

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Opening of the meeting  No Document		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment.</li> </ul>
2. Adoption of Rules of Procedure  AC19 Doc. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no proposed changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment.</li> </ul>
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Working Programme  AC19 Docs. 3.1 and 3.2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment.</li> </ul>
4. Admission of observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No document available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment.</li> </ul>
5. Regional reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No regional reports are available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment.</li> </ul>
6. Strategic planning  6.1 Implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision  6.2 Decisions directed to the Animals Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 6.1</u>: At COP11, the Parties adopted a Strategic Vision through 2005 that includes an Action Plan with actions directed to various CITES entities, including the AC. Based on a review of the Strategic Vision, it was agreed at AC16 for the AC to: initiate or support communication between Scientific Authorities; develop a database of species experts; emphasize the importance of annual reports and trade data for monitoring and management; develop a database of CITES permits and species experts; and strengthen the relationship between CITES Authorities through production of training manuals, workshops and regional directories. The AC is requested to consider whether these activities are still valid priorities of the AC for 2003-2004.</li> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 6.1, Annex</u>: Provides the action points directed to the AC from the Action Plan of the Strategic Vision through 2005.</li> <li><u>AC19 Doc 6.2</u>: Provides a list of valid Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 6.3</u> usefully identifies the status of implementation of all Action Plan points directed to the AC. It is clear from the document that progress has been made on most issues. However a handful of points in the Action Plan, such as Action Point 1.1.6 (Item 4(d) in Doc. 6.3) (directing the AC to “develop further regulations to prevent unnecessary loss during catching, storage and transportation of live animals”), have not been adequately addressed. Given that there are only two years left to implement the 2000-2005 Action Plan, the AC should plan how it will accomplish all the remaining action points by the end of 2005.</li> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 6.3 Item 4(f)</u> is in error in stating that proposals</li> </ul>

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<p>6.3 Establishment of Animals Committee priorities</p> <p>AC19 Docs. 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3</p>	<p>Decisions directed to the AC or that may require its consultation or assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 6.3</u>: Prepared by the Chair of the AC, provides a working program for the AC for 2003 through 2004 to CITES COP13 based on directives and recommendations contained in AC19 Docs. 6.1 and 6.2. The document includes comments from the Chair of the AC on each item.</li> </ul>	<p>submitted under the review of the Appendices are not to be withdrawn. At SC49, language recommending this was cut from the relevant document. Withdrawal is the sovereign right of any proposing Party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 6.3</u>: A regional directory of zoologists should include experts beyond those within Scientific Authorities.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Report on the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee</p> <p>7.1 Working Group on Technical Implementation Issues</p> <p>7.2 Export Quota Working Group</p> <p>AC19 Docs. 7.1 and 7.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 7.1</u>: Dec. 12.23 directs the Standing Committee (SC) to: identify the typical categories of technical implementation issues that have proved to be difficult to address under existing Committee structures; establish and implement a process for the SC to act as a clearinghouse to direct technical implementation issues to the appropriate body; and report at COP13 on these issues. A Working Group, chaired by the USA, was established at SC49. Dec. 12.24 directs the AC and PC to continue to work on technical implementation issues of a primarily scientific nature and report to SC50 on how the AC and PC could assist the SC in providing advice on technical implementation issues.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 7.1, Annex</u>: Provides the terms of reference of the Working Group on Technical Implementation Issues.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 7.2</u>: Dec. 12.17 directs the SC to establish an intersessional Export Quota Working Group with the goal of developing guidelines for Parties to establish, implement, monitor and report national export quotas for CITES-listed taxa. A Working Group, chaired by Cameroon, was established after SC49. The Chair of the Working Group will invite the Chairs of the AC and PC, as well as representatives of experienced IGOs and NGOs, to participate. The AC may wish to consider how best it could respond to possible requests for assistance from the Working Group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSN recommends that the AC prepare a document for submission to SC50 addressing the types of implementation experiences it has dealt with over the years, including quota implementation (issuance, management and monitoring of permits and reporting on quotas). Information about what has worked and what has not worked would be useful to the Working Group on Technical Implementation Issues and to the Export Quota Working Group.</li> </ul>
