SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND 2-6 NOVEMBER 2026

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 **SC81 Doc. 1**	• Provides the provisional agenda of the meeting for consideration and adoption.	• No comment.
3. Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Standing Committee **SC81 Doc. 3**	• Proposes amendments to SC RoP to include new Rule allowing SC Chair to establish intersessional working groups (new Rule 21).	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the new rule.
6. Standing Committee strategic planning for 2026–2028 (CoP20–CoP21): Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Standing Committee **SC81 Docs. 6**	• Provides RCs directed to SC (Annex 1); • Provides Decisions directed to SC (Annex 2).	• SSN recommends that SC note the documents.
7. Report of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees **SC81 Doc. 7**	• Submitted by AC/PC Chairs. • Provides outcomes of AC34/PC24 that concern SC. • Invites SC to note AC/PC recommendations on these issues.	• SSN recommends that SC note the report.
8. Financial matters [Resolutions Conf. 20.1 and 18.2 (Rev. CoP20)] **SC81 Doc. 8**	• Reports expenditure overruns and outstanding contributions of USD 3,313,016 as of 31 December 2025, and provides reports on the CITES Core Trust Fund (CTL), External Trust Fund (QTL) and costed programmes of work (Annexes 1–13). • Invites SC to approve the reports and authorize the use of CTL reserves to cover operational costs if contributions are insufficient in late 2026 and early 2027.	• Annexes were not available at the time this document was prepared.

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9. Administrative matters		
9.1. Report of the Secretariat **SC81 Doc. 9.1**	• Invites SC to note report on the administrative performance of the Secretariat, including staffing situation, administrative changes introduced by UNEP, and efforts to address the critical financial situation of the CITES Core Trust Fund.	• SSN recommends that SC note the document.
9.2. Report of the United Nations Environment Programme on administrative matters **SC81 Doc. 9.2**	• Provides updates on the administrative and financial management support provided by UNEP to CITES. • Reports, *inter alia*, that "Current projections indicate that, should assessed contributions remain unpaid, all available cash resources…could be exhausted before the end of 2026".	• SSN recommends that SC note this report.
10. Arrangement for meetings of the Conference of the Parties [Decision 20.2 & Resolution Conf. 18.2 (Rev. CoP20)] **SC81 Doc. 10**	• Reports that preparations are underway for CoP21 in Panama in 2028. • Invites SC to provide feedback on draft guidance for raising funds for CoPs (Annex 1).	• SSN recommends that SC note this report.
11. Incentives for the settlement of outstanding contributions (Decision 20.4) **SC81 Doc. 11**	• Reports that the Finance and Budget Subcommittee will be considering the approaches other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) use to address the settlement of arrears and non-payment and will be reporting to SC82. • Invites SC to note progress made.	• SSN recommends that SC note this report.
12. Innovative financing mechanisms (Decision 20.5) **SC81 Doc. 12**	• Prepared by the Secretariat, based on consultations with members of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) • Provides terms of reference (ToR) for preparation of a related report (Annex 1) and feedback from the FBSC (Annex 2) in response to related questions. • Notes areas of disagreement, *inter alia*: focus on financing for implementation by Parties or resources for the Secretariat, extent of engagement with the wider biodiversity finance architecture, and thematic and taxonomic priorities. • Report would be reviewed by FBSC; final report and recommendations to be provided to SC82. • Invites SC to note Annex 2, and review and approve ToR in Annex 1.	• Recognizing the interest in innovative financing mechanisms for Parties, as well as the range of views expressed within the FBSC on key underlying issues, SSN recommends that SC request that the Secretariat circulate a draft report to Parties via Notification for comments and feedback. This would support an inclusive process and provide an opportunity for Parties to contribute their perspectives to the further development of the report.

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13. Enhancing the work and efficiency of the Convention through the permanent committees		
13.1. Report of the working group (Decisions 20.6 and 20.7) **SC81 Doc. 13.1**	• 13.1 Submitted by SC Working Group Chairs (Canada/UK). • Provides draft prioritization process (Annex 2): –Post-CoP consultation order: Chairs and Secretariat, Committees, then Parties via Notification. –Pre-CoP prioritization for all CoP21 documents: Undertaken by SC/AC/PC Chairs with Committees, to be provided as an Inf. Doc. to CoP. • Invites SC feedback on the proposed process.	SSN recommends that SC: • Ensure that issues directly linked to the Convention's core conservation mandate are prioritised. • Encourage the Working Group to consider SC recommendation to develop guidance to support consistent application of the prioritization matrix. • Consider whether the process would benefit from wider stakeholder engagement from Parties and Observers. • Regarding Annex 2: (i) Recommend that formulation of this work plan be completed urgently to allow time for implementation of Decisions; (ii) Eliminate the suggested prioritization of CoP documents prior to CoP21 as it increases workloads; all submitted documents should receive fair consideration at CoP; (iii) Agree that a prioritisation process/workplan for the Secretariat should focus limited resources on activities mandated by RCs and Decisions; (iv) Agree that 'it is not within the mandate of the permanent Committees or Secretariat to decide not to do something the CoP directs them to do'.
13.2. Information requests to Parties: overview and key challenges **SC81 Doc. 13.2**	• Provides response rates to Notifications to the Parties (Annex). • Invites SC to request the Working Group to consider the challenge of low response rates in some cases and identify approaches to strengthen information-gathering by the Secretariat.	SSN recommends that SC: • Suggest that the Secretariat increase timeframes for responding and provide reminders by further Notifications. • Request the Secretariat to proactively address information gaps and validate information via databases, other related information and published literature.
14. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade [Decisions 19.17 (Rev. CoP20) & 20.23] **SC81 Doc. 14**	• Annexes 1-4 provide: draft RC submitted at CoP20; *Solutions for reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains*; possible draft RC from SC78; and UNEP report on Quadripartite Collaboration for One Health & other related initiatives. • Invites SC to consider the need for a related RC and note related work by the Secretariat and that, at the request of AC34.	SSN recommends that SC: • Recommend that national CITES authorities develop measures to identify and reduce the risk of pathogen emergence and spillover resulting from international trade in CITES-listed species; such measures should be consolidated in a Resolution. • Establish an intersessional working group to review the documents provided, and agree to elements of a draft RC for consideration at SC82.

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	• Notes that a Notification will be issued to collect information from the Parties on their experiences in reducing such risks.	• Consider whether to review existing Resolutions and guidelines, particularly RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Transport of Live Specimens and the associated CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Animals and Plants*, to ensure conformance with relevant internationally-agreed guidelines and actions plans, including the CBD Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, the WOAH Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade, and CMS Resolution 12.6 (Rev.COP15) on Wildlife Health.
15. Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international organizations (Decision 19.21 (Rev. CoP20)] **SC81 Doc. 15**	• Proposes a structure for re-initiating the Partnership Strategy, noting, *inter alia*, that partnerships with additional categories of actors (e.g., academia, industry, private companies, financial institutions, media, etc.) will not form part of the main body of the Partnership Strategy. • Invites SC to agree on elements for the draft and request the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft partnership strategy for SC82, noting that the draft will be provided for comment via Notification prior to SC82.	• SSN recommends that SC agree to the Secretariat's recommendations, whilst ensuring that a revised strategy is strictly limited to activities within the core mandate of the Convention and that proposed inter-organisational partnerships are reduced to those that reflect the objectives of the core mandate.
16. IPBES Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species (Decision 20.15 and Resolution Conf .18.4) **SC81 Doc. 16**	• Submitted by Working Group Chair (Mexico). • Invites SC to agree that the Working Group, in response to the IPBES report, should focus on amendment of ten RCs as proposed by Canada, Japan and Mexico. Also, to identify other RCs, from 14 RCs highlighted by non-governmental organizations, that might warrant further consideration by the intersessional Working Group.	SSN recommends that SC: • Agree that amending multiple RCs would create an additional workload without necessarily improving implementation of the Convention, particularly where proposed amendments are contentious. • Note that suggested amendments to 10 RCs received limited support from no more than two Parties, and question whether this justifies further review. • Recommend against amending RCs addressing science-based decision making or core functioning of the Convention (e.g., CITES (RC 6.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*; RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*; RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*); , RC 18.3 (Rev. CoP20) on *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021–2030*).
17. Review of Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) and Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) (Decision 20.17)	• Submitted by SC Chair. • Provides preliminary review of RC 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on*	• SSN recommends that SC adopt option 1, which is the least resource intensive, and ensure that work undertaken under this agenda item is not being

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SC81 Doc. 17	*Biological Diversity* and RC 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines* (Annexes 1 and 2). ● Invites SC to consider options: 1. review these RCs independently; 2. combine the two RCs; or 3. Integrate into RC 16.4 (Rev. CoP20) on Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions (would involve extensive redrafting). ● Invites SC to agree on a preferred option; and to invite the SC Chair with Secretariat and AC/PC Chairs, to prepare a draft for comment via Notification.	duplicated by work undertaken under agenda item 16.
18. World Wildlife Trade report (Decisions 20.18 and 20.19) **SC81 Doc. 18**	● Invites SC to provide feedback on a draft outline for the CoP21 World Wildlife Trade Report (WWTR) (Annex 1) and related draft Decisions for CoP21 (Annex 2) that, *inter alia*, direct the Secretariat to prepare the outline of the CoP22 World Wildlife Trade Report.	SSN recommends that SC: ● Amend the draft outline in Annex 1: remove review of CoP19/CoP20 listings as insufficient time has elapsed to generate representative data; and provide data and trends on trade by source and purpose code, and trends in trade in Appendix I species. ● Reject the draft Decisions, which refer primarily to a WWTR for CoP22. The current CITES decisions <u>do not</u> direct the Secretariat to produce additional World Wildlife Trade reports post CoP21. ● Not support continuation of these reports, given budgetary constraints and the need to prioritise programmes relating to CITES' core mandate ● Finish confirming the draft outline before recommending decisions for future work.
19. CITES and forests (Decision 20.23) **SC81 Doc. 19**	● Submitted by PC Chair. ● Provides CITES Forest Compendium: CoP20-CoP21 (Annex 1); and key considerations to be taken into account by the Secretariat in its implementation of related Decision 20.21 (Annex 2). ● Invites SC to, *inter alia*, note progress; and acknowledge the potential challenges for the timely and effective implementation of Compendium, including resource mobilization and means of implementation.	● SSN recommends that SC note progress. ● Resources would better be directed to supporting and prioritizing the CITES Tree Species Programme.
20. Language strategy for the Convention [Decision 19.39 (Rev. CoP20)] **SC81 Omnibus**	● Provides an update on translating RCs and Decisions into Russian and Chinese. ● Encourages Parties to contact the Secretariat if they wish to support Arabic, Chinese or Russian interpretation at CoP21 or other meetings.	● SSN recommends that SC note the report.

