictions, noting that current requirements focus exploitation on the

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		<p>valuable adult population segment, instead of the more dynamic/resilient juvenile cohorts; “offtake focused on eggs or hatchlings, with concomitant protection of adults, is much less likely to be detrimental to a turtle population than offtake of adult turtles or subadults”¹⁴; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>)/Grenada: Grenada should only permit exports if robust population data for the targeted fishing sites are available and exports are limited to shell sizes that prevent/exclude the collection of “mega spawners”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC request AC/PC, when establishing interim quotas, to ensure that they are precautionary, noting that AC established interim quotas for certain psittacine species that are equal to average trade levels or recent export quotas (see Annexes).
<p>35.3. Implementation of recommendations of the Plants Committee</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 35.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides report on: actions taken by Parties to implement recommendations under the RST; and summaries of cases, including PC recommendations, implementation to date, and Secretariat’s recommended actions (Annex). • Invites SC to adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat for the following combinations: <i>Dalbergia retusa</i> (Nicaragua, Panama); <i>Pericopsis elata</i> (Congo, DRC); <i>Prunus africana</i> (Cameroon, DRC); <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> (India). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>36. Review of trade in specimens reported as produced in captivity</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 36</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides evaluation by the Secretariat of implementation of the recommendations under RC 17.7 on <i>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i> (Annex 1), new species selected for review at AC32, and a list of species/country combinations that meet criteria for inclusion in the review including reporting inconsistencies and incorrect application of source codes (Annex 2). • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, note progress made; make recommendations to the Parties concerned; and regarding Annex 2, consider if any species/country combinations should be selected for review under RC 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) and request the Secretariat to address general or specific questions to the Parties concerned. 	<p>SSN recommends that SC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding Annex 1, SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note that the Secretariat is seeking clarification from Indonesia regarding information on clutches of <i>Cacatua alba</i> produced, and recommend that Indonesia ensure that genetic parenthood tests be part of the future monitoring programme; ▪ Remind Parties that export permits must not be issued in the absence of an NDF (ref Ghana’s response in relation to exports of <i>Varanus exanthematicus</i>); ▪ Retain <i>Testudo hermanni</i>/North Macedonia in the Review pending

¹⁴ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/28/E-AC28-15-Annex2.pdf>

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		<p>guidance for situations where the founding stock was acquired before listing the species or before the Party concerned joined the Convention; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider compliance procedures for Parties that have not responded to requests for information in the specified timeline (<i>Centrochelys sulcata</i>/Mali). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regarding Annex 2, SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include these species/country combinations in the Review in order to determine whether these represent reporting anomalies and whether the Parties concerned are complying with respect to the captive breeding exemptions in Article VII; ▪ Regarding African elephant/Zimbabwe: Request information from Zimbabwe on ranching and captive-breeding facilities for this species; and ▪ Regarding South Africa: Remind South Africa to use source code D for specimens from registered facilities; and regarding exports of Appendix I species from facilities not registered (particularly psittacines, big cats, chimpanzees), request information on LAFs made and the purposes for which the specimens were bred. ● SC77 should address concerns noted by AC32¹⁵ regarding Syria's gross exports of 3,664 live primates (including great apes), from 2016-2021—all with source code C with no recorded prior imports for the majority of species.
<p>37. Possession of specimens of species included in Appendix I</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 37</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reports that the Secretariat has noted that a recurrent gap in national legislation is the absence of a prohibition on the possession of illegally traded specimens of CITES-species; RC 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>National laws for implementation of the Convention</i> does not list such a prohibition as one of the basic requirements of legislation. ● Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remind Parties that the regulation and penalization of possession of specimens of species included in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSN recommends that SC adopt most of the recommendations. ● Closing the loophole created when possession of illegally traded specimens is not treated as a violation of domestic law is critical for addressing illegal wildlife trade. SC should urge all Parties to review their national legislation to ensure that such loopholes are closed, and the