<p>8. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species (RC 12.8 and Dec. 12.75)</p> <p>8.1 Introduction to RC 12.8</p> <p>8.2 Review of the implementation of recommendations</p> <p>8.3 Progress on the implementation of the Review of Significant Trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>General Background</u>: RC 12.8 is the Review of Significant Trade process whereby the trade in species on Appendix II is reviewed by the AC to determine if the required non-detriment findings under Article IV are being made by exporting Parties, thus ensuring that species are not being detrimentally affected by international trade. Where it is found by the AC that required non-detriment findings are not being made, recommendations can be made to one or more Parties to improve the making of those findings with regard to that species. These recommendations are submitted by the AC to the SC. Once approved by the SC, they are forwarded to the Parties concerned. In the case of primary recommendations, if these are not followed, the SC, through the Secretariat, may recommend that Parties suspend trade in the relevant species with the relevant Party. To date, dozens of Appendix II species have been considered by the process in several 'Phases.' The AC is now in considering Phases IV and V.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.1</u>: Provides a description of the Review of Significant Trade process, the proposed evaluation of the process and the first country-based approach.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.1, Annex</u>: RC 12.8 on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.2</u>: At AC16 in 2000, the Secretariat informed the AC it had decided to review the implementation of all recommendations that had been made under the Review of Significant Trade. At AC17 in 2001, the Secretariat provided the AC with Part 1: List of species previously reviewed (AC17 Doc. 7.2). The Secretariat has hired TRAFFIC In-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSN considers the Review of Significant Trade to be one of the most important activities undertaken by the AC, yet is concerned that the Review has lagged in recent years (Phase IV was initiated five years ago and still is not complete). SSN urges the AC to make the Review of Significant Trade process a priority for funding and activity.</li> <li>• To assist consideration of the Review of Significant Trade process, SSN urges the Secretariat to compile all Reviews of Significant Trade, the reports of resulting discussions and recommendations, and any subsequent review of their implementation on the CITES website.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc 8.3</u>: SSN recommends that the AC insert previously reviewed species into the process, as recommended for <i>Strombus gigas</i>, to address species needing follow up that are identified by the Secretariat's review of implementation of recommendations that have been made under the Review of Significant Trade (AC19 Doc.8.2).</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.3</u>: SSN recommends that, on the basis of recorded trade levels and information to be made available to the AC, the narwhal (<i>Monodon monoceros</i>) be selected as a "species of pri-</li> </ul>

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<p>(Phases IV and V)</p> <p>8.4 Progress on the first country-based Significant Trade Review</p> <p>8.5 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade</p> <p>8.6 Conservation of <i>Saiga tatarica</i></p> <p>AC19 Docs. 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6</p>	<p>of species previously reviewed (AC17 Doc. 7.2). The Secretariat has hired TRAFFIC International to assist in the second part of the review: the compilation and analysis of recommendations formulated by the AC and the SC. The complete review will not be available until AC20 but the database serving as the inventory of the recommendations will be available for demonstration at AC19. In addition, the Secretariat states that it will follow up on recommendations that have not yet been implemented and also assess the feasibility of assisting range States with trade suspensions to fulfill the recommendations in order to have the suspensions lifted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.3</u>: Provides information on those species included in Phases IV and V of the Review, including a report on the Review of Significant Trade in <i>Strombus gigas</i> prepared by TRAFFIC Europe. Proposed categorization of the range States (i.e. ‘of urgent concern’, ‘of possible concern’, or ‘of least concern’) of <i>Strombus gigas</i> will be transmitted to the range States and the AC before AC19. The Secretariat also will provide an oral summary of the status of the Review of Significant Trade for the following taxa that have been selected for review since COP11: <i>Moschus</i> spp., <i>Naja naja</i> spp., five Testudinata spp. (<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>, <i>Curoa flavomarginata</i>, <i>Curoa galbinifrons</i>, <i>Lissemys punctata</i>, <i>Pyxis planicauda</i>), and 14 Acipenseriformes spp. (<i>Acipenser baerii</i>, <i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>, <i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i>, <i>Acipenser nudiiventris</i>, <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>, <i>Acipenser persicus</i>, <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i>, <i>Acipenser stellatus</i>, <i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>, <i>Huso dauricus</i>, <i>Huso huso</i>, <i>Polyodon spathalua</i> and <i>Scaphirhynchus platorynchus</i>).</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.3, Annex</u>: Prepared by TRAFFIC Europe, contains a review of the trade and status of <i>Strombus gigas</i>. The species is distributed throughout the Caribbean and is found in the territorial waters of at least 36 countries and dependent territories. A large commercial fishery has developed only in recent decades. The wholesale value of the annual landings has been estimated to be USD 60 million. Intensive fishing has led to population depletions, stock collapses and consequently national or local closures of the fishery in a number of countries. It was classified as Commercially Threatened in the 1994 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals and is not currently classified as threatened by IUCN.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.4</u>: The first country-based Review of Significant Trade was initiated at AC17 with Madagascar chosen to be the subject of a pilot review. The process includes a desk-based review on 150 species traded (76 identified as being of potential trade significance) and the development of an Action Plan by stakeholders for reform of the country’s management system for wild animals and plants. The elements of the Action Plan were developed at a workshop held in Madagascar, 26-28 May 2003 with the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC International and stakeholders including Malagasy Management Authority. It is intended that the plan will be ready for implementation in late 2003. Implementation of the plan will be monitored by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairs of the AC and PC.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.4, Annex (French only)</u>: Overview of trade in wildlife species in Madagascar in 2001 and 2002 and the elements of the Action Plan as agreed at the workshop held in Madagascar in May 2003. The document notes that export quotas for several taxa, including <i>Agapornis canus</i>, <i>Chamaeleo</i> spp., <i>Phelsuma</i> spp., <i>Pyxis</i> spp., and <i>Erymnocheilus madagascariensis</i> were greatly exceeded in recent years. Several <i>Chamaeleo</i> and</li> </ul>	<p>narwhal (<i>Monodon monoceros</i>) be selected as a “species of priority concern” for the review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.3</u>: SSN recommends that, because of the complexity of the issue, reports on the status of the Review of Significant Trade should in future be presented in writing for all taxa rather than orally.