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21. Review of Resolutions [Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP19)] **SC81 Doc. 21**	• Invites SC to agree to corrections of non-substantive errors in RC 14.8 (Rev. CoP20) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*.	• SSN recommends that SC agree to the corrections.
22. Capacity-building framework [Decisions 19.41 (Rev. CoP20) and 19.43 (Rev. CoP20)] **SC81 Omnibus**	• Reports that the related SC Working Group will report at SC82.	• SSN recommends that SC note the report.
23. Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) (Decision 20.26) **SC81 Doc. 23**	• Reports that CAP projects are in development with Bangladesh and Solomon Islands; and that the Secretariat is currently consulting authorities of the Central African Republic, Palau, Niger and Grenada, while Madagascar has also expressed interest in receiving support via CAP. • Invites SC to note progress.	• SSN recommends that SC note progress made under CAP and thank Parties for their participation and sponsorship.
24. CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) (Decision 20.31) **SC81 Doc. 24**	• Provides an update on related activities, noting that the Secretariat is working with Parties on the 16 short-listed project proposals, and that further consideration is still needed to assess whether the Programme could be made permanent, as it continues to rely on project-based extrabudgetary resources. • Invites SC to note the report.	• SSN recommends that SC note the report and thank Germany for their support of this important project.
25. United Nations World Wildlife Day [Resolution Conf. 17.1 (Rev. CoP18)] **SC81 Doc. 25**	• Reports on activities for World Wildlife Day 2026 on 3 March. • Following consultations with the SC Chair and Vice-Chair, the theme “Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence” was selected for the World Wildlife Day 2027. • Invites SC to, *inter alia*, note this report and invite Parties to plan celebrations for World Wildlife Day 2027.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations.
26. CITES gender action plan [Decision 19.52 (Rev. CoP20)] **SC81 Omnibus**	• Reports that the Secretariat is undertaking an analysis of gender strategies and policies across relevant MEAs, with findings to be published on the CITES website, and the SC consulted on developing a draft gender action plan.	• SSN recommends that SC note the report and ensure that any draft CITES gender action plan be circulated via Notification for comment.
27. Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) (Decision 20.33)	• Submitted by SC Chair.	SSN recommends that SC only adopt the suite of recommendations with the following changes:

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SC81 Doc. 27	• **Regarding non-binding Guidance on consulting with Indigenous Peoples and local communities**:[1] Invites SC to encourage Parties to consider using the Guidance; request the Secretariat to issue a Notification inviting Parties to share their views and experiences; and request the Chair to, if appropriate, propose revisions for consideration by CoP20. • **Regarding Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Livelihoods***: Agree to draft amendments including, *inter alia*: –Para. 3)a) i): "engaging directly with … rural communities … when preparing and submitting proposals …and when reviewing such documents submitted by other Parties and developing national negotiating positions, including, as appropriate, assessing the impacts of such proposals on rural communities. –Para. 3) a) vii): "recognizing resource tenure and ownership…subject to any applicable national or international law and engaging such communities, as appropriate, in supporting the co-management and monitoring of those species and the trade in them" • Request the Secretariat to pilot-test a system of coding the badges of representatives of IPLCs at official CITES meetings. • Note that discussions on the terminology of "IPLCs" discussions are underway and that in the interim, the existing terminology will be used.	**Regarding the recommendations on the non-binding Guidance (para. 18):** • Para. a): Delete; or replace "encourage" with "invite" to correctly reflect the text of Decision 20.32 Para. b). Ensure that the non-binding nature of the guidance is emphasized in the Notification; • Para. c): Delete. Revision at CoP21 would be premature. Proposed revisions should not be submitted to CoP without prior consideration of SC and Parties. Parties will likely only begin using the guidance shortly prior to CoP21, and seeking their views post-CoP21 would be more appropriate. **Regarding RC 16.6 (rev. CoP18) on *Livelihoods*** • SSN notes there was no agreement in the relevant Working Group on including the ideas of SC78 Doc. 27; • Preamble: remove reference to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), noting there is no mandate by the Parties; this issue would better be covered in CBD-related Resolutions (see agenda item 17), • Para. 3) a) i): Reject the proposed amendment: 1) The existing language already provides an appropriate basis for engagement; 2) Governments have their own processes for considering stakeholder input; and 3) Negotiating positions are not necessarily fixed or publicly determined in advance. • Para. 3) a) vii) Amend to clarify that "support" is not for trade in species: "...engaging such communities, as appropriate, in supporting the co-management and monitoring of CITES-listed species subject to trade".
28. Livelihoods (Decision 20.36) **SC81 Omnibus**	Reports that the Secretariat: • is pursuing its work on livelihood case studies; • Is issuing a Notification to request feedback on the use of certification and labelling systems for products involving CITES-listed species and IPLCs, and will develop case studies to explore feasibility and identify best practices; and • will report at SC82.	• SSN reminds SC that no current Decision directs the Secretariat to work on livelihoods case studies or related films. • SSN urges SC to recommend that CITES involvement in this issue be limited to the Secretariat requesting from Parties examples of certification and labelling schemes relating to listed

[1] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/CoP20_Guidance_E.pdf

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		species in trade, and posting them on the CITES website. ● SSN notes that a 2022 report[2] on certification schemes was noted rather than approved, and recommends that SC not support investing additional resources[3] in a second such report.
29. Demand reduction to combat illegal trade (Decision 20.39) **SC81 Doc. 29**	● Provides an update on related activities including responses to a Notification on demand reduction efforts. ● Invites SC to encourage additional Parties to submit information on their demand reduction strategies, and request the Secretariat to post related case studies on the CITES website and work with additional Parties, including Mexico and Côte d'Ivoire, and with relevant partners to support the implementation of pilot projects promoting the use of the Guidance for Demand Reduction Strategies.	● SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
30. National laws for implementation of the Convention (Decisions 20.42 to 20.44) **SC81 Doc. 30**	● Provides list of Parties in Category 1 and status of legislative progress of Parties in Categories 2 and 3 (Annex). ● Invites SC to: –Commend Oman, the Philippines and Zambia for their efforts; and –Request the Secretariat to issue first warnings to Belize, Sri Lanka, and Trinidad and Tobago, and a second warning to Afghanistan, Chad and Myanmar.	● SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
31. National reports		
31.1. Submission of annual reports **SC81 Doc. 31.1**	● Reports that Antigua and Barbuda, Chad, Dominica, Egypt, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone and the Syrian Arab Republic have failed to submit annual reports for three consecutive years (2022, 2023 and 2024) and that there is a deadline of 31 October 2026 for eleven additional Parties. ● Invites SC to instruct the Secretariat to determine whether these Parties have failed to submit annual reports for three consecutive years without adequate justification and, if so, issue a Notification	● RC 11.17 (Rev. CoP2) on *National reports*, para. 14 instructs the SC rather than the Secretariat to determine whether Parties have failed to submit annual reports. ● SSN recommends that SC make this determination and request the Secretariat to issue the related Notification.

[2] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/74/E-SC74-21-002.pdf
[3] Approximate cost of US$60,000: https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-CoP20-029-01.pdf

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	recommending that Parties suspend trade in CITES specimens with them.	
31.2. Revised Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports (AITRs) **SC81 Doc. 31.2**	• Proposes amendments to the guidelines, *inter alia*: –To definitions regarding tree species as recommended by PC; include shark cartilage as 'bones' and taxidermied crocodile heads as 'skulls'" –For AITRs, replace the column titled "Alleged country of origin" with "Alleged country of export" for greater accuracy, and report the country where the specimen was taken from the wild, if known, in the "Additional information" column. • Invites SC to approve these amendments.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations.
32. Compliance matters		
32.1. Implementation of Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on CITES compliance procedures [Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph 23 c) – e)] **SC81 Doc. 32.1**	Invites SC to: • **Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)**: Note species was listed in Appendix I at CoP20; • **Regarding Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)**: Continue monitoring the situation in Madagascar, noting strengthened enforcement and the current zero export quota for these species; • **Trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I subject to a reservation–scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*)**: Request all Parties to take steps to ensure that trade in *Ara macao* is only authorized in accordance with the provisions of the Convention as set out in paragraphs 14 to 17, and not to use purpose code T for such trade. • **Regarding import and re-export of live specimens by the United Arab Emirates:** Recommend that UAE work with India to address previous exports, continue to closely scrutinize any export permits and re-export certificates associated with circumstances that may give reason for doubts, and work with the Secretariat regarding its due diligence processes.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat, and, in addition: **–Trade in *Ara macao***: Request the Secretariat to report on trade in the species to SC82 and, pending that report, remind Parties via Notification that any imports must be for non-commercial purposes, despite Suriname's reservation to its Appendix-I listing. Over 3,000 live specimens entered international trade in 2019–2024, despite no CITES-registered commercial breeding facility. **–United Arab Emirates:** Encourage UAE to: maintain its halt of trade with certain countries; halt trade in live specimens of Appendix-I species with all countries;[4] not import or export great apes w/o Secretariat consultations; and identify specimens of questionable origin and ensure that they or their progeny do not enter international trade, with a focus on great apes and listed Felidae. • SSN encourages SC to recommend a suspension of trade in Appendix I listed species from the following Parties until compliance concerns, referred to SC by AC34,[5] are resolved: **–Syrian Arab Republic**: Recent increase in exports of several primate species, birds, and reptiles under

[4] Except for falcons

[5] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/AC/34/com/E-AC34-Com-03.pdf