¹⁵ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/32/E-AC32-SR.pdf>

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	<p>Appendices – including Appendix I – is a requirement under Article VIII of the Convention;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider amendment of RC 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) to more clearly state this requirement; and ▪ Invite Parties to identify related loopholes in their implementing legislation. 	<p>Secretariat should continue its work under the National Legislation project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given ongoing multiple priorities and the Secretariat's existing efforts, amending RC 8.4 at this point is unnecessary.
<p>38. Review of RC 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 38</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by Chairs of SC Working Group on Review of RC 11.3 (Rev. CoP19). • Provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An update on discussions by the group, including, <i>inter alia</i>, the role of professional bodies in compliance matters, compliance issues related to marine species and introduction from the sea, and stockpile management; and ▪ A questionnaire sent to the SC working group on Review of RC 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) (Annex). • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, note the report, comment on the Annex and consider whether to seek responses to the questionnaire via a Notification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC take note of the progress of the working group. • SSN urges SC and working group members to support the amendment to RC 11.3 proposed in paragraph 15, which would address important enforcement issues related to Introduction from the Sea (IFS).
<p>39. Enforcement</p>		
<p>39.1 Enforcement matters</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 39.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on, <i>inter alia</i>: recent enforcement efforts, particularly those involving corruption; efforts to address illicit financial flows from wildlife crime; and implementation of related Decisions. • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, encourage Parties to integrate financial crime investigations into the investigation of crimes involving wildlife; make use of the CITES directory of laboratories that conduct wildlife forensic testing; and request the Secretariat to convey the importance of securing sustainable funding to maintain the CITES Illegal Trade Database (ITD). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations, but is concerned that because of a lack of external funding the CITES ITD can be maintained only up to 31 August 2024.
<p>39.2 International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 39.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a report on, <i>inter alia</i>, key activities implemented under the ICCWC Strategic Programme (which is coming to a close); implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework assessment; and related activities at the national, regional and global level. • Reports that the ICCWC will initiate the implementation of the ICCWC Vision 2030 in late 2023. • Invites the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, welcome the support provided by ICCWC, encourage Parties to actively engage in ICCWC initiatives and operations, and welcome the contributions from donor Parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>39.3 CITES Big Cats Task Force</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 39.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides outcomes of the CITES Big Cats Task Force meeting held in April 2023 (Annex) that, <i>inter alia</i>, invited the Secretariat to consider the merits of a resolution on illegal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN urges the SC to oppose recommending a common resolution on all big cats. There are significant

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	<p>trade in big cats, including a possible revision of RC 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species</i> to be applicable to all big cat species and include this in its report to the SC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the SC to consider the proposal regarding a resolution on illegal trade in big cats, and encourage Parties to implement the recommendations of the Task Force. 	<p>differences in the threats facing Asian big cats compared to other big cat species, and also differences in management regimes as well as their listing status in the Appendices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Force invited the CITES Secretariat to consider the merits of a resolution on illegal trade in all big cats and include this in its report to the SC; the document does not do so. SSN notes that there was no consensus among Task Force meeting participants regarding a common resolution for all big cats. SSN recommends that SC encourage big cat range States to report on implementation of the recommendations of the Outcome Document (SC77 Doc 39.3 Annex), to SC78.
<p>39.4 Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 39.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Chair of SC Working Group on Wildlife Crime Enforcement Support in West and Central Africa. Provides a working group discussion document (Annex 1), minutes of a working group call (Annex 2), and a questionnaire regarding existing access to finance mechanisms for CITES enforcement (Annex 3). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, agree that the working group continue its work, and that, once finalized, the questionnaire be provided to the Parties via Notification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC agree with the working group's recommendations including, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding collaboration between source, transit and consumer countries (Decision 19.84), Parties should make use of established platforms such as INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization and focal points listed on the CITES website; There is no need to create an additional funding mechanism for enforcement but ongoing funding is necessary; and There is a need for greater awareness of existing initiatives and for instruction on how to access adequate funds and technical support for compliance with CITES requirements.
<p>40. Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 40</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes large volume of related documents that need to be reviewed. Invites SC to establish an intersessional working group with a particular focus on compliance and enforcement aspects relevant to marine turtles, and to propose amendments at CoP20 to RC 19.5 on <i>Conservation of and trade in marine turtles</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC establish the working group.