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.3</u>: SSN commends the AC for re-inserting <i>Strombus gigas</i> into the Review of Significant Trade because of concerns regarding implementation of Article IV. SSN recommends that the AC coordinate its efforts in regard to <i>Strombus gigas</i> with the SPAW Protocol (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region). SPAW could assist the AC in disseminating the results of the Review process.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.4</u>: SSN recommends that the AC clarify the current situation with regards to exports from Madagascar. Paragraph 11 states that, until the Action Plan is ready and the Malagasy Scientific Authority has reviewed species in order to make non-detriment findings, the Management Authority is not issuing export permits. However, exports from Madagascar continue. Exports should be suspended until the Action Plan is implemented, scientifically valid non-detriment findings are made, and controls are enforced.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.4</u>: SSN recommends that the country-based review should not diminish the AC’s efforts to address significant trade on a species-by-species basis.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.4, Para 15 and 16</u>: The AC and PC should not only be involved in the elaboration of the Action Plan but also in its implementation and monitoring.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.4, Annex (French only)</u>: SSN is concerned about the large number of specimens of some taxa that have been exported from Madagascar recently. For example, in 2001-2002, 69,000 <i>Mantella</i> frogs were exported. Several <i>Mantella</i> species are threatened and have a very limited distribution. The AC should request Madagascar to provide export data by species (instead of taxonomic groups) and ask for clarification on recent exports.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.5</u>: SSN encourages the AC to broaden the Terms of Reference to include consideration of how to address issues such as illegal trade that will arise during the review process. The Terms of Reference should also explicitly provide for public participation in the review process.</li> </ul>

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	<p><i>Phelsuma</i> species were exported despite a trade suspension approved by the Standing Committee in 1994.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.5</u>: Dec. 12.75 directs the AC and PC to draft terms of reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, to be considered at CITES COP13. The Secretariat has drafted Terms of Reference for the evaluation for the consideration of the AC and PC.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.5, Annex</u>: Contains the Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade drafted by the Secretariat. The stated objective is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Review, assess the impact of the Review on the trade and conservation status of species and formulate recommendations in view of the results. The evaluation would be coordinated by the Secretariat working in close cooperation with the AC and PC.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 8.6</u>: <i>Saiga tatarica</i> was included in Phase IV of the Review. As a result, a suspension of trade in the species from Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation was recommended at SC45. Both Parties voluntarily suspended exports. The greatest threat to this species is unsustainable hunting due to the demand for meat and high demand for horns for traditional medicine. In 2002, its IUCN status was upgraded to Critically Endangered based on severe declines documented. Prepared by the USA, this document provides information on an international workshop on the conservation of <i>Saiga tatarica</i> that was convened in the Russian Federation in May 2002 with the participation of five range States. The workshop resulted in a draft Action Plan concerning conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the species and a Memorandum of Understanding for the conservation of the species. The USA requests that the AC review the resolution, draft Action Plan and the MOU and, determine what additional actions CITES can take.</li> </ul>	
<p>9. Review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II (Dec. 12.97)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>General Background</u>: Dec. 12.97 directs the AC and PC to, by COP13, coordinate an open process to revise Annex 4 of COP12 Doc. 58 compiled by the Chair of the Criteria Working Group (CWG) formed by Committee I during COP12 (the CWG12 Chair's text). The process should include reviews of selected taxa to ensure that the applicability of the criteria and guidelines to a broad array of taxa is assessed. The AC and PC are directed to report their results to the SC.</li> <li>• No document available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSN recommends that the terms of Dec. 12.97 be fully observed, in particular relating to the openness of the review process, and that the gains made by the CWG at COP12 be taken into account.</li> </ul>
<p>10. Periodic review of animal taxa in the Appendices (RC 11.1 (Rev. COP12) and Dec. 12.96)</p> <p>AC19 Doc. 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>General Background</u>: RC 11.1 (Rev. COP12) establishes that one of the functions of the AC is to periodically review the biological and trade status of animal species listed on the Appendices; identify problems or potential problems concerning the biological status of the species; consult Parties on the need to review specific species, working directly with range States in the selection process and seeking their assistance in such reviews; and prepare and submit amendment proposals resulting from the review, through the depository government, for consideration at meetings of the COP.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 10</u>: Provides a description of the periodic review process; states that an updated document on the guidelines will be available at AC19; states that the Chair of the Working Group on periodic review and the representatives of the USA and UNEP-WCMC would meet intersessionally to refine the process; states that the IUCN/SSG/Crocodile Specialist Group is developing a pamphlet for reviewing crocodilian ranching listings and effectiveness that will be presented at AC19 for discussion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No document available for comment.</li> <li>• SSN encourages the AC to allow non-governmental organization input into the process.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 10, Annex</u>: Provides recommendations regarding the periodic review from SC49 to the AC and PC (under Dec. 12.96). Requires the AC and PC to establish a schedule for the review, listing the species the Committees propose to be included in the next review.</li> </ul>	