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		source code C as a non-range State;[6] and no records of legal imports available. **–Venezuela**: Sharp increase in trade in several native species, many listed in Appendix I, under source code C[7] despite no known breeding facilities. In addition, recommend a suspension of trade in Critically Endangered *Ateles hybridus* (variegated spider monkey); 131 specimens exported in 2024.
32.2. Scope and application of recommendations to suspend trade (Decision 20.46) **SC81 Doc. 32.2**	● Submitted by SC Chair, with support from Secretariat. ● Invites SC to agree to standard the standard language for recommendations to suspend trade (Annex 1), considering, inter alia: –Types of trade to be suspended (all, import, export, re-export) –Purpose of trade (all trade or trade for commercial purposes) –Specimens in trade (all species or specific species or taxon groups) –Timing (Date of entry or delayed entry) –Specific exemptions (scientific or law enforcement purposes) –Specification of actions to be taken by the Party to have the recommendation to suspend trade withdrawn.	SSN recommends that SC agree to (Annex): ● Para. 4: Prioritize "suspension of trade in CITES-listed species" for broad compliance concerns. Restricting some suspensions to 'trade for commercial purposes' could encourage use of alternative purpose codes for import/export; past compliance matters have involved use of purpose codes other than "T" (e.g. live animals ("B", "M" and "Z" codes)). ● Para. 5: Whether a suspension is most appropriate for trade in all, or one or more species or taxonomic groups, should depend on whether the compliance issues are foundational or relate to specific species. ● Para. 7: Regarding timing, suspensions should become effective on the date that SC agrees to the suspension; delays could promote increased interim take in wild specimens. Parties subject to compliance matters should be aware of potential suspensions through communication with the Secretariat prior to SC meeting. ● Examples 2 (National Legislation), 4 (Article XIII) and 5 (NIAP): Revise to recommend a trade suspension for "all trade" rather than just commercial trade, since national legislation also regulates non-commercial trade and provides guardrails around the use of exemptions. ● Example 6 (Animals produced in captivity): remove "covered by Art VII, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the

[6] Including Appendix I species: *Pharomachrus mocinno* (Resplendent quetzal) (14); *Leucocephalon yuwonoi* (Sulawesi forest turtle) (600), *Pongo pygmaeus* (Bornean orangutan) (2); *Pan troglodytes* (Chimpanzee) (2); *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* (Hyacinth macaw) (32); *Anodorhynchus leari* (Lear's macaw) (8); *Rhinoplax vigil* (Helmeted hornbill) (12).

[7] Including Appendix I species: *Pteronura brasiliensis* (Giant otter) (216); *Tapirus terrestris* (Giant tapir) (44); *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* (Giant anteater) (126). Also, *Leopardus pardalis* (ocelot) (53); *Ara* species (1,056); *Ateles hybridus* (Variegated spider monkey) [Critically Endangered (IUCN 2020)] (131).

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		Convention" to align with the scope of captive breeding review.
32.3. Addressing compliance matters by the Standing Committee (Decision 20.47) **SC81 Doc. 32.3**	• Submitted by SC Chair, with support from Secretariat. • Cites the increasing volume and complexity of compliance matters. • Presents options for improvement including, *inter alia*: a separate compliance committee; an SC compliance subcommittee; an intersessional or in-session SC compliance working group; facilitative compliance dialogues; confidential oral updates to SC Members only; standardization of the process of missions, or the process for bringing potential compliance matters to attention of SC (compliance indicator framework); explanatory notes on the rationale of measures; tracking system for SC compliance. • Invites SC to consider procedural options for improving the handling of compliance matters, including the potential role of the scientific bodies and observers.	• SSN recommends that SC **reject** any options that: –Do not ensure availability of interpretation and translation services to facilitate adequate representation of the Party subject to compliance measures; –Limit participation of SC Members, Parties and Observer in CITES compliance deliberations; their participation strengthens transparency, and adds independent expertise and perspectives. • SC should consider whether new measures would meaningfully reduce the Secretariat's workload if they do not reduce time involved or volume of documentation. • Compliance issues vary in scope and complexity and standardizing processes for missions and the proposed compliance indicator framework may not allow enough flexibility. • SC should note that paragraph 50 identifies 'illegal trade' as an indicator but RC 14.3 (Rev. CoP20) on *Compliance procedures* takes a broader approach, referring to situations where "species included in Appendix I or II…being adversely affected by trade…or that the provisions of the Convention are not being effectively implemented". • Rather than developing a tracking system, initial compliance concerns could be summarized in subsequent SC documents. • SC is encouraged to invite Observers to participate if an intersessional working group is established.
33. Application of Article XIII		
33.1. Expedited application of Article XIII for West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus)* for all range States **SC81 Doc. 33.1**	• Provides updated recommendations for all 16 range States (Annex), including, *inter alia*, recommendations to maintain trade suspensions for Cameroon, CAR, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Togo. • Urges Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Senegal to confirm a voluntary zero export quota for the species for 2024, 2025 and 2026.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations.

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	• Invites SC to agree the updated recommendations and encourage range States to share their NDFs and LAFs for the species.	
33.2. Application of Article XIII in Bangladesh **SC81 Doc. 33.2**	Invites SC to: • Note progress made and recommend Parties maintain the suspension of commercial trade in CITES-listed bird species with Bangladesh until adequate regulation and monitoring are ensured; and • Recommend that Bangladesh, *inter alia*, provide the Secretariat with an officially translated English text of the *Wildlife (Conservation & Security) Act, 2026*; operationalize and further develop the online permitting system, the database of registered pet bird farms and traders, and the inventory of seized live specimens, including their disposal methods; and report to SC82.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations, and recommend in addition that Bangladesh: –Ensure that progeny from seized or illegally acquired specimens of species listed in Appendix I do not enter commercial facilities or legal trade; and –Report on its dialogue with range States regarding return of seized specimens, particularly those species listed in Appendix I.
33.3. Application of Article XIII in Cambodia **SC81 Doc. 33.3**	Invites SC to note progress made and recommends that Cambodia, *inter alia*: • Update its CITES-implementating legislation; • Regarding *Macaca fascicularis* (long-tailed macaque), conduct an NDF based on a population survey before authorizing takes from the wild; ensure that neck tags are used on animals, and continue to verify the reports of each facility on the animals held; • Report to SC82.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations. • Regarding *M. fascicularis*, request that any NDF be provided to the AC for review; populations are estimated to have declined by 40% (2010-2022) in Cambodia.[8] • SC should also consider whether Cambodia should remain in Category 1 of the National Legislation Project, given that longstanding recommendations to update its implementing legislation remain unfulfilled
33.4. Application of Article XIII in Cameroon **SC81 Doc. 34.4**	Invites SC to: • Note efforts made; • Note that SC78 determined that there were no longer any compliance issues regarding trade in CITES-listed tree species for Cameroon; and • Encourage Cameroon to, *inter alia*: submit an annual illegal trade report; develop and ensure the implementation of a module to register timber of foreign origin, and store timber originating in Cameroon separately from that originating in neighboring countries.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
33.5. Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	• Notes progress; reports that wildlife crime and lack of convictions remain a concern; several SC recommendations have yet to be implemented.	SSN recommends that SC: • Agree to the Secretariat's recommendations regarding illegal trade and enforcement;

[8] Agger, C. 2022. The Status of Key Species in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary 2022. WCS Cambodia, Phnom Penh

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SC81 Doc. 33.5	• AC34 raised concerns about the sudden increase of trade of primate species from DRC to India, reported by India as captive-bred (source code C), with no corresponding exports reported by the DRC. • Invites SC to, *inter alia*, recommend to DRC to: –Regarding *Psittacus erithacus* (grey parrot): Note current moratorium on exports, recommend that Parties maintain the suspension on imports, –Regarding illegal trade and enforcement: Continue efforts to develop and launch a strategy (with measurable deadlines, etc.) to fight corruption linked to wildlife crime; and Report to SC82.	• Urge DRC to consider a permanent ban on export of *Psittacus erithacus*, a species granted total protection by Ministerial Order in 2025; • Regarding chimpanzees: regarding the 2024 export to India under source code "C", note the lack of breeding facilities in DRC and conflicting accounts of the specimens' origin and age;[9] recommend that DRC release the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) and Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GZRRC), as India reports that the transfer was "an exchange for conservation";[10] provide documentation of domestic transfers, including those between zoos and the eight transferred to Kinshasa subject to a December 2024 order. • Regarding AC34's concerns, request DRC to: provide Secretariat with the related export permits to confirm use of 'W' (wild) source code; address discrepancies between import, export, and customs data, and suspend trade pending NDFs and other relevant information. • Agree that the Secretariat publish a zero export quota for: –Endangered *Balearica regulorum* (grey-crowned crane): 160 specimens exported in 2024 despite a zero quota;[11] concerns raised at AC34. –Vulnerable *Cercopithecus lhoesti* (L'Hoest's monkey): 318 specimens (source 'C') imported into India in 2024 despite an export quota of 100 specimens. –Vulnerable *Balaeniceps rex* (shoebill): Very difficult to breed in captivity; 2024 imports into India from DRC as source code C.
33.6. Application of Article XIII in Ecuador and Peru **SC81 Doc. 33.6**	Invites SC to recommend: • Parties continue suspending trade in specimens of *Carcharhinus falciformis* (silky shark), *Alopias* spp. (thresher sharks) and *Isurus* spp. (mako sharks) from	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations. • Revised NDFs should be submitted to AC for review, rather than just to the Secretariat and AC Chair, before any suspension is lifted, particularly

[9] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/390754080_Dodgy_deal_between_DRC_wildlife_authorities_and_Vantara_in_India
[10] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/SC/81/inf/E-SC81-Inf-17.pdf, page 181
[11] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/32/E-AC32-SR.pdf: quota agreed for removal from Review of Significant Trade