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
41. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)		
<p>41.1. Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 41.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides related Decisions (Annex 1); responses from Parties to Notification no. 2023/091 on Asian big cats (Felidae spp.) (Annex 2); and updates on conservation, enforcement and demand reduction efforts, related forensics and a photographic identification database for tigers. • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, note report; Secretariat to issue a Notification inviting all range States of <i>Panthera pardus</i> to submit a report to the Secretariat on the conservation measures undertaken, poaching incidents detected, and seizure data; and Parties to report <i>P. pardus</i> seizure data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN notes that only 9 Parties (including 5 Asian range States) responded to the Notification. Annex 2 does not provide sufficient information for SC to review the implementation of Decisions 18.100, 18.101, 18.105 and 18.106. • SSN notes that some responses are contradicted by other available information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ China's stated prohibition on the use of tiger bone for medicine is contradicted by a 2018 State Council Order¹⁶ and the online display of products stated to contain tiger bone apparently licensed by the National Medical Products Administration of China;¹⁷ and ▪ South Africa's stated requirement for facilities to be registered with the CITES Secretariat is contradicted by CITES Trade Database records (2010-2020) showing commercial export (purpose code 'T') of tiger specimens (live animals, skulls, bodies, trophies and skins) from non-registered facilities. • SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note the report and adopt the recommendations in paragraphs 91.b) and c); ▪ Instruct the Secretariat to re-issue the Notification seeking responses on implementation of Decisions 18.100, 18.101, 18.105 and 18.106 and report on their implementation for consideration by SC78, including on whether any time-bound, country-specific measures are required; and ▪ Direct the Secretariat, prior to each CoP and subject to external funding, to commission a report on the implementation of RC 12.5 (Rev

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
<p>41.2. Asian big cats in captivity</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 41.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides summaries of reports from countries with facilities that may be of concern including China, Czech Republic, Lao PDR, South Africa, Thailand, USA and Viet Nam (Annex 1); and ToR for the missions to five of these Parties (Annex 2). • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: • Encourage Parties to implement related Decisions and RC 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on the Conservation of and • trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species; and agree to specific recommendations to the Czech Republic, South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam. 	<p>CoP19) and associated decisions for consideration by the CoP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN notes that the Secretariat expresses concern about Lao PDR's ability to inspect facilities, highlights the risk of specimens entering illegal trade from facilities with large numbers of tigers and no sustainable income, and observes that most tigers kept in facilities in Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Thailand do not seem to have intrinsic conservation value. • SSN notes that that 81% and 67% of seizures in Thailand and Viet Nam respectively (January 2000 to June 2022) involved captive sourced tigers¹⁸ and that tiger specimens, including cubs, have been consistently observed in illegal trade in South-East Asia including confiscations from licensed facilities; • SSN recommends that SC agree to the recommendations but clarify that conservation breeding should only occur as part of an established, science-based population management program,¹⁹ and, in addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regarding South Africa, request the Secretariat to inquire into the commercial nature of the operations involved; from 2015-2022, South Africa's gross exports totaled 325 live tigers (see comment to Doc. 41.1) ▪ Encourage China to welcome a mission from the Secretariat in implementation of Decision 18.102 (Rev. CoP19); and ▪ Instruct the Secretariat to report to SC78 on implementation of the recommendations in paragraphs 92. e) to g).
<p>42. Illegal trade in African great apes (<i>Gorilla gorilla</i>, <i>Gorilla beringei</i>, <i>Pan troglodytes</i> and <i>Pan paniscus</i>)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 42</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by Liberia. • Provides examples of the continuing international trafficking of African great apes including, <i>inter alia</i>, the export of 18 chimpanzees from South Africa in 2019 where specimens were supposedly offered for sale for US\$95,000 each; a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC support and submit these Decisions to CoP20 for adoption and extend the scope of the Task Force to <i>all</i> apes. • SSN recommends that SC support the

¹⁸ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a4459cdfec96484b8a4590f8f09fc45a>

¹⁹ e.g. those following IUCN *Guidelines on the Use of Ex-Situ Management for Species Conservation*