<p>11. Registration and monitoring of operations that breed Appendix I animal species for commercial purposes</p> <p>11.1 Process for registering operations (RC 12.10 and Dec. 12.78)</p> <p>11.2 Relationship between <i>ex situ</i> production and <i>in situ</i> conservation (Dec. 11.102 (Rev. COP12))</p> <p>AC19 Docs. 11.1 and 11.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.1</u>: RC 12.10 requires that operations breeding Appendix I species for commercial purposes have to be centrally registered with the CITES Secretariat. This registration requires approval by all Parties of these operations and ensures that established criteria are met to the satisfaction of all Parties. Dec. 12.78 directs the AC to study and evaluate the process for registering operations that breed Appendix I species for commercial purposes and to report to COP13. The Secretariat recommends that the AC establish a Working Group that can work intersessionally to address the Dec. 12.78. The Secretariat also proposes to send a Notification to the Parties requesting their input on the topic.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.1, Annex 1</u>: RC 12.10 on Guidelines for a Procedure to Register and Monitor Operations that Breed Appendix I Animal Species for Commercial Purposes.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.1, Annex 2</u>: Prepared by the Secretariat, a draft Notification to the Parties concerning the process for registering operations that breed Appendix I animal species for commercial purposes (RC 12.10 and Dec. 12.78).</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.2</u>: Dec. 11.102 (Rev. COP12) requires the AC to examine the origin of founder breeding stock and the relationship between <i>ex situ</i> breeding operations and <i>in situ</i> conservation of the species, and in collaboration with the PC, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), identify strategies and other mechanisms by which registered <i>ex situ</i> breeding operations may contribute to enhancing the recovery and/or conservation of species in the country of origin, and report its findings to COP13. The Secretariat recommends that: a Notification be issued to invite Parties to comment on this issue; the Secretariat work with WAZA, AZA, EAZA and in liaison with the PC to identify strategies for <i>ex situ</i> breeding operations to contribute to the recovery of species <i>in situ</i>; this issue be combined with the evaluation of the process for registering operations that breed Appendix I species for commercial purposes (Dec. 12.78) and be addressed in a Working Group. The Secretariat provides draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Working Group.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.2, Annex</u>: Prepared by the Secretariat, draft Notification to the Parties on the Relationship between <i>ex situ</i> production and <i>in situ</i> conservation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.1</u>: SSN supports the formation of an intersessional Working Group provided that interested non-governmental organizations may participate.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.1</u>: SSN supports the proposed Notification to the Parties provided that it is made clear that the Notification is seeking information on positive conservation benefits of the existing registration system as well as the other information requested.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.2, Para 10</u>: SSN supports the draft Notification to the Parties and the formation of an intersessional Working Group to address this issue. However, SSN opposes the combination, into one Working Group, the issues to be addressed by Dec. 11.102 and AC19 Doc. 11.2 (the relationship between <i>ex situ</i> breeding and <i>in situ</i> conservation) and Dec. 12.78 and AC19 Doc. 11.1 (the process for registering operations that breed Appendix I species for commercial purposes). The issues do not overlap. The latter issue involves the discussion of a CITES regulatory process (registration of facilities captive breeding Appendix I for commercial purposes), while the former involves broad issues of a philosophical and political nature (including resource ownership, access and benefit-sharing).</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.2, Para 9 (a)</u>: SSN objects to the Secretariat's interpretation of Dec. 12.78 as a directive to the AC to "analyze why the registration process [for facilities breeding Appendix I species for commercial purposes] is not working". Dec. 12.78 directs the Parties to study and evaluate the process, it does not endorse the Secretariat's perception that the process is flawed.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.2</u>: The terms of reference for a Working Group should also include an assessment of risks for conservation associated with <i>ex situ</i> production, such as laundering of wild specimens into the captive trade, potential detriment through offtake for breeding stock, introduction of alien species, disease introduction, genetic risks to the wild population through re-introduction, etc.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 11.2</u>: SSN is concerned that no mention is made of possible funding competition between <i>ex situ</i> and <i>in situ</i> measures.</li> </ul>
<p>12. Transport of live animals (RC 10.21 and Decs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>General Background</u>: RC 10.21 urges Parties to maintain records of transport mortality, injury and damage to health and to provide these data with their annual reports to the Secretariat. The Resolution also directs the AC to: establish a format for presentation by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSN supports the efforts of the Transport Working Group.</li> </ul>