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	Ecuador pending the Secretariat's assessment, in consultation with the AC Chair, of the revised NDFs. ● Ecuador to adopt revised CITES legislation, and Peru to ensure adequate implementation of introduction from the sea requirements. ● Both countries to continue promoting innovative technologies to track and monitor vessels, smaller boats for catch locations; and report to SC82	given the scale of the trade and the endangered status of several species.
33.7. Application of Article XIII in Guinea **SC81 Doc. 33.7**	Invites SC to recommend: ● Parties maintain the suspension of commercial trade in CITES-listed species with Guinea. ● Guinea: demonstrate that proceeds from the *P. erinaceus* stockpile sale support CITES implementation and conservation; ensure legislation validates the NDF protocol; investigate illegal trade; consider an anti-corruption strategy addressing wildlife crime, and report to SC82.	● SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
33.8. Application of Article XIII in India **SC81 Doc. 33.8**	● Reports, *inter alia* that: –India has submitted a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the import of CITES-listed live specimens and that Secretariat encourages India to continue to implement a voluntary measure not to import any Appendix-I specimens until the SOP is in place; –For 11 out of 14 cases highlighted at SC79, concerns could not be resolved and further consideration is required –India's Management Authority will enlist the assistance of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), for matters relating to recognized zoos, in examining applications under the new SOP. ● Invites SC to request India to, *inter alia*: –Finalize, adopt and roll-out the SOP on due diligence Procedures for <u>all</u> CITES species; –Closely scrutinize any export permits and re-export certificates associated with circumstances that may give reason for doubt; and –Continue liaising with (re-) exporting Parties on cases identified and others raising similar concerns to verify that animals have been traded in compliance with the	SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat and urge India to: ● Amend the SOP: recognize that due diligence relates to all listed species; emphasize that for Appendix I species, import permits are to be issued prior to export permits; and that related findings should be made independently of permits issued by another government. ● Voluntarily stop imports of live CITES-listed species until the Secretariat/SC confirm the SOP is operational and all recommendations from SC79 are fulfilled. ● Investigate further cases of data discrepancies and specimens of questionable origins, including Galapagos and Fiji iguanas, primates, shoebills and other species,[12] in cooperation with the Secretariat and (re-)exporting countries, and report to SC82. ● Jointly with independent experts, compile an inventory of CITES-listed animals acquired by Vantara, documenting acquisition dates, locations, sources, age and sex; cross-check against trade records and investigate discrepancies.[13]

[12] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/SC/81/inf/E-SC81-Inf-21.pdf

[13] .https://www.prowildlife.de/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/2026-09-22-organisations-respond-to-vantara.pdf

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	Convention and applicable resolutions and, if not, take appropriate measures in accordance with the Convention and applicable rules; and report to SC82. ● Invites SC to request Parties to reinforce due diligence checks before authorizing (re-) exports in cases where reason for doubt may exist.	● Publish MoUs made between India/Vantara and entities in the exporting countries. ● Seek documentation to substantiate claims that wild specimens received were donated[14] and by whom. ● Ensure that any 'breeding programs' are for conservation purposes only and involve cooperation with range States. ● Ensure that regulations to implement RC 17.6 (Rev.CoP20) on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption*…" regarding gift-giving, corruption and whistleblower protections are in place and allow for confidential reporting without fear of retaliation and ensure independent impartial investigations.
33.9. Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic **SC81 Doc. 33.9**	● Provides an update on, *inter alia*: implementation of Lao PDR's Compliance Action Plan, a national task-force to address wildlife crime, seizures undertaken, regional cooperation on wildlife crime; a list of Annexes provided by Lao PDR (Annex 1) and Tiger sterilization efforts (Annex 2). ● **Regarding *Macaca fascicularis* (long-tailed macaque)**: seized specimens were moved to a wildlife rescue center and offspring to a commercial facility. ● **Regarding tiger breeding facilities**: states that remaining concerns are only partially implemented including regular inspections and oversight. ● Invites the SC to withdraw the trade suspension and recommend that Lao PDR: strengthen wildlife crime investigations, prosecutions, cross-border cooperation and demand reduction; operationalize the National Tiger Management System and Database to support wild tiger conservation; and report to SC82.	SSN recommends that SC note progress but maintain the trade suspension until Lao PDR fulfils all SC79 recommendations and demonstrates substantial progress in dismantling wildlife trafficking networks, including prosecution of the related criminal networks. ● Domestic sales of protected species products, including tiger and pangolin parts, persist in some areas; rhino horn remains an accepted traditional medicine ingredient.[15] ● No action has been taken against tiger farms or owners involved in illegal trade, and the country remains implicated in ivory and rhino horn trafficking.[16] ● **Regarding tiger facilities**: Urge Lao PDR to demonstrate the end of captive tiger breeding, progress in closing remaining facilities and a credible plan for humane management of captive tigers. Request evidence the use of existing tiger DNA and stripe-pattern databases from the 2019–2020 audits and enforcement against illegal trade in specimens suspected to originate from domestic farms. ● **Regarding *M. fascicularis***: SC should maintain suspension of trade until the time-bound

[14] https://cms.vantara.in/uploads/Media_Statement_Letter_to_CITES_MA_India_and_Voluntary_Commitments_cfb4a786f5.pdf
[15] EIA Briefing, October 2026
[16] Ibid.

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		implementation plan[17] and a more humane and secure means of marking (rather than neck tags) are in place, and an up-to-date facility-by-facility inventory of specimens held (numbers, age, and sex) is provided, in order to assess the validity of future production and exports, noting that some figures provided to SC79 are more than 20 years old.[18] ● SC is urged to reinstate a recommendation of no additional takes from the wild until population estimates are reviewed by AC. Annual take of 1,500 wild specimens for breeding facilities is based on a national estimate of 30,586,[19] despite a peer-reviewed 2024 study estimated an upper population limit of ≈10,933.[20]
33.10. Application of Article XIII in Nigeria **SC81 Doc. 33.10**	Invites SC to: ● Note progress made and continue to suspend commercial trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Nigeria until science-based NDFs and LAFs are made. ● Recommend that Nigeria, *inter alia*, adopt the 2024 Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill; counter corruption; continue to implement adequate control measures to secure storage facilities for seized stockpiles of CITES-listed species, including for pangolins and ivory; and report to SC82.	● SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
33.11. Application of Article XIII in Suriname **SC81 Doc. 33.11**	Invites SC to: ● Acknowledge progress; and ● Encourage Suriname to, *inter alia*: adopt the necessary legislative revisions; implement measures to ensure science-based NDFs and LAFs are made; correct trade data on *Ara macao* (scarlet macaw); correct trade records regarding exports of *Ara chloropterus* (red-and-green macaw) and *Chiropotes satanas* (black-bearded saki); strengthen enforcement; take	SSN recommends that SC: ● Adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat with the exception of those relating to 'correcting trade records' for *A. chloropterus;* records with incorrect source or purpose codes may indicate illegal trade rather than being simply reporting errors. ● Recommend a trade suspension in *A. chloropterus;* Suriname has continued to export wild specimens despite a zero export quota[21] in place since 2022.

[17] SC81 Inf 20.

[18] Annex 3 of https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-SC79-06-03-05_0.pdf

[19] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382179135_Assessing_the_Effecacy_of_Distance_Sampling_in_Estimating_the_Population_Abundance_of_the_Endangered_Long-tailed_Macaque_Macaca_fascicularis

[20] https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adn5390

[21] Zero quota established via the Review of Significant Trade.

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	measures with Sri Lanka regarding birds seized there; and report to SC82.	
33.12. Totoabas (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) (Decision 20.58)		
33.12.1. Report of the Trilateral Contact Group on law enforcement to combat the illegal trade of totoaba (TECG) **SC81 Doc. 33.12.1**	• Prepared by Chair of the Contact Group (USA). • Provides an update on information sharing related to enforcement efforts, including an in-person meeting in July 2026. • Invites SC to welcome these efforts, call upon the TECG to continue its collaboration and convene another in-person meeting and report to SC82.	SSN recommends that SC: • Adopt the TECG recommendations, including continued trilateral cooperation, an in-person TECG meeting, and a further report to SC82 on progress and recommendations. • Encourage China and Mexico to report to SC82 on the June 2026 seizure of 246 totoaba swim bladders, including the final destination of the shipment, trafficking networks involved, disposition of seized specimens, and any resulting investigations, charges, prosecutions or penalties. • Request the TECG to report concrete enforcement outcomes including results from coordinated or synchronized operations, intelligence-led investigations, identification of organizers and financiers, and measurable disruption of trafficking routes.
33.12.2. Report of the Secretariat **SC81 Doc. 33.12.2**	• Provides summary of responses from China and USA regarding related enforcement actions, a report from Mexico on its Compliance Action Plan on Totoaba (CAP) (Annex 1) and assessment of the CAP by the Secretariat (Annex 2). • Notes that Mexico is requested to fully achieve all milestones of targets in CAP no later than the present meeting. • Invites SC to recommend, *inter alia*: –China and USA to continue their enforcement activities; and –Mexico to take urgent steps to complete activities under the CAP and implementation of the amended version of 2020 Regulatory Agreement (“the Agreement”);[22] and report to SC82.	SSN recommends that SC: • Recommend that Parties suspend all commercial trade of CITES-listed species with Mexico until verified completion of outstanding CAP milestones and effective vaquita protection measures; nine milestones remain outstanding despite the SC81 deadline.[23] • Urge Mexico to demonstrate effective implementation of “the Agreement” and explain how its reduced Gillnet Prohibition Area aligns with CAP Line of Action 2 (keep the Zero Tolerance and Vaquita Refuge Areas gillnet-free). • Request Mexico to explain the legal basis for the 6 October 2026 shrimp permits, issued before the amended Agreement entered into force, including where gillnets may be used and how they are marked, monitored and enforced

[22] Mexican government regulation published in September 2020 to control fishing activities in the Upper Gulf of California
[23] CITES Decision 20.54