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	<p>substantial increase in the number of great apes entering rescue centers; and the presence of live specimens in private facilities with no corresponding legal trade data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invites SC to submit draft Decisions to CoP20 that, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct the Secretariat to re-establish and convene the CITES African Great Apes Task Force; and ▪ Encourages Parties affected by illegal trade in African great apes to report on the implementation of RC13.4 (Rev. CoP18) and pursue joint investigations and operations aimed at halting such trade. ● Recommends amendments to strengthen RC13.4 (Rev.CoP18) 	<p>draft amendments to RC.13.4 (Rev.CoP18), and submit them to CoP20 for adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSN is concerned about recent trade in allegedly captive bred great apes between non-range States, such as from South Africa to China, from Syria to numerous Parties, and from Germany to Iraq.
<p>43. Jaguars (<i>Panthera onca</i>) SC77 Doc. 43</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presents the results and recommendations of the meeting of jaguar range States held in Brazil in September 2023. ● Invites the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note the results; ▪ Request Secretariat to prepare ToR for creation of a modular system for monitoring illegal killing of jaguars and an intergovernmental platform for information on jaguars; ▪ Recommend that CITES and CMS develop a joint working programme for jaguar conservation and organize a second meeting of jaguar range States; and ▪ Establish a working subgroup on financial opportunities for the jaguar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations with the following additions in paragraph 31 e), regarding jaguar range States: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Prioritize raising awareness and demand reduction” as well as “mitigate and prevent negative interactions between humans and jaguars” (the first meeting was unable to address these topics); and ▪ “Prioritize representation of Asian countries at the meeting to ensure a comprehensive response adequately addressing demand and supply.
<p>44. Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope (<i>Pantholops hodgsonii</i>) SC77 Doc. 44</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides responses to a Notification regarding the Implementation of RC 11.8 on <i>Protection and Trade Control of Tibetan Antelopes</i> (Annex), that include information on seizures of Tibetan antelope products. ● Invites SC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSN recommends that SC note the document.
<p>45. Rhinoceroses (<i>Rhinocerotidae</i> spp.) SC77 Doc. 45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides reports from Botswana, China (including Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China), Qatar, South Africa and the UAE (Annex) regarding measures to address the illegal killing of rhinoceros and trafficking of rhinoceros horn. ● Reports, <i>inter alia</i>, that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Angola is emerging as an exit point for illegal rhino horn and ivory from Africa to Asia; ▪ Rhino poaching has increased significantly in Namibia in 2022; and ▪ Additional funding is needed to convene a follow up CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force meeting. ● Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note that Malaysia and Viet Nam did not provide any report, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat, and, in addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Express concern that several of the responses submitted by Parties to which Decisions 19.117-19.119 are directed did not include implementation information; ▪ Request for consideration by SC78 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Botswana share details on rhino-related prosecutions with the Secretariat; –Qatar and UAE provide the Secretariat with details on collaboration with Parties known to be associated with illegal rhinoceros specimens transiting their

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	<p>and decide if further measures are required; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Request Secretariat to seek updates from the Parties concerned (plus Angola and Namibia) and report to SC78. 	<p>territories pursuant to Decision 19.119, such as intelligence sharing and joint investigations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ South Africa share information and, where possible, case studies on how DNA samples from rhino horn seizures made by other Parties shared with South Africa are used to support intelligence-led investigations with the Secretariat; ▪ China (including Hong Kong SAR of China) provide information to the Secretariat on collaboration with other Parties affected by the illegal rhino horn trade pursuant to Decision 19.118; ▪ Emphasize the importance of securing funding to implement Decision 19.120 on convening a meeting of the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force; ▪ Request Malaysia, Mozambique, and Viet Nam to provide written responses to the Secretariat's request for information regarding implementation of Decisions 19.118 and 19.119 irrespective of any oral updates provided at SC77; and ▪ Remind Parties that an absence of seizures for rhino horn (or any other illegal wildlife product) does not necessarily indicate an absence of demand (or of trafficking).
<p>46. Legal acquisition findings (LAFs)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 46</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on, <i>inter alia</i>, related workshops held and other capacity-building activities; and the development (with FAO) of a legal, online database entitled "CITES-LEX" to provide materials and resources to support legal risk assessments on LAFs. • Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, encourage Parties to use the "Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings" when preparing their LAFs; and share their LAFs in order to share best practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations. • The SC Sharks and Rays intersessional working group is reviewing the Rapid Guide related to marine species for improvement. SC should encourage Parties to utilize the new version when available.
<p>47. Introduction from the sea (IFS)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 47</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that an Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (A/CONF.232/2023/4) was adopted by consensus. • Provides, <i>inter alia</i>, feedback from Parties on implementation of RC 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>IFS</i> and <i>Revised 10 most frequently asked questions on Introduction from the Sea</i> (Annex). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat. • SSN would like to refer Parties to SC77 Doc 67.1 regarding issues of non-compliance with CITES obligations for IFS.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that should SC find that a review of the RC 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) might be useful, it may wish to present draft decisions to CoP20. Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, note the report and review the revised questions. 	
48. Purpose-of-transaction codes SC77 Doc. 48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
49. Electronic systems and information technology SC77 Doc. 49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Chair of SC Working Group on Electronic Systems and Information Technologies, in consultation with the Secretariat. Reports on related activities undertaken by the Secretariat and discussions within the working group. Invites SC to note the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report.
50. Stocks and stockpiles SC77 Doc. 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the SC Chair. Provides, <i>inter alia</i>, current provisions on stocks/stockpiles, and a draft definition of stocks, stockpiles: "In the context of CITES, the words 'stocks' and 'stockpiles' are used interchangeably to refer to any volume or number of accumulated dead specimens of CITES-listed species held temporarily by public or private entities." Invites SC to consider the proposed definition, encourage Parties to make use of related guidance material, and consider whether guidance on management and controls of stockpiles of timber tree species is needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oppose using the same definition for stocks and stockpiles. "Stock" is used in RC 12.10 for live animals in relation to breeding, parental and current stock. The instances where "stocks" are used in the chart in paragraph 14 should instead be changed to "stockpiles"; and Amend the definition of stockpiles: "stocks/stockpiles: In the context of CITES, the word stocks and stockpiles are used interchangeably to refer to any volume or number of accumulated dead specimens of CITES-listed species held (temporarily or long-term) by public or private entities." Recommend the development of guidance on management and controls of stockpiles of timber tree species.
51. Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory) SC77 Doc. 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides, <i>inter alia</i>, information on ivory stockpile reporting including information on Parties that may have unreported stockpiles. Notes that the Secretariat previously identified Burundi as a Party where ivory stockpiles are not well secured. Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, recommend that Parties submit stockpile information, including on destroyed stockpiles to the extent possible; and request the Secretariat to continue engagement with Burundi to request an invitation to conduct a technical mission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC propose amendments to the Secretariat's recommendations, in particular to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend Parties in the NIAP process who have never reported ivory stockpiles to urgently provide updates by SC78 ; Consider failure by NIAP Parties to report ivory stockpiles as a compliance matter under Res 14.3; and