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<p>12.85 and 12.86)</p> <p>No Document</p>	<p>Parties of data on mortality and injury or damage to health in transport; conduct a systematic review of the scope and causes of mortality and injury or damage to health and means of reducing these; and to make recommendations to Parties. The review is an ongoing process conducted by the Transport Working Group of the AC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dec. 12.85 directs the AC, in collaboration with NGOs and the Secretariat to develop recommendations regarding transport of live animals by road, rail or ship to supplement, where necessary, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations; assist in identifying model practices concerning the transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals; develop recommendations to the Parties regarding the proper handling and transportation of live animals, particularly in exporting countries; and report progress made on these issues to COP13.</li> <li>Dec. 12.86 directs the Secretariat to, in consultation with the AC, liaise with IATA and WAZA to conclude Memoranda of Understanding to: strengthen collaboration to improve transport conditions; establish a training program on animal transport; and facilitate exchange of technical information.</li> </ul>	
<p>13. Trade in hard corals (RC 11.10 (Rev. COP12) and Dec. 12.62)</p> <p>AC19 Doc. 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 13</u>: At AC18, the AC considered a report presented by the UK that aimed to define fossilized corals (which are exempt from the provisions of the Convention) and to provide a practical assessment of how such corals could be distinguished from non-fossilized corals in trade. Dec. 12.62 directs the AC to further consider this issue and provide a report to COP13. The AC is invited to consider how to implement Dec. 12.62 and may decide to reconstitute the Coral Working Group to that effect.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No details are available for comment.</li> <li>SSN encourages the AC to allow non-governmental organization input into the process.</li> </ul>
<p>14. Control of captive breeding, ranching and wild harvest production systems for Appendix II species</p> <p>AC19 Doc. 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>General Background</u>: This topic was tabled at AC16 in response to “concerns that the definitions of the different production systems recognized by CITES are not fully understood or correctly implemented” (AC19 Doc. 14). This was followed by AC17 Doc. 14, prepared by Creative Conservation Solutions, that explained the many and varied types of “production systems” for Appendix II species and concludes that the “source codes” identified in RC 10.2 (Rev.), which are used on CITES export permits and certificates, are insufficient descriptors of all these systems. The document attempted to fit these many systems into the existing codes but recommended that changes should be made to the codes, and the number of codes should be expanded, to better reflect reality. At AC18, the Secretariat informed the AC that it had contracted IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Program to continue working on the issue of production systems.</li> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 14</u>: Summarizes the history of the issue and states that it is expected that a discussion document will be made available at AC19 that summarizes and provides comments on the findings and recommendations of the IUCN report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSN is concerned that the proliferation of source codes will make matters more complex and unclear. There are concerns that even the existing source codes are not always used appropriately and coherently.</li> <li>SSN considers it important that source codes not be seen as reducing the requirement for an Article IV non-detriment finding.</li> <li>No details are available for comment.</li> </ul>
<p>15. Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles (RC 11.9 (Rev. COP12) and Decs. 12.41, 12.42 and 12.43)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>General Background</u>: RC 11.9 (Rev. COP12) on Conservation of and Trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles urges Parties to: increase enforcement efforts with regard to existing legislation; assess and improve current efforts to manage native tortoise and freshwater turtle populations; develop and implement research programmes to identify the species involved in trade; monitor and assess the impact of trade on wild populations; evaluate the conservation risks and benefits of large-scale commercial breeding of tortoises and freshwater turtles; increase public awareness of the threats posed to these species from unsustainable harvest and unregulated trade; develop plans of action for the confiscation of live specimens of tortoises and turtles; and collaborate on all aspects of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 15.1</u>: SSN welcomes this status review of all Asian freshwater turtle and tortoise species and corresponding recommendations for future CITES-listings. SSN supports the listing of all remaining Asian turtle species on the CITES Appendices at COP13, as recommended by the technical workshop. SSN also supports the proposed transfers from Appendix II to I, or zero quotas, for species currently listed on Appendix II. SSN opposes proposed transfers of three Asian turtle species currently on Appendix I to II, for precautionary purposes and be-</li> </ul>

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<p>15.1 Addressing recommendations from the Kunming workshop</p> <p>15.2 Development of mid-and long-term conservation measures for tortoises and freshwater turtles</p> <p>15.3 Implementation of RC 11.9 (Rev. COP12) and Decs. 12.41, 12.42 and 12.43</p> <p>AC19 Docs. 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3</p>	<p>conservation and management of, trade in, and implementation of the Convention for tortoises and freshwater turtles, taking into consideration the recommendations formulated at a technical workshop on conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles held in Kunming, China, 25-28 March 2002.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.1</u>: Prepared by the Chelonian Research Foundation and submitted by USA. Assesses the conservation status and trade threats to Asian freshwater tortoise and turtle species and provides recommendations on CITES listings. The document states that participants in the Kunming workshop generally agreed that all the remaining non-CITES listed species of Asian turtles should be listed under the Appendices. After COP12, half (40 of 80) of all Asian freshwater turtles are currently listed in CITES. Of the 40 species not listed, information indicates that an additional 24 species should be listed because of degree of endangerment and documented trade and that 16 species should be listed because they closely resemble listed species or those that should be listed for conservation purposes.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.2</u>: Prepared by Germany, presents the results of a German research project on “Development of mid-and long-term conservation measures for freshwater turtles and tortoises”, carried out by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia via WWF Germany.