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		• Request the Secretariat to reassess milestones (considered achieved) on small-vessel tracking and the gear marking program that require verifiable evidence of tracking coverage, marked gear and commercial adoption of vaquita-safe fishing gear.
34. National ivory action plan (NIAP) process		
34.1. Implementation of the National ivory action plan process [(Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP20), Annex 3), step 4] **SC81 Doc. 34.1**	• Reports on Parties' achievement of the NIAPs (Annex 1) and reports from Parties (Annexes 2-13). • Invites SC to, *inter alia*, agree on recommendations to the following Parties: –Category A: DRC, Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo, Viet Nam –Category B: Angola, Gabon –Category C: Cameroon, Congo, Lao PDR, Qatar, UAE. • Also invites SC to agree to appropriate measures at SC82 for those Parties in Categories A and B that fail to achieve their NIAP goals.	SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations in paragraph 34 of the document with additional proposed recommendations as follows: • **Regarding Angola and Lao PDR**: agree that both countries should remain in the NIAP process and request them to revise and update their NIAPs into National Ivory and Rhino Action Plans (NIRAPs). • **Regarding Nigeria**: urge Nigeria to submit information on seizures to ETIS in advance of the next assessment. • **Regarding Congo and Cameroon**: request to revise and update their NIAPs to accelerate implementation of the outstanding actions.
34.2. Review of the National Ivory Action Plans Process (Decision 20.101) **SC81 Doc. 34.2**	• Invites SC to: –Request Secretariat to amend NIAP and progress report templates to include means of verification for actions and submission of relevant supporting documentation; compile a list of indicators from previous/existing NIAPs for Parties to consider when developing their own; and –Agree that short/long-term considerations identified in process review were addressed through CoP20 amendments to Annex 3 of RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP20), and existing Secretariat and SC practices.	SSN recommends that SC support the Secretariat's proposed recommendations under paragraphs 25(a), 25(c) and 25(d) and to amend paragraph 25(b) to make provision for the Secretariat to: • Issue a Notification to develop indicators and associated means of verification through consultation with Parties, ICCWC partners, relevant experts and observers before implementation, rather than simply compiling a list; • Strengthen the objectivity and verification of NIAP assessments, including by exploring an advisory role for the MIKE-ETIS TAG; • Periodically review whether NIAPs remain fit for purpose, particularly where Parties remain in Category A across successive ETIS analyses, experience a deterioration in ETIS categorisation, or are implicated in significant ivory seizures.
34.3. Consultation process with Parties identified in the ETIS reports in the implementation of Step 1 b) and c) of the NIAP process (Decision 20.95)	• Provides information on the consultation process with Parties identified in the ETIS reports in the implementation of Step 1 b) and c) of the NIAP process.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations and note the relevance of this document in discussions concerning verification and

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SC81 Doc. 34.3	• Invites SC to note this report.	objectivity in the NIAP process under SC81 Doc. 34.2.
34.4. Guidance on Party-specific compliance measures informed by the ETIS report (Decision 20.102) **SC81 Doc. 34.4**	• Provides proposed amendments to RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP20), Annex 3: *Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plan Process* (Annex) regarding additional elements to be taken into consideration by the Secretariat and SC in making recommendations and determinations, including, *inter alia,* involvement in illegal ivory trade, evidence of organized and transnational criminal activity, and persistence, recurrence and emerging trends. • Invites SC to agree on these additional elements.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations and agree to add, under paragraph d) of Step 1 of the Guidelines: –Forensic analysis of seized ivory, particularly large-scale ivory seizures, and the use of resulting information to support enforcement action; and –Ivory stockpile reporting and stockpile management information. • SSN recommends that SC query paragraph 10(iv), on ‘’other Party-specific considerations’’ and request that the SC be provided with a clear rationale when such considerations are relied upon.
35. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)]		
35.1. Overview of the Review of Significant Trade **SC81 Doc. 35.1**	• Provides status on fauna (Annex 1) and flora (Annex 2) of species/countries currently in the Review, and newly selected combinations. • Invites SC to note the document.	• SSN recommends that SC note the document.
35.2. Implementation of recommendations of the Animals Committee **SC81 Doc. 35.2**	• Provides summary of combinations currently in the review (Annex 1) and provides updated recommendations and views of AC with recommendations of the Secretariat (Annex 2). Annexes 3A-3F provide responses from select range States. • Presents issues outside of AC for Secretariat follow-up. • Invites SC to: –Consider recommendations of the Secretariat for *Anguilla anguilla* (European eel)/Algeria, *Chamaeleo gracilis* (graceful chameleon)/Ghana, *Chamaeleo senegalensis* (Senegal chameleon)/Ghana, *Pandinus imperator* (emporer scorpion)/Ghana, *Python regius* (ball python)/Ghana, *Uromastyx dispar* (Sudan mastigur)/Mali, *Uromastyx geyri* (Geyr's spiny-tailed lizard)/Mali. –Provide feedback on the establishment of an expedited intersessional decision-making procedure for	• SSN recommends that SC agree to maintain *Python regius* (ball python)/Ghana in the Review, and recommend that Ghana provide the Secretariat with information on remaining concerns regarding ranching operations including, *inter alia*, gravid-female collection and collection of entire clutches and lack of size limitations. • SC should request the Secretariat to make available responses from Parties included in the Review. • SC should request the Secretariat to provide an update on additional issues raised by AC34[24] • Regarding an intersessional decision-making mechanism, SSN recommends that SC agree to maintain the current process, under which decisions are presented to SC meetings to ensure transparency and participation of Parties, Observers and experts on these core CITES issues. Any limitations on the participation of Parties and Observers in CITES processes would be more

[24] Paragraph II under *Recommendations* in AC34 Com. 4

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	the Review, enabling SC to take decisions in an expedited manner.	appropriately considered by the SC under Agenda item 13, *Enhancing the work and efficiency of the Convention through the permanent committees*.
35.3. Implementation of recommendations of the Plants Committee **SC81 Doc. 35.3**	• Provides updates and recommendations of the Secretariat for species/country combinations, including for select species (Annex 1). Annexes AA-EE provide responses from select range States. • Invites SC to agree to recommendations regarding, *inter alia*: *Aquilaria malaccensis* (agarwood)/Indonesia, *Dalbergia melanoxylon* (African blackwood)/Mozambique, *Guibourtia tessmannii* (bubinga)/Equatorial Guinea,*Gyrinops* spp. (agarwood)/Papua New Guinea, *Osyris lanceolata* (East African sandalwood)/Burundi, *Osyris lanceolata* (East African sandalwood)/Ethiopia, *Pericopsis elata* (afrormosia)/Congo, *Guibourtia tessmannii* (bubinga)/Cameroon, *Dalbergia melanoxylon* (African blackwood)/Mozambique, *Euphorbia mlanjeana* (Malanje spurge)/Mozambique and *Pachypodium inopinatum* (Pachypodium)/Madagascar.	• No comment.
36. Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity [Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP20)]		
36.1. Overview of the Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity **SC81 Doc. 36.1**	• Provides status on implementation of the Review (Annex 1); species currently in the Review (Annex2); species selected at AC34 (Annex 3), and an updated table of species/country combinations that meet criterion vi) (legal acquisition) (Annex 4). • Reports that the Secretariat will follow up on several enforcement matters raised at AC34 and due to time constraints will likely report to SC82 on these issues. • Invites SC to note the status of cases and consider the revised table in Annex 4 to the present document and identify species/country combinations for follow-up by the Secretariat.	• SSN recommends that SC agree to the Secretariat's recommendations. • Regarding species/countries meeting criterion vi, the following combinations, not included in Annex 4, are suitable for selection: **–*Amblyrhynchus cristatus* (Galápagos marine iguana)/ Uganda**: 4 live animals were exported from Uganda to India;[25] Ecuador never issued export permits[26] and the origin of the founder stock in Uganda is unclear (Mali, recorded in CITES Trade Database as origin, received no prior imports). The species is extremely difficult to keep and breed. **–*Cyclura rileyi* (Central Bahamian rock iguana)/ Austria:** Austria is a major exporter of the species, including exports to India in 2024 and 2025; Bahamas denies issuing permits for export of live

[25] Global customs data.

[26] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notifications/E-Notif-2025-063.pdf

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		Cyclura spp. to any EU country (CITES SC65 Inf. 4[27]). **–*Brachylophus vitiensis* (Fiji crested iguana)/ Austria**: According to Fiji[28]: "The first documented imports into Europe were from Mali between 2009 and 2011; however, no legal trade of the species has ever been conducted from Fiji to Mali." Although Austria never reported import of *B. vitiensis*, the CITES Trade Database records 121 imports from Austria (2019-2024). For Fiji's response see SC81 Doc. 53.3 Annex 2A . ● SC should request Parties identified in Annex 4 to provide adequate pre-convention certificates or proof of importation under a different taxonomic name to the Secretariat before the deadline for AC35 documents. ● SC should request the Secretariat to report to SC81 on issues that AC34 agreed[29] to bring to the consideration of SC, including trade in *Conolophus subcristatus* (Galapagos land iguana) from Japan and Uganda; and various species from DRC, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela.
36.2. Implementation of recommendations of the Animals Committee **SC81 Doc. 36.2**	● Prepared by Secretariat with AC through its Chair. ● Provides an update on species / country combinations selected for the review at AC29/AC32 and retained at AC33/AC34 (Annex). ● Invites SC to note these and adopt recommendations regarding: *Centrochelys sulcata* (African spurred tortoise)—Benin, Mali and Togo; *Testudo graeca (*Greek tortoise)—Jordan; and *Testudo kleinmanni* (Egyptian tortoise)—Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic.	● SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations. ● With regard to *Testudo graeca* from Jordan: the AC should review the situation before any exports can commence.
37. Enforcement		
37.1. Enforcement matters [Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph 32 c); Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP20) paragraph 13. a) and b), 14 and 15;	Invites SC to, *inter alia*: ● Encourage Parties to invest in the maintenance of the CITES Illegal Trade Database;	● SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.