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises concerns with identifying Parties with stockpiles and notes the need for a definition of stockpile. • Notes that Parties with MIKE sites reporting natural deaths as part of the NIAP process and that reported seizures to ETIS should all be reporting on their stockpiles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage Parties to publicize ivory destruction events, regardless of size and remind Parties that destruction of ivory stockpiles should occur after the conclusion of court cases in which seized ivory is used as evidence. • SC should escalate compliance measures re Burundi in light of its continued lack of response to the Secretariat's request for an invitation to conduct a technical mission. • SSN encourages SC to recommend Parties align their reporting between MIKE/ETIS/NIAP to address the ongoing lack of consistency in reporting rates and quality and the Secretariat consider those Parties as needing to report. • Oppose using the same definition for stocks and stockpiles (see recommendations for Doc. 50 above).
<p>52. Transport of live specimens</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 52</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides ToR for a virtual workshop on transport of live specimens (Annex). • Invites SC to agree to the ToR and to invite the Secretariat to organize the workshop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the draft ToR include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluating and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover during transport of live animals; ▪ Establishing responsibilities for ensuring compliance with each section of the guidelines, decisions relating to deviations from the guidelines or applying additional conditions to the carriage of live animals; ▪ Contingency planning throughout transport, not just at entry points; ▪ Consideration of species-specific transport requirements, including maximum permitted transport times, inspection intervals, feeding and watering requirements etc, and the development of associated guidelines; and ▪ Provision for regular review and revision of CITES non-air transport guidelines by SC, AC, and PC as required by paragraph 2e in RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Transport of live animals</i>. • Subject to the above, SC should agree to ToR and request the Secretariat to organize the workshop; observer