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.2, Annex 1</u>: Provides a review of commercial production of turtles in Asia including species produced for trade, markets, farming practices, exotics species introduction, and impacts on conservation. Indicates that up to 125 million freshwater turtles may be farmed in Asia for human consumption. However, the document states that these data “remain to be confirmed” or may be “too optimistic.”</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.2, Annex 2</u>: Provides an overview of breeding of threatened Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles for conservation purposes by hobbyists. The document expresses concern about increasing legal restrictions on keeping, breeding and transferring animals and also argues for additional wild-caught animals to be added to captive stock.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.3</u>: The Secretariat recommends that the Working Group on Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles consider prioritizing the recommendations from the Kunming workshop and, based on these and AC19 Docs. 15.1 and 15.2, develop recommendations to Parties and range States. The Working Group also may wish to consider developing terms of reference for a study on the pancake tortoise (<i>Malacochersus tornieri</i>) to include field studies, stock assessments, production methods, marking methods and the development of management measures and monitoring protocols. The Secretariat encourages the Working Group to develop generic recommendations for identification and marking systems for traded specimens and breeding stock, advice on adequate control, management and monitoring practices and advice on training and capacity-building to control trade.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.3, Annex 1</u>: RC 11.9 (Rev. COP12) on Conservation and Trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.3, Annex 2</u>: Provides a brief description of the technical workshop on trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia that was held in Kunming, China, 25-28 May 2002.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.3, Annex 3</u>: Provides the findings and recommendations of the working groups of the Kunming workshop on enforcement and trade controls, conservation management and CITES implementation and capacity-building needs and activities</li> </ul>	<p>cause the data presented do not make a compelling case. A suggestion in the document that issuance of permits for commercial turtle production should be expedited is neither necessary nor justified; CITES allows trade in Appendix II species provided a non-detriment can be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.2, Annex 1</u>: It is important to note that most turtles reared on “farms” in Asia are not bred in captivity, as defined by CITES, but rely to some extent on collection of turtles from the wild. SSN is concerned about the synonymous use of the terms “breeding”, “farming” and “ranching” used in this document, terms for which no definitions are provided. SSN urges the AC to avoid promoting commercial production of turtles as a solution to the Asian turtle crisis when the conservation impact of such operations is detrimental to wild populations or is unknown. SSN believes that commercial production of turtles is only effective for very few species, whereas the demand for the majority of species cannot be met through such operations.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.2, Annex 1</u> understates the alien invasive species threat posed by importation and farming of <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>. This well-known invasive has become established in non-native habitats in Europe, Asia, South America and North America. Negative effects have been indicated for two turtle species in the United States: <i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i> and <i>Trachemys scripta scripta</i>. It has been implicated in the decline of <i>Emys orbicularis</i> over parts of its European range. It is important to note that Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) calls for Parties to prevent the introduction of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. SSN urges Parties to take a precautionary approach to invasive species and not to encourage their potential introduction through commercial production of known or potential invasive species.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.2, Annex 2</u>: SSN is strongly concerned about the absence of an <i>in situ</i> conservation measures in this document. Article 9 of the CBD states that the predominant purpose of <i>ex situ</i> measures should be to complement <i>in situ</i> measures. Captive-breeding of wildlife for reintroduction purposes has rarely been successful. SSN urges the AC to promote <i>in situ</i> conservation efforts, through encouraging range States to protect the species and their habitats and to control collection and trade. SSN urges the AC not to encourage removal of animals from the wild for conservation breeding programs, particularly those that are not run by professional institutions.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.2, Annex 2</u>: SSN is concerned that the document promotes an alleged relevance of western hobbyists for species</li> </ul>

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
	agement and CITES implementation, and capacity-building needs and activities.	<p>conservation. In this context the document introduces a new category “conservation breeding” and argues for facilitation of permits to import wild-caught turtles for this purpose. SSN is strongly concerned that the document ignores the fact that off-take for private turtle keeping is a relevant threat to wild populations. The document mentions the “collection of a suitable number of animals from a single distinct population” as a “strategy to collect genetically compatible founder stocks”. Such activities could have a severe negative impact on local populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 15.3, Para 2</u>: Regarding Decs. 12.41 and 12.42, SSN notes that the reporting requirements, including enforcement and trade monitoring, not only apply to Parties that are range States for freshwater turtles and tortoises but also for consumer countries. Regarding Dec. 12.43, SSN supports the tasks for the AC regarding <i>Malacochersus tornieri</i>. Both the structure and volume of the illegal trade in this tortoise, as well as arising enforcement problems, should be taken into consideration.</li> </ul>