[27] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/65/Inf/E-SC65-Inf-04.pd
[28] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notifications/E-Notif-2025-081.pdf
[29] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/AC/34/com/E-AC34-Com-03.pdf

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Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph 2 b); Decision 20.66] **SC81 Doc. 37.1**	• Provides summary of responses to a Notification on Parties' implementation of activities in the *CITES Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species* and encourage further discussion of these issues in an upcoming related workshop; and • Note brief report on control of trade in the Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) and remain vigilant regarding illegal trade in this species.	
37.2. International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) **SC81 Doc. 37.2**	• Provides a report on related activities, *inter alia*: –As of August 2026, the ICCWC Toolkit had been implemented by 18 Parties, with support provided by the Consortium, and the ICCWC Indicator Framework had been implemented by 26 Parties. – Publication of the ICCWC Annual Report 2025 in August 2026 (SC81 Inf. 3); –Facilitation of international case coordination on priority trafficking threats; and –Development of the ICCWC Strategic Action Plan 2027–2030. • Invites SC to *inter alia*; welcome Parties' efforts to address wildlife crime; encourage Parties to actively engage in ICCWC initiatives and activities; and invite Parties to provide support to ICCWC.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
37.3. Wildlife crime linked to the Internet (Decision 20.62) **SC81 Doc. 37.3**	• Provides an update on related activities, including a report on studies on *Wildlife crime linked to the Internet affecting CITES-listed species in Asia and Latin America* (Annex) that found that social media, particularly Facebook, prominently host wildlife listings, including those potentially involving illegal trade. • Invites SC to: –Agree to amendments to RC 11.3 (Rev. CoP20) on *Compliance and enforcement,* in section VII on *Regarding wildlife crime linked to the Internet*, to recommend, *inter alia*: that Parties to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime linked to the Internet, and provide specialized training to relevant staff to combat such crime; and –Encourage Parties to, as appropriate, pursue increasing cooperation with Facebook to promote awareness measures.	SSN recommends that SC: • Adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat, including the proposed amendments to RC 11.3 (Rev. CoP20). • Strengthen the RC by proposing amendments to address specific challenges in tackling wildlife crime linked to the Internet. This should include ensuring that national legislation covers offences such as attempting or soliciting illegal trade, including related conspiracy; expanding training to cover presentation of electronic evidence in court and open-source and undercover online investigations; and encouraging engagement of CITES authorities with online platforms to adopt safeguards such as legality requirements, trigger warnings, automated detection tools and removal policies. • Request the Secretariat to communicate with META regarding postings on Facebook, and communicate with other social media outlets.

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38. Great apes (Hominidae spp.) [Resolution Conf. 13. 4 (Rev. CoP18) & Decision 20.80] **SC81 Doc. 38**	• Reports that only one of the 23 great ape range States (Indonesia) responded to a related Notification • Invites SC to: agree to the ToR and modus operandi for the CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force (Annex); and encourage Parties to provide support for the meeting.	• SSN recommends that SC agree to include in the ToR: –Review of the use of possibly incorrect or misapplied source codes for trade in great apes; —Determination of whether legal acquisition findings have been made in accordance with RC 18.7 (Rev.CoP17) on LAFs; and –Coordinated international investigation of practices in source/export, transit, and destination/import countries involved in trade in live apes, based on recent confiscations. • Urge all range States, transit and importing countries to engage fully with the Task Force.
39. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.) (Decision 20.84) **SC81 Doc. 39**	• Summarizes responses from the Parties to a related Notification and provides a report from Indonesia (Annex). • Invites SC to, *inter alia*, encourage affected Parties to consider relevant aspects in the related Task Force outcome document that may require strengthening or should be pursued. • Invites SC to, regarding: –Malaysia: Welcome the first conviction for rhino-related crimes (six months' imprisonment for smuggling 50 rhino horn), Malaysia to ensure penalties are sufficient; –South Africa: Recommend implementation of the formal protocol for communicating Rhino DNA Index System (RhODIS®) comparison results to Parties that submitted samples to South Africa; and –Indonesia: Recommend effective protection of the Javan rhinoceroses (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*).	• SSN recommends that SC establish an intersessional working group to consider the responses contained in the Annexes, the IUCN/TRAFFIC report to CoP20, and other relevant IGO and NGO reports, and make recommendations regarding implementation of the strategies and actions in the Enforcement Task Force outcome document to SC82 and CoP21
40. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) from Madagascar (Decision 20.91)		
40.1. Report by Madagascar **SC81 Doc. 40.1**	• Provides a report on Madagascar's efforts to address illegal trade in these species, including an *Overview of international cooperation in criminal matters relating to financial investigations* (Annex).	• SSN recommends that SC note this report.
40.2. Report of the Secretariat **SC81 Doc. 40.2**	• Prepared by AC Chair and the Secretariat. • Provides recommendations of AC34 on this issue (Annex). • Reports limited responses to related Notification on illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat, including encouraging Parties to support Madagascar's implementation of these measures.

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	• Invites SC to, *inter alia*, welcome the progress made by Madagascar and encourage it to build on these positive developments, particularly by ensuring that trafficking in protected species involving organized criminal groups is treated as a serious crime, subject to appropriate penalties, and by actively seeking support for related activities.	
41. Implementation of the recommendations from the review of the ETIS programme (Decisions 19.96, 20.94, 20.98 & 20.103) **SC81 Doc. 41**	• Provides draft ETIS Data Validation Protocol (Annex 1); consolidated comments received in response to a related Notification (Annex 2); the draft ETIS Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) (Annex 3); and updated implementation status of all recommendations (Annex 4). • Notes progress made in implementing the outstanding priority recommendations from the Review of the ETIS Programme; and requests the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to review the ETIS SOP and the revised ETIS data validation protocol.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations and amend paragraph 32 b) i) as follows: b) request the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to review at the present meeting: i) the ETIS SOP prepared by TRAFFIC contained in Annex 3, as well as the responses provided in paragraph 17, and propose amendments clarifying that objective, evidence-based information must be provided to support any request to exclude ETIS data from analysis due to concerns over authenticity or accuracy of contested data; and…
42. Implementation of stricter domestic measures (Decision 20.105) **SC81 Doc. 42**	• Reports that the Secretariat will continue to receive and disseminate information on stricter domestic measures communicated to it by Parties, in accordance with RC 12.3 (Rev. CoP20) on *Permits and certificates* and RC 4.22 on *Proof of foreign law*.	• SSN recommends that SC note the report.
43. Legal acquisition findings (LAFs)		
43.1. Report of the working group (Decision 20.112) **SC81 Doc. 43.1**	• Submitted by Chair of related SC Working Group (USA). • Provides responses from the group regarding definitions of "founder stock", "parental stock" and breeding stock" (Annex). • Notes that generally, group members have divergent views as to whether 'founder stock' refers to first specimens held at a facility or first specimens removed from the wild; 'breeding stock' is generally agreed to refer to breeding individuals held at a facility and there were various views as to what constitutes 'parental stock". • Invites SC to establish an in-session group to review the information and propose definitions of "founder stock" and "parental stock".	• SSN urges the SC to establish the in-session group and: –Recommend adoption of a definition of "founder stock" that traces back to the first specimens removed from the wild used to produce offspring. Subsequent progeny derived from illegally acquired stock should not be deemed 'legally acquired' merely because related parental stock was \ issued permits at some point in the trade chain. –Agree that LAF assessments should not be based solely on the parental or breeding stock first held by a particular facility. Doing so could create opportunities to launder illegally acquired specimens or their progeny through subsequent 'legal' transactions.

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		–Note recent cases of illegal trade in the Galápagos marine iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*),[30] including the seizure of 32 live animals on 29 August 2026, and a related Science publication[31] urging CITES to close loopholes that relate to permitted trade sourced from illegally acquired founder stock.
43.2. Report of the Secretariat (Decision 20.110) **SC81 Doc. 43.2**	• Provides an update on related activities, including the further development of the CITES-LEX Database and updates to the CITES LAF webpage, and related workshops. • Invites SC to, *inter alia*: note the work of the Secretariat, invite Parties to share their LAFs with the Secretariat, and invite Parties to provide information on their stricter domestic measures regarding the management of CITES-listed species, and particularly endemic species, native to their jurisdiction.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
44. Traceability systems for CITES-listed tree species (Decision 20.114) **SC81 Doc. 44**	• Suggests that Parties could focus on developing practical traceability guidance for tree species used in the timber industry; this would be useful but it would be a complex undertaking. • Invites SC to consider whether further work on this issue should be undertaken, and, if so, establish a related intersessional working group. • Invites SC to encourage Parties to undertake pilot projects on developing traceability systems for CITES-listed tree species.	• SSN recommends that SC agree to continue this work by establishing an intersessional working group mandated to identify and compile key elements that could serve as guiding principles for a potential traceability system for trade in CITES-listed tree species, to ensure traceability throughout the supply chain. • The working group should encourage Parties to engage relevant scientific and academic institutions to provide the information, expertise, and methodologies needed to identify wood species in trade, thereby facilitating species identification and verification by customs authorities.
45. Introduction from the sea (IFS) (Decision 20.118) **SC81 Doc. 45**	• Provides a summary of responses to a related Notification (Annex). • Recommends that SC: –Recommend that the related intersessional working group consider the responses and this report when considering preparing guidance for implementation of IFS; and	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations and note that any additional guidance or clarification should leave the compromise embodied in RC 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) intact.

[30] https://apnews.com/article/ecuador-smuggled-iguanas-russia-galapagos-4c865976bd2bc7ee93ed52b050982617

[31] https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aek3898

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	–Request the Secretariat to support Parties in implementation, and organize a related technical workshop.	
46. Guidance related to periods of transition (Decision 20.119) **SC81 Doc. 46**	• Provides responses to a related Notification. • Invites SC to, *inter alia*: –Provide guidance on the continued development of related draft *Guidance on best practices related to periods of transition and possible transitory measures*; and –Request the Secretariat to revise the Guidance and report to SC82.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendation to seek further insights from Parties, but agree that if Parties again do not respond further revisions are unnecessary, especially given the Secretariat's limited budget and personnel resources. • Clarify that pre-Convention specimens can only be traded with appropriate CITES pre-convention certificates once a species listing takes effect.
47. Purpose-of-transaction codes (Decision 20.126) **SC81 Doc. 47**	• Submitted by Chair of the related SC Working Group (Australia). • Invites SC to provide views on: –Preparation of definitions for purpose-of-transaction codes B, P, Q, S and G; –Proposed use of the term "non-commercial" in definitions; –The possible need for guidance regarding specimens that can be moved under multiple codes; and –Various use of the terms 'trade', 'transfer', 'movement', and 'use' in the proposed definitions. • Invites SC to request that group continue its work.	SSN recommends that the SC: • Request the group to continue its work; • Agree that the use of the terms "non-commercial," "trade," "transfer," "movement," and "use" are appropriate for these discussions. • Agree to the following definitions: **–"B" (Breeding in captivity or artificial propagation)**: "non-commercial trade of live specimens or propagules undertaken as part of a conservation breeding programme, that includes among its components measures to return the species to the range States. Specimens traded and their offspring should not be subject to sale or other commercial purposes." **–"P" (Personal):**: ""non-commercial movement of personal property of the person trading the specimen, specimen or its offspring not intended for commercial use after the import/ export/ reexport." The definition also should apply to future use of specimens as breeding stock for commercial sale. **–"Q" (Circus or travelling exhibition)** "…temporary international movement outside the exporter's State of usual residence for exhibition, public display, or performance, where ownership is retained and specimens are not sold or transferred while outside of the owner's State of usual residence." **–"S" (Scientific)**: "bona fide, non-commercial, scientific research, forensic research, or diagnostic testing, in pursuit of knowledge for non-commercial purposes," as any entity doing genome mapping