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
		<p>organizations with interest/experience should be invited.</p>
<p>53. Rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples and musical instruments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Chair of the Working Group on Rapid Movement of Wildlife Diagnostic Samples and Musical Instruments. Reports on progress made by the group, noting that work is being undertaken in two separate subgroups. Invites SC to note the report, and offer its comments and suggestions, in particular with respect to work the group could undertake following SC77. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the document.
<p>54. Specimens produced through biotechnology</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 54</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Chair of SC Working Group on Specimens Produced through Biotechnology. Reports on discussions within the group and invites SC to note the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report.
<p>55. Dialogue meeting for African elephant range States (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 55</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Botswana. Decision 19.167 directs SC to call a dialogue meeting to “consider a harmonization of the conditions to trade in live African elephants and propose relevant changes to Resolutions to CoP20 as well as annotation 2 (after CoP19, footnote annotation A10)”. Reports that Botswana offers to host a meeting in early 2024. Provides draft ToR for the dialogue meeting (Annex) with “potential other topics” to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal of ivory stockpiles; Separation of African elephant to savannah and forest elephants in CITES processes; National Ivory Action Plans; and IUCN African elephant status report 2024. Invites the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, review the draft ToR and instruct the Secretariat to support organization of the meeting; and request the Secretariat ensure adequate funds are available to support attendance by 2 delegates per African elephant range State. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the ToR are within the mandate in Decision 19.167 and that the agenda is restricted to trade in live elephants; Recommend shifting the meeting to the margins of SC78 to save costs and provide time to raise adequate funding for two representatives per range State as set out in RC 14.5; and Urge maximum transparency and participation of other Parties, experts and observers. SSN notes that RC 14.5 states that Dialogue Meetings are to be organized by the SC Chair, in consultation with the range States and assisted by the Secretariat, rather than by the host country.
<p>56. Disposal of confiscated specimens</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 56</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports, <i>inter alia</i>, on the cost of developing new materials to assist Parties in implementing Annex 3 (<i>Guidelines to develop an action plan on seized and/or confiscated live specimens</i>) to RC 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species</i>. Invites SC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the document; Encourage Parties to urgently develop guidelines as called for in Annex 3 of RC 17.8 (Rev. CoP19); Urge Parties and observer organizations to provide additional information on existing networks and resources relating to the management of seized and confiscated live animals to be posted on the dedicated web page.
<p>57. Labelling system for trade in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
caviar		
<p>58. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 58</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Chairs of SC Working Group on the Review of CITES provisions Related to Trade in Specimens of Animals and Plants Not of Wild Source. Reports that a verbal update will be provided at SC77. Invites SC to note this document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the document.
<p>59. Review of RC 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 59</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Chair of SC Working Group on Review of RC 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes</i>. Reports on discussions within the working group. Invites SC to note the report and provide any comments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the interim report and reiterate the importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying the specific products/specimens approved for export on the CITES registration website; Defining “major changes” in a comprehensive manner; and Putting safeguards in place to ensure that trade from a registered operation will not negatively affect efforts to address illegal wildlife trade.
<p>60. Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 60</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Chair of SC Working Group on Species at Risk of Extinction Affected by International Trade. Reports on the main issues of discussion within the group including, <i>inter alia</i>, methods to identify species threatened with extinction and potentially affected by trade, and providing support to Parties in preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices. Invites SC to note this report and provide any views on areas of discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report, but notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That granting adequate protection to <u>all</u> threatened species potentially affected by international trade is a core CITES obligation; That regarding Paragraph 7, Dec. 19.186 calls for the identification of species that “are or may be affected by international trade,” not species “threatened by international trade,” which is not a standard used in the Convention; That the analysis called for in Dec. 19.186 can be used to assess progress towards CITES Strategic Vision Objective 1.4 (See Doc. 16) along with KM-GBF Goal A and Targets 4 and 5; and The capacity gap identified by the working group once species are identified for which listing proposals may be warranted; assistance is often needed to prepare such proposals prior to review.
<p>61. Phytosanitary certificates that are regarded as artificial propagation certificates</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 61</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by the Republic of Korea. Provides results of a survey of 12 Parties on how use of the certificates is implemented (Annex). Reports that a number of Parties exporting large quantities of artificially propagated CITES plants have implemented the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations in the document.

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	<p>special procedures for different taxa and/or specific requirements for applying the procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, encourage Parties to report their special procedures to the Secretariat for posting to the CITES website, and request the Secretariat to report on any recommendations for improving this special procedure. 	
<p>62. West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 62</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update on related activities, related Decisions (Annex 1) and summary of seizures (Annex 2). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, encourage West African vulture range States to strengthen demand reduction strategies concerning belief-based use and consumption of vulture parts and derivatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
<p>63. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)</p>		
<p>63.1. Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Trade in elephant specimens</i></p> <p>SC77 Doc. 63.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report on implementation of various provisions of RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP18), including, <i>inter alia</i>, MIKE, ETIS, PIKE trends, status of populations, African Elephant Action Plan, ivory seizures; Related Decisions (Annex 1); A report on <i>Levels of Illegal Killing of Elephants, Illegal and Legal Trade in Elephant Specimens, the Status of Elephant Populations and the Implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan</i> (Annex 2); and Responses to a Notification regarding domestic ivory markets (Annex 3). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the downward PIKE trend in Africa; Encourage use of the MIKE Online Database; Include an option in the ETIS forms for Parties to indicate if they do not want their ETIS data made available to ICCWC; and Provide guidance on the criteria to be used to identify countries with legal domestic ivory markets and research questions to be addressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report. Regarding the criteria to be used to identify countries with legal domestic ivory markets, SSN recommends the following guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose that TRAFFIC prepare a preliminary study for SC78 on all non-African elephant range States identified in footnotes 16 and 19 (18 Parties regions and territories), so that SC78 can discuss criteria for identifying key markets for a full-fledged analysis to be reported to CoP20; and Ensure that research questions to be addressed include all ETIS data on documented seizures (number and weight) connected to each Party, and trends on trade routes of each Party and the Party's role (e.g. country of export, transit, import or re-export), etc; and apart from the ETIS data, information on stockpiles in the jurisdiction of the Party and the extent that ivory is authorized for trade for commercial purposes.
<p>63.2. Financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE and ETIS programmes</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 63.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports that a modified MIKE programme will be designed since financial contributions will be reduced, and that the ETIS program faces funding shortfalls beyond mid-2024. Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, note the Secretariat's plan to redesign the MIKE programme activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note the report and express concern regarding reduced funding for the MIKE and ETIS programmes.