<p>16. Conservation of seahorses and other members of the family Syngnathidae (Dec. 12.54)</p> <p>16.1 Implementation of the Appendix II listing for <i>Hippocampus</i> spp.</p> <p>16.2 Universal minimum size limit for seahorses</p> <p>AC19 Doc. 16.1 and 16.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>General Background</u>: <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. (seahorses) were listed in Appendix II at COP12 with an agreed delay in implementation for 18 months until 15 May 2004 to allow adequate time for national planning, the preparation of domestic management programs, monitoring procedures and trade controls. Dec. 12.53 directs the Parties to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation regarding management of <i>Hippocampus</i> species with appropriate fisheries agencies. Dec. 12.54 directs the AC to identify a minimum size limit for specimens of <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. in trade.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 16.1</u>: Prepared by the USA, outlines projects undertaken by the USA to make seahorse listing under CITES work effectively.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 16.1, Annex</u>: Presents a USA capacity building and implementation workplan on CITES Appendix II listing of <i>Hippocampus</i> spp., including a technical workshop on seahorse conservation and management to be held in Mexico in winter 2003/04, a demonstration project for seahorse monitoring protocols and non-detriment findings, and update and dissemination of seahorse identification manual.</li> <li>• <u>AC Doc. 16.2</u>: Prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on Syngnathids, recommends that a universal minimum permissible size of 10 cm height (between the tip of the coronet and the posterior edge of the dorsal fin) should be set for all seahorses in international trade in order to avoid overfishing. It is recommended that further research be undertaken to determine whether populations of the five larger species would be fully supported by the suggested height requirement. It is also recommended that support should be found to undertake brief market surveys of dried seahorses in order to further determine the sizes of seahorses in trade for analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Regarding AC 19 Doc. 16.2</u>: SSN supports the recommendations of the Chair of the Working Group on Syngnathids regarding the universal minimum permissible height requirement for seahorses in trade, additional studies of the application of the height requirement and brief market surveys of dried seahorses.</li> </ul>
<p>17. Conservation of and trade in sea cucumbers in the families Holothuridae and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>General Background</u>: Dec. 12.60 directs the AC to: review the outcomes of the technical workshop organized by the Secretariat and other available information concerning the biology, catch and bycatch of and trade in sea cucumbers in the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae; develop recommendations; and prepare a discussion paper for COP13 on the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in order to provide guidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSN supports the efforts being made on this issue.</li> <li>• SSN recommends that the AC examine the possibility of CITES listings, including how to address identification issues.</li> </ul>



ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Stichopodidae (Decs. 12.60 and 12.61)</p> <p>AC19 Doc. 17</p>	<p>on actions to secure their conservation status. Dec. 12.61 directs the Secretariat to convene a technical workshop to review the biological and trade information on these species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 17</u>: Provides an update on the status of the Secretariat's efforts to convene a technical workshop on these species including a budget, objectives of the workshop, participation and timing to be considered by the AC.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 17, Annex</u>: Provides a draft agenda for the technical workshop on the conservation of and trade in sea cucumbers in the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae.</li> </ul>	
<p>18. Biological and trade status of sharks (RC 12.6 and Dec. 12.47)</p> <p>18.1 Progress made by the United States of America in developing and implementing the IPOA-Sharks</p> <p>18.2 Implementation of RC 12.6 and Dec. 12.47</p> <p>AC19 Docs. 18.1 and 18.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>General Background</u>: RC 12.6 on Conservation and Management of Sharks directs the AC to: continue to work on former Dec. 11.94, now Dec. 11.47, and report to COP13; to critically review progress towards International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) implementation by major fishing and trading nations by a date one year before COP13; examine information provided by range States in shark assessment reports and other available relevant documents with a view to identifying key species and examining these for possible listing under CITES; and make species-specific recommendations at COP13 and at subsequent COPs if necessary on improving the conservation status of sharks and regulation of international trade in these species. Dec. 11.151 directs the Secretariat to continue to liaise with the World Customs Organization in order to establish the use of specific headings within the standard tariff classifications of the Harmonized Systems to discriminate between shark meat, fins, leather, cartilage and other products. Dec. 12.47 directs the Chair of the AC to maintain a liaison with the Secretary of the Committee on Fisheries of the UN FAO, to monitor the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks, and report on the progress of implementation at COP13. Dec. 12.48 directs the Secretariat to transmit to FAO concerns of the COP regarding the lack of progress in implementing the IPOA-sharks. Dec. 12.49 directs the Secretariat to encourage CITES Parties to report information on implementation of IPOA-Sharks from their national fisheries agency.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 18.1</u>: Prepared by USA, provides an update on the implementation of the IPOA-sharks in the USA as directed by Dec. 12.49. Includes information on import and exports, bilateral and regional efforts and implementation of the USA Shark Finning Prohibition Act.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc.18.2</u>: Provides information on the Secretariat's activities to implement the related Decisions including transmitting the concerns of the COP to the Department of Fisheries of FAO regarding the lack of progress in implementing IPOA-Sharks, and drafting a Notification to the Parties requesting them to provide information regarding their progress on implementation of IPOA-Sharks for consideration by the AC. Proposes that the AC form an intersessional Working Group to review progress towards IPOA-Sharks by a date one year prior to COP13 (Oct. 2003).</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 18.2, Annex 1</u>: RC 12.6 on Conservation and Management of Sharks.