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		should not later commercially benefit from that information (or allow anyone else to do so).
48. Electronic systems and information technology (Decision 20.128) **SC81 Doc. 48**	• Prepared by Secretariat with Chair of related SC Working Group (Malaysia). • Provides summary of responses to a related Notification (Annex 1), ToR for related SC Working Group (Annex 2), and Summaries of the Business Process Analysis on the CITES Permit System from Argentina, Guatemala and Peru (Annex 3). • Invites SC to note progress and encourage Parties to continue to share information on this issue.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
49. Transport of live specimens (Decision 20.135) **SC81 Doc. 49**	• Reports low level of demand for free access to IATA LAR and IATA PCR International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations (LAR) and Perishable Cargo Regulations (PCR). • Reports that the Secretariat will issue a Notification inviting Parties to provide input on measures to reduce zoonotic disease and pathogen spread risks associated with wildlife trade.	• SSN recommends that SC note the report.
50. Rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples and efficient movement of musical instruments (Decision 20.139) **SC81 Doc. 50**	• Summarizes responses to a related Notification. • Invites SC to, *inter alia*: –Request the Secretariat to prepare guidance for movement of wildlife diagnostic samples and musical instruments; –Prepare draft amendments to RC 12.3 (Rev. CoP20) on *Permits and certificates* and RC 16.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Frequent crossborder non-commercial movements of musical instruments*, to explicitly address musical instrument certificates; encourage Parties to share information on their implementation of these measures.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
51. Specimens produced through biotechnology [Decision 19.161 (Rev. CoP20)] **SC81 Doc. 51**	• Summarizes responses to a related Notification. • Invites SC to agree there is no need for a new source code at this time; agree that the Secretariat prepare draft guidance on implementation and enforcement of the Convention regarding these specimens, and also consult with relevant bodies and processes to avoid duplication of work.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
52. Disposal of confiscated specimens (Decision 19.173) **SC81 Doc. 52**	• Reports that, based on responses to a Notification and select interviews with Parties, the Secretariat has initiated the preparation of materials aimed at assisting Parties in implementing Annex 3 (*Guidelines to develop an action plan on seized and/or confiscated live*	SSN recommends that SC: • Adopt the Secretariat's recommendations; and • Request the Secretariat to engage with observer organisations with experience operating wildlife rescue centres and to take into account relevant

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	specimens) to RC 17.8 (Rev. CoP20) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES listed species*. ● Invites SC to, *inter alia*, request the Secretariat to report on the development and publication of the materials on the CITES website at SC82.	existing resources in the development of the resource kit.
53. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes [Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP20)]		
53.1. Registration of the operation Unidad de Biotecnología en Piscicultura de la Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Baja California (Mexico) breeding *Totoaba macdonaldi* **SC81 Docs. 53.1.1 and 53.1.2**	● Application is for registration of a facility breeding *T. macdonaldi* (totoaba). ● Provides: application (Annex 1); objections from EU and USA (Annexes 2A/2B); AC comments (Annex 3); and Mexico's responses (Annexes 4A-4C). ● In response to objections, Mexico proposes the exclusion of swim bladders as individual products and as raw material for products or derivatives in commercial trade.	SSN recommends that SC reject this application: ● Mexico is subject to compliance procedures regarding illegal trade in this species (see SC81 Doc. 33.12). ● Approval would allow Mexico to initiate trade in these specimens at any time simply by notifying the Secretariat without further SC approval. ● Inadequate traceability;highly dependent on specimens taken regularly from the wild to maintain broodstock genetic diversity (cf. RC 12.10 (Rev. CoP20).
53.2. Registration of the operation Special Turtles (Italy) breeding *Astrochelys radiata*, *Geochelone elegans*, *Malacochersus tornieri* and *Testudo kleinmanni* **SC81 Doc. 53.2**	● Provides: application (Annexes 1A/1B); objections from Israel, Madagascar and USA (Annexes 2A-2C); AC comments (Annex 3); and Italy's responses (Annexes 4A-4C). ● Application involves: *A. radiata* (Radiated tortoise), Critically Endangered; *G. elegans* (Indian star tortoise), Vulnerable; *M. tornieri* (Pancake Tortoise), Vulnerable; *T. kleinmanni* (Egyptian tortoise), Critically Endangered. ● Madagascar, sole range State of *A. radiata*, objects as, *inter alia*, the species is protected under national legislation and Madagascar has not authorized the export of live specimens for commercial purposes.	SSN recommends that SC reject this application: ● No evidence is provided tracing the founder stock to legal sources; trade between EU Member States is not recorded ● For *G. elegans*, AC expressed doubts about the legality of founder stock originating in Jordan and whether specimens have been bred to the F2 generation ● Ongoing massive illegal trade, including in Europe, is a threatens all four species in 2022, Turtle Survival Alliance warned against illegal trade "from circum-Mediterranean countries through Italy, France or Spain", explicitly naming *A. radiata, M. tornieri*, and *T. kleinmanni.*[32]

[32] https://shop.turtlesurvival.org/blogs/news/seized-turtles-in-the-eu-as-a-source-for-conservation

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		• Ongoing large-scale seizures of *A. radiata*, e.g. > 10,000 animals in 2018[33], > 1,000 in 2024[34], and > 3,200 in 2025[35] • Regarding *T. kleinmanni,* concerns have been raised about the legitimate production of claimed captive-bred specimens in Egypt and Syria, any of which are likely the source of founder stock for this facility.[36]
53.3. Registration of the operation Grayson Tighe (Canada) breeding *Brachylophus bulabula* and *Brachylophus fasciatus* **SC81 Doc. 53.3**	• Application is for registration of a facility breeding Endangered *B. bulabula* (Fiji banded iguana) and Endangered *B. fasciatus* (Lau banded iguana). • Provides: application (Annex 1); objections from Fiji; four Parties in Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Tonga), and USA (Annexes 2A-2C); Canada's response (Annex 3); and AC comments (Annex 4). • Sole range State Fiji objects as no exports were permitted from Fiji to Europe, the stated origin of the Canadian specimens; other objecting Parties express concerns regarding legality of founder stock.	• SSN recommends that SC, noting the concerns of Fiji, reject the application as there is no evidence that founder stock was legally acquired. • Breeding stock in Canada for both species was received from an Austrian breeder who reportedly imported 3 specimens from Switzerland in 1996 –it is impossible to breed two different species from a founder stock of 3 animals • The same Austrian facility exported another Fiji endemic, *B.vitiensis*, with founder stock reportedly from Mali, which did not legally import the species.[37] • No reported exports of *B. fasciatus* (which until 2008 included *bulabula*)t to Europe (the origin of the Canadian specimens) from Fiji in the CITES Trade Database. Fiji emphasizes: no documentary evidence confirming that founder stocks of both species were legally obtained; and well-documented illegal trade and confiscations of both species, including in Europe.
54. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source (Decision 20.145) **SC81 Omnibus**	• The Secretariat is currently developing the ToR of reference and *modus operandi* for the technical workshop; a Notification to the Parties will be issued thereafter to invite feedback from Parties and observers.	SSN notes limited progress on these discussions, and urges SC to: • Oppose easing trade requirements for specimens traded as non-wild; and • Recommend that related resources (estimated at US$100,000–327,000) would be better spent on CITES priority issues.

[33] https://shop.turtlesurvival.org/blogs/news/massive-radiated-tortoise-seizure

[34] https://www.wwf.mg/?13653866/Plus-de-1000-tortues-radiees-et-48-lemuriens-interceptees-entre-lIndonesie-et-la-Thailande

[35] https://turtlesurvival.org/major-anti-poaching-operation-in-madagascar-leads-to-23-arrests-and-rescue-of-over-3200-endangered-tortoises/?srsltid=AU7gw4Xr4zFBtBO85MBhASnx7Y91ZQEM93z38kANQJcmYSb8_KltGVxX

[36] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/SC/81/agenda/E-SC81-53-02-A2A.pdf

[37] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/SC/81/agenda/E-SC81-53-03-A2B.pdf