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<p>64. Great apes (Hominidae spp.): Report on the implementation of RC 13.4 (Rev. CoP18)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 64</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) and the Section on Great Apes (SGA) of IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group. Provides an update on GRASP and SGA activities (Annex 1); a summary of seizures of great apes (Annex 2); and an update on great ape conservation status (Annex 3). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, encourage Parties, including range States, to implement enforcement controls and address illegal trade in great apes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC note and support the document in conjunction with Doc. 42 on <i>Illegal Trade in African Great Apes</i> submitted by Liberia.
<p>65. Saiga antelopes (Saiga spp.)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 65</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides, <i>inter alia</i>, information from range States on implementation of the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025; and an <i>Overview Of Trade In Saiga Spp. Between 2016 And 2021</i> (Annex). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, note the report, and recommend range States and important consumer and trading countries to refer to RC 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on LAFs when verifying the origin of specimens and only use source code “U” in accordance with the provisions of RC 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Permits and certificates</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the report and adopt the recommendations from the Secretariat; Request the Secretariat, in its implementation of Decision 19.214 paragraph b), to request information on the quantity of saiga specimens with source codes W, O, U, and I held in government and private stockpiles for each range, trading, consumer state; Encourage Parties that are unable to provide this information to request the support of the Secretariat with the management of their stockpiles; and Urge Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation to submit their annual illegal trade reports for 2021 as a matter of urgency.
<p>66. Eels (Anguilla spp.)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 66</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update on related AC activities and illegal trade in the European eel (<i>A. anguilla</i>). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, note the report; and establish an intersessional working group to consider AC recommendations, review responses to related Notifications; and consider the development of a Resolution on the European eel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat, but consider adopting a resolution on the genus <i>Anguilla</i> that includes specific measures for <i>A. anguilla</i>; all <i>Anguilla</i> species are harvested and traded on a global scale for consumption, and once collection and/or trade in one species is regulated due to population declines, demand is likely to shift to other species.²⁰
<p>67. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)</p>		
<p>67.1. Evidence of continued non-compliant trade of Appendix-II listed shark species (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by the Maldives. Provides an <i>Analysis of the implementation of the CITES Appendix II listing of Carcharhinus longimanus (Oceanic whitetip shark)</i> that indicates that, <i>inter alia</i>, with trade in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> is a Critically Endangered pelagic species protected by the major RFMOs yet catches and trade continue.

²⁰ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/WorkingDocs/E-CoP17-51.pdf>

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<p>SC77 Doc. 67.1</p>	<p>oceanic whitetip sharks taking place at significantly higher volumes, and from a wider range of Parties, than reported to CITES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the Secretariat to prioritize the species in its analysis being conducted regarding the mismatch between catch and trade data; Request trading Parties to report on their implementation efforts and regulations relating to the listing of the species; Request the Secretariat to identify possible cases of non-compliance; and Consider the development of guidance to support comprehensive reporting of shark trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations in the document.
<p>67.2. Report of the Animals Committee</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 67.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides related Decisions (Annex) and AC recommendations to SC on this issue. Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, consider: implications of the limited number of species-specific Harmonized System (HS) codes available under the World Customs Organization (WCO)'s HS, development of new digital reporting and traceability mechanisms; and the appropriate use of pre-Convention permitting for different shark and ray product types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the AC recommendations.
<p>67.3. Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 67.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update on related activities; related Decisions (Annex 1); and an <i>Overview of the CITES Trade Data on CITES-listed Shark and Ray Species</i> (Annex 2). Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note progress; Request related SC working group to consider responses to Notification No. 2023/027 contained in AC32 Doc. 37 (Rev. 1) Annex 2; and Invite the Secretariat to consider updating the <i>Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual and illegal reports</i> to include explicit guidance on reporting on specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction and report on this at SC78. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat. SSN welcomes the Secretariat's work on identification of examples of trade in specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction but would suggest that the Secretariat work with RFMOs on the guidance on the recording of catch locations. SSN urges SC to take into account the compliance and enforcement issues identified by the AC intersessional working group (paragraph 14 <i>et seq.</i>) on IFS and stockpile management.
<p>68. Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 68</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update on related activities/issues including Blue BioTrade Project on queen conch, and illegal trade in the species. Invites SC to note related reports; remind Parties that shells should preferably be reported by number and that meat should be reported in kilograms; and, of the current exemptions for the species in trade as personal and household effects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>69. Products containing specimens of Appendix II orchids (<i>Orchidaceae</i> spp.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with PC Chair. Reports on related progress. Invites SC to agree with PC to, <i>inter alia</i>: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.