</li> <li>• <u>AC19 Doc. 18.2, Annex 2</u>: Provides relevant extracts from correspondence between the CITES Secretary-General and the Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries Department of the FAO regarding the lack of progress on implementing IPOA-Sharks. FAO states that it is aware of the lack of progress but that this is due to budgetary constraints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSN supports the formation of an intersessional Working Group on sharks. This Working Group should discuss ways of ensuring that the provisions of RC 12.6 are fully implemented. In particular, the Working Group should consider how the Committee should: a) carry out the review of progress towards implementation of the IPOA-Sharks by a date one year before the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES; b) encourage Parties to provide shark assessment reports, including identification of endangered shark species; c) encourage Parties to contribute financially and technically to the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks; and d) obtain updates from Parties on their efforts to ensure that their national Customs Authorities expand their current classification systems to allow for the collection of detailed, species-specific data on trade in specific parts of sharks.</li> <li>• SSN encourages all relevant Parties to submit reports on IPOA-Sharks implementation to the Secretariat and to report on progress at this AC meeting.</li> </ul>

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>19. Trade in alien species</p> <p>No Document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>General Background</u>: Dec. 11.100 directs the AC to cooperate with the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group to implement IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss Due to Biological Invasion. The CBD has asked CITES to identify areas of potential collaboration. CBD Dec. V/8 recommends restrictions on specimens being exported on the basis of a potential impact on an ecosystem to prevent the introduction of an invasive species into another ecosystem. The AC established an intersessional Working Group to address this issue. The Working Group has: liaised with the IUCN/SSG Invasive Species Specialist Group to develop simple criteria to identify invasive species; liaised with the CBD including the possibility of holding joint training sessions; informally surveyed Parties to identify which species are considered invasive and what legislation has been adopted to address invasive species; and is developing a list of CITES-listed species with invasive potential or unlisted species with the potential to affect CITES-listed species if they were to become invasive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSN supports the efforts of the Alien Species Working Group and would welcome the opportunity to participate in the Working Group.</li> </ul>
<p>20. Standard taxonomy and nomenclature</p> <p>20.1 The role of standard nomenclature references and the amendment of the Appendices as a consequence of nomenclatural changes</p> <p>20.2 Standard nomenclature for birds</p> <p>AC19 Docs. 20.1 and 20.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>General Background</u>: At COP12 the Parties decided to transfer two bird species, <i>Amazona auropalliata</i> and <i>Amazona oratrix</i>, from Appendix II to Appendix I. A few days earlier, Parties had discussed and agreed to a proposal from the Nomenclature Committee (NC) to adopt a new standard reference for the whole order Psittaciformes (<i>Handbook of the Birds of the World</i>, Vol. 4) in which the two taxa, <i>A. oratrix</i> and <i>A. auropalliata</i>, are not considered as separate species but as subspecies of <i>A. ochrocephala</i>. The result is a split-listing.</li> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 20.1</u>: Prepared by Mexico, recommends that the Secretariat send a Notification to the Parties requesting information on their experience on implementing the new nomenclature for Psittaciformes and Trochilidae and information on the nomenclature used by their authorities. It recommends that the responses, along with a review of regional listings, be presented in a document by the Secretariat, in collaboration with the NC for AC20.</li> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 20.2</u>: Prepared by the Chair of the AC, recommends that the AC: review the issue of the requirement to adapt the CITES Appendices to the most recent scientific nomenclatural references; review the terms of reference for the NC; restructure and reform the process whereby CITES nomenclature is changed; review the process whereby the new reference is presented to the COP; and clarify the issue of reservations with regard to taxa that have been amended as a consequence of the acceptance of new nomenclatural reference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSN considers that the adoption of the Checklist of CITES Species as the sole standard reference allows CITES the freedom to adopt taxonomic and nomenclatural decisions that take pragmatic considerations, including implementation difficulties, into account. We believe it is appropriate for the AC, as a technical body, to make recommendations on general principles to be used by the NC in making its decisions. With reference to the <i>Amazona ochrocephala-auropalliata</i> complex, we note that the current edition of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds, the standard taxonomic reference for North America, recognizes two species, and was published after the relevant volume of the Handbook of the Birds of the World. Recognizing only one species creates a split-listing in Honduras. Adopting the AOU usage would avoid the implementation difficulties this creates. Though this is ultimately a matter for the NC, the AC could recommend that the current implementation problems should be considered in making a decision. Alternatively, the AC could recommend that a proposal be submitted to COP13 amending the listing by placing all populations of the complex north of Panama on Appendix I.</li> </ul>
<p>21. Any other business</p> <p>Research projects</p> <p>AC19 Doc. 21.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>AC19 Doc. 21.1</u>: Prepared by Switzerland, states that in recent years, funds available within CITES for research projects were left unused; encourages Parties to submit projects for funding; and encourages Parties to open a discussion on how the process for funding research projects can be activated. The Secretariat comments that the procedure to fund research projects has not stopped but under a new procedure contained in RC 12.2 the Secretariat, instead of the SC, approves and prioritizes projects to be implemented. The Secretariat also encourages Parties to submit proposals for research projects for consideration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment.</li> </ul>