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55. Trade in threatened endemic species (Decision 20.151) **SC81 Doc. 55**	• Summarizes responses to a Notification on endemic species, noting that of more than 1,800 species entries submitted, illegal trade has been recorded in 256 species; and possible concerns regarding disputed or unverified founder stock or the breeding of species outside the country of origin were raised for 48 species. • Provides ToR and the standard template for the case studies to be undertaken (Annex). • Invites SC to; agree to, *inter alia*: the ToR; first selection of species;[38] request SC Members to nominate two taxa for Africa, Asia, Europe and North America and one taxon for Oceania; and request Secretariat to issue a Notification requesting Parties to undertake case studies.	• SSN recommends that SC agree to the Secretariat's recommendations. • Additional threatened endemic CITES-listed species that could be proposed include: – ***Anodorhynchus leari*** (Lear's macaw) Endangered, Brazil; –***Cophotis ceylanica*** (Ceylon Deaf Agama), Endangered; ***C. dumbara*** (Dumbara Agama), Critically Endangered; ***Lyriocephalus scutatus*** (Lyre Head Lizard), Vulnerable (IUCN 2019), Sri Lanka; – ***Bitis parviocula*** (Ethiopian Mountain Adder), Endangered, Ethiopia; – ***Brachylophus vitiensis*** (Fiji crested iguana), Critically Endangered, Fiji; – ***Cyclura rileyi*** (Central Bahamian rock iguana), Endangered, Bahamas; ***Cyclura cychlura*** (Northern Bahamian rock iguana), Vulnerable, Bahamas; *C.c. figginsi*, Critically Endangered, and *C.c. cychlura,* Endangered; and ***Cyclura lewisi*** (Grand Cayman blue iguana), Endangered, Cayman Islands; –Endemic ***Nautilus* spp.** Including *N. vanuatuensis*, Vulnerable, Vanuatu; *N. samoaensis,* Vulnerable, American Samoa; and *N. belauensis,* Near Threatened, Palau. – ***Dynastes satanas*** (Satanas beetle), Bolivia, CITES App. II, ongoing illegal trade reported.
56. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP20) [Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP20) paragraphs 12], 19) and Decisions 19.36, 18.117 (Rev. CoP20), 18.185 (Rev. CoP20), 20.104 & 20.168] **SC81 Doc. 56**	• Reports on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP20) and related Decisions, covering MIKE/ETIS, elephant trade and populations, domestic ivory markets, ivory stockpiles, species-specific PIKE analyses and sustainable financing of elephant conservation and management. • Overall PIKE in Africa has declined to its lowest level since MIKE began, but important regional differences persist.	SSN recommends that SC amend the Secretariat's recommendations to: • **PIKE trends:** Acknowledge persistent regional differences, including high PIKE in West Africa and no clear trend in Eastern and Southern Africa; note high carcass ratios recorded in the KAZA region (2022)[39] and 11 out of 15 recent large-scale ivory seizures worldwide involving SADC countries (2023-2026).[40]

[38] [Adelphobates galactonotus (amphibian), Amblyrhynchus cristatu]
[39] https://www.worldwildlife.org/news/magazine/spring-2024/the-survey/
[40] https://eia-international.org/global-environmental-crime-tracker/

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	• ETIS faces significant funding shortfalls from 2027, while gaps remain in ivory seizure and stockpile reporting. • Invites SC to note the reported PIKE and worked ivory trends, encourage MIKE/ETIS reporting, and consider whether separate PIKE analyses for African forest and savannah elephants are necessary.	• **Worked ivory:** Request continued monitoring of the increasing proportion of worked ivory in seizures and reporting to SC82. • **MIKE/ETIS:** Urge Parties to improve completeness and timeliness of reporting, particularly seizure weights and trade routes; and Parties, donors and partners to provide adequate resources, particularly to address ETIS funding shortfalls from 2027. • **Asian elephants:** Address the need for increased resources to support MIKE implementation in Asia, given limited robust and up-to-date information on poaching and illegal trade threats affecting Asian elephants. • **Domestic ivory markets:** Urge Parties maintaining commercial ivory markets to strengthen regulation, monitoring, traceability and enforcement, and request updated reporting to SC82, including Japan, and Australia (which has yet to implement its CoP18 commitment to ban domestic trade).[41] • **Ivory stockpiles:** Urge Parties that have never submitted inventories to do so; remind Parties to conduct forensic analyses of large-scale seizures and request continued Secretariat follow-up, guidance and training, with progress and recommendations reported to SC82. • **Trade and quotas:** Request clarification on exceeded export quotas of tusks as trophies.[42] • **Savannah and forest elephants:** Reflect the MIKE-ETIS TAG's conclusion that PIKE analyses should continue primarily at the subregional level, rather than undertaking separate species-specific analyses. • **Human-elephant conflict (HEC):** Request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the MIKE-ETIS TAG, to further assess and harmonise the classification of HEC-related elephant deaths and their treatment in PIKE calculations.
57. Jaguars (*Panthera onca*) (Decision 20.188)	• Submitted by Co-Chairs of related Working Group (Brazil and Mexico).	• SSN recommends that SC acknowledge the progress made.

[41] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320726003939?via%3Dihub

[42] Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, South Africa (2023-2024).

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SC81 Doc. 57	• Provides: *Steering Committee ToR of the Intergovernmental Platform For Jaguar Conservation* (Annex 1) and *Guiding questions that the digital Platform for monitoring the illegal killing and illicit trade of jaguars* (Annex 2). • Invites SC to note progress made and consider the annexes to this document.	
58. Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP20): Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) in captivity (Decision 20.189) **SC81 Doc. 58**	• Reports that responses to a related Notification were limited. • Invites SC to request: –Secretariat to prepare, for SC82, the 'methodological approach to improve the conservation and educational value of facilities breeding or housing tigers',[43] for possible inclusion in RC 12.5 (Rev. CoP20) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*; and –China, South Africa, Thailand, USA **and** Viet Nam to further implement the country-specific recommendations as relevant to them and report to SC82.	SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations in paragraph 25 of the document and: • Request China to clarify the legislative basis for their strict prohibitions on tigers and their products stated to be in place in SC81 Inf. 9; • Request China to clarify the reason for the steep drop in its captive tiger population from 6,057 tigers in October 2018 to 2,744 tigers in May 2024; and • Request South Africa for information on how it intends to ensure that any trade in tigers is conducted in accordance with the Convention given the legislative gaps for the species identified by the Secretariat.
59. Saiga antelopes (*Saiga* spp.) [Decision 19.216 (Rev. CoP20)] **SC81 Doc. 59**	• Current listing of *Saiga tatarica* allows for Kazakhstan to sell horn for commercial purposes from a government stockpile. • Kazakhstan will auction one ton of whole horns to identify a buyer, then work with the buyer's CITES authority on marking and traceability systems, with prior verification by the Secretariat and SC via its Chair. • Reports that the Secretariat is engaging with Ukraine regarding the source code to use for specimens sourced from semi-captive populations. • Invites SC to, *inter alia*, note the report, the process proposed for the sale, and the challenges associated with undertaking the monitoring in the absence of a requirement for Parties to submit inventories of pre-Convention stockpiles to the Secretariat.	SSN urges SC to: • Agree that, in its implementation of paragraph b) of Annotation A3 for *Saiga tatarica,* it will request any prospective trade partner seeking to import saiga horn from Kazakhstan to report the disaggregated volumes and provenance of its saiga horn stockpiles • Recommend that CoP21 adopt a decision directing the main importers of pre-Convention saiga horn - China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan, and Singapore - to report the disaggregated volumes of their stockpiles, and close gaps in stockpile management. Reporting on stockpiles is needed to monitor whether newly-initiated legal trade will exacerbate illegal trade or provide laundering opportunities for illegally obtained horn. • Require that Kazakhstan report on the number of *S.tatarica* culled and deaths from other causes, including disease

[43] As outlined in Decision 20.189 regarding "facilities breeding or housing tigers for purposes other than conservation breeding programmes"

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60. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.): Report of the working group (Decisions 20.211 and 20.212) **SC81 Doc. 60**	• Submitted by Chair of the related SC Working Group (USA). • Discussed whether there is a need for guidance for stockpiles of shark parts or derivatives. • Invites SC to note progress and request Secretariat issue a Notification requesting information on control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations.
61. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) (Decision 20.216) **SC81 Doc. 61**	• Provides a summary of responses to a related Notification and a report on global illegal trade in seahorses (Annex). • Invites SC to: –Invite Senegal and Viet Nam to strengthen seahorse conservation and prevent, detect and combat illegal trade; and –Establish an intersessional working group to review the materials and develop recommendations to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement of international seahorse trade.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
62. *Paubrasilia echinata* (Brazilwood)		
62.1. Report of the working group (Decision 20.242) **SC81 Doc. 62.1**	• Submitted by Chair of the related SC Working Group (Brazil). • Provides responses of Working Group Members to a list of questions regarding a harmonized traceability approach (Annex). • Invites SC to note progress and provide feedback for continuing discussions of the group in preparation for SC82.	• SSN recommends that SC note the report and provide feedback.
62.2. Report of the Plants Committee and of the Secretariat **SC81 Doc. 62.2**	• Provides ToR for the study on traceability of *P. echinata* bows, bow blanks and wood stockpiles (Annex). • Invites SC to consider the ToR.	• SSN recommends that SC provide feedback on the ToR; and recommends that SC, PC and all the Parties and observers give the highest priority for funding the work on *P. echinata*.
63. Resolving the implementation of the CoP12 decision that the Convention applies to fungi (Decision 20.249) **SC81 Doc. 63**	• Observes that CoP has agreed that species of fungi are covered by the Convention, as indicated in paragraph 1 of RC 12.11 (Rev. CoP20) on *Standard nomenclature*: "AGREES that species of fungi are covered by the Convention". • Invites the SC to, *inter alia*: review the scientific and technical advice on this issue (Annex 1); determine whether amendments may be needed to relevant	• SSN recommends that SC establish an intersessional working group to bring recommendations to SC82.

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	resolutions (Annex 2) to address matters related to fungi; and develop recommendations to CoP21.	
64. Annotations		
64.1. Report of the working group (Decisions 20.251, 20.253 and 20.254) **SC81 Doc. 64.1**	• Submitted by Chair of the related SC Working Group (UK). • Annotations discussed relate to CITES-listed plants. • Invites SC to, *inter alia*: note progress on annotations #11, #12 and #14; the ongoing consultation with range States on annotations #11 and #12; consider the amendments to annotation #4 g) as proposed by PC; and consider whether there are implementation challenges with annotations #10, #17 and #19 as directed by PC.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the recommendations.
64.2. Report of the Secretariat **SC81 Doc. 64.2**	• Summarizes issues raised in response to a Notification regarding plant annotations and recommends a way forward on each. • Invites SC to agree to, *inter alia*: –Encourage Parties, at future CoPs, to introduce proposed annotation text, where possible, during Committee I rather than plenary; –Secretariat to review annotation #4; consult relevant Parties on annotations #1, #3, #8, #9 and #13; and provide information to Working Group for discussion; –The related Working Group to consider annotations #3 and #4; #5, #6 and #17; and address implementation and enforcement issues related to #10.	• SSN recommends that SC adopt the Secretariat's recommendations.
65. Any other business	• No document.	• No comment.
66. Determination of the time and venue of the 82nd meeting	• No document.	• No comment.
67. Closing remarks	• No document.	• No document.

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