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<p>SC77 Doc. 69</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urge support for red list assessments for tuberous orchid taxa in international trade; and ▪ Request Secretariat to issue Notification to gather related trade information, enforcement challenges and available manuals and regulations related to these species. 	
<p>70. Annotations</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 70</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by Chair of the SC Working Group on Annotations. • Provides a report on working group progress. • Invites SC to note the report and provide comments or guidance to the working group regarding its ToR and other issues for consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the report.
<p>71. Implications of the transfer of a species from one Appendix to another</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 71</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invites the SC to request the Secretariat to develop draft guidance and best practices related to periods of transition and possible transitory measures (including but not limited to the period between the adoption of a proposal to transfer a species from one Appendix to another and the entry into force of the new listing); and, consult with PC regarding if special recommendations should apply in the case of a transfer of a tree species with annotation #5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat but request that the guidance be limited to situations not already addressed by the recent amendments to RC 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) in order to avoid duplicative work.
<p>72. Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 72</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an update on progress regarding the Secretariat's commission of a study (cost of US\$40,000) to explore development of an information system for the purpose of processing data on legal international trade in CITES-listed tree species; the system would provide an analysis of, <i>inter alia</i>, trade in tree species and "conservation and socio-economic benefits of such trade". • Provides draft ToRs for the study (Annex) [note—has not posted]. • Invites SC to note progress made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note the report. • It is unclear how this information system would feed into current CITES workstreams or would be more useful to CITES than an analysis of data in the CITES trade database similar to outputs for the Review of Significant Trade. • SSN recommends exclusion of socio-economic benefits from the analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consideration of socio-economic issues is outside the CITES mandate, and should not be a consideration when making NDFs or CITES listing decisions; and ▪ The analysis appears geared to emphasize benefits of trade only and not negative effects on traded species, other species that depend on related habitat, or IPLCs.
<p>73. Informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 73</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that the Secretariat has selected a consultant to undertake the study of the feasibility and requirements for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that SC note progress made. • Any review mechanism should respect the sovereign right of Parties to propose

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites SC to note progress on this issue. 	any annotation language they wish.
<p>74. Taxonomy and nomenclature of African elephants (<i>Loxodonta</i> spp.)</p> <p>SC77 Doc. 74</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides summary of responses received to Notification on the potential effects of recognizing African forest elephant (<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>) as a separate species to African savannah elephant (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>) for CITES purposes, and also how the change might impact Resolutions and CITES processes (e.g. RC 14.5 on <i>Dialogue meetings</i>). Notes that the two species can be listed individually or the listing can be at the genus level (<i>Loxodonta</i> spp.). Reports that there appears to be no strong opposition against the recognition of two separate species of African elephants but views differ with respect to the nomenclature standard reference. Invites SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider this document; Recommend the inclusion of this topic in the proposed dialogue meeting for African elephant range States; and Should AC33 agree to recommend a change to nomenclature and to the standard reference, request the Secretariat to prepare possible proposals for consequential amendments to relevant Resolutions and CITES guidelines and submit them for consideration to SC78. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that SC agree that when recognizing two species of African elephant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The listing be at the genus level (<i>Loxodonta</i> spp.) to simplify permitting, reporting and enforcement and enable MIKE/PIKE trend analyses to continue; Parties support the Secretariat's conclusion that a genus listing could be done as a taxonomic change that does not require a formal proposal because the science is unambiguous; and Should AC agree to the nomenclature change, the Secretariat be requested to prepare possible proposals for consequential amendments to relevant Resolutions and CITES guidelines for SC78. SSN recommends that SC agree that this issue not be included in the agenda of the proposed dialogue meeting as the CITES process for updating the nomenclature is already underway and relevant experts may not be present at the dialogue meeting.
75. Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
76. Determination of the time and venue of the 78th meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
77. Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.



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