



**SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF
THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND • 19-24 APRIL 2008**

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

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman		No document	No comment
No Document			
2. Rules of Procedure		<i>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i>	
2.1	2.1 Current Rules of Procedure AC23 Doc. 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains the Rules of Procedure adopted at AC20 in Johannesburg, 2004 and that remained in effect at AC21 (Geneva, 2005) and AC22 (Lima, 2006) 	See comments under AC23 Doc. 2.2 below
2.2	2.2 Proposed Amendments AC23 Doc. 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of committees resolves that, <i>“the Animals and Plants Committees shall adopt their own Rules of Procedure, which shall, however, be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee as far as is practicable.”</i> Draft Rules of Procedure for meetings of the AC and PC were presented by the Committee Chairs at CoP14. This document contains the draft presented to CoP14 with minor amendments proposed by the Secretariat. 	<p>Support in part / Oppose in part the following paragraphs of the proposed Rules of Procedure:</p> <p>Rule 7 (1): <i>“...Bodies, or agencies or organizations should be represented by one delegate only.”</i> SSN <u>opposes</u> this text as NGOs may have representatives each with technical expertise on different issues.</p> <p>Rule 7 (2): <i>“...The right of any such observer to participate shall be withdrawn if so agreed by the Committee in the time period between the publication of this list and the beginning of the meeting.”</i> SSN <u>opposes</u> this rule as it could be applied arbitrarily to limit NGO participation in the meetings. The proposed rule undermines the authority of the Chair to invite attendees based on their expertise. It is more restrictive and less transparent than that applied at meetings of the CoP, at which any decisions on the exclusion of NGOs may be adopted no earlier than the first day of the meeting and must be supported by the one third of the representatives present and voting (Rule 2 of the rules of procedure for the CoP). SSN believes that it is inappropriate for a technical committee to be less transparent than the CoP on any matter relating to observer participation.</p> <p>Rule 17: <i>“Meetings of the Committee shall be called at the request of the Chairman or of a simple majority of the members.”</i> SSN <u>supports</u> this language but also supports retention of the text in the current Rules of Procedure which states that <i>“the Committee shall normally meet at least once every year.”</i></p> <p>Rule 19: <i>“Notice of meetings shall normally be given by the</i></p>

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			<p><i>Secretariat at least 90 days in advance of the meeting.</i>” SSN <u>supports</u> this change from 105 days in the current Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>Rule 20: “<i>Documents to be considered at a meeting shall be provided to the Secretariat by Parties, or by members of the Committee, at the latest 75 days before the meeting ...</i>” SSN <u>supports</u> this change from the 90 days in the current Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>Rule 26: “<i>In cases where a member or alternate member of the Animals and Plants Committee has a financial or personal interest that could call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding a subject to be discussed by the Committee, he or she must disclose the interest to the Committee in advance of the discussions. Following any such disclosure and where appropriate after consultations with the Secretariat, the member or alternate member may participate in the discussion but not in the making of any decision with regard to the subject.</i>” SSN <u>supports</u> the inclusion of this language as the Members of the Committee are individuals and not representatives of government and, therefore, may have financial or personal interest in the decisions of the AC or PC.</p> <p>Rule 30: SSN <u>encourages</u> the Committee to retain the text from the current Rules of Procedure (current Rule 24) that has been deleted in Rule 30: “<i>A concise executive summary of the decisions of the Committee shall be prepared...that will include reports of the working groups in the language in which they were produced.</i>” Working group reports are a vital part of the CITES record for Parties, observers and the public especially considering that the summary is so brief.</p>
3. Adoption of the agenda and working programme			
3.1	3.1 Agenda AC23 Doc. 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional agenda for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption 	No comment
3.2	3.2 Working Programme AC23 Doc. 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional working programme for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption 	No comment
4. Admission of observers No document		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	No comment

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<p>5. Regional reports</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 5.1-5.6</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to Argentina’s request that the European Union amend its current prohibition on live bird imports due to health concerns, SSN observes that Article XIV(1),(2) reserves the right for any Party to enact stricter domestic measures to regulate wildlife trade including for the protection of public health, and that AC meetings are not the appropriate forum to discuss issues of disease or public health • In response to recommendations from the African region regarding the need for assistance with the undertaking of scientific studies in Mali, or for technical and logistical assistance in Togo, SSN strongly encourages the AC to consider these requests as a priority and to recommend action to the CITES Secretariat and others, as appropriate. SSN also encourages the AC , with the CITES Secretariat, to initiate a process to identify CITES-related difficulties encountered in the African region, and to suggest possible short-term or long term responses to these problems. This process should involve representatives from the African region, the AC, the CITES Secretariat and the broader CITES community (Parties from other regions and interested NGOs)
<p>6. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 6</p>	<p><i>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.7 directs the AC and PC to evaluate the need to further review and revise the terms of reference in RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of the Committees for presentation to CITES CoP15. • The Secretariat provides a chart of instructions from CoP14 to the AC and PC for the period between CoP14 and CoP15. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> the following changes to the terms of reference of the AC/PC in Annex 2 of RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) in order to bring the text in line with RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species (additions <u>underlined</u>, deletions strikethrough): “<i>f) establish a list of those taxa included in Appendix II that are considered as being subject to significantly affected by levels of trade, and review and assess all available biological and trade information including comments by the range States on these taxa to: “i) exclude all species for which there is adequate information to conclude that trade is not having a significant detrimental effect on their populations <u>Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) are being implemented</u>; ii) formulate recommendations or remedial measures for those species for which trade is believed to be having a detrimental effect <u>there are possible problems relating to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a)</u>.”</i>” • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the instructions from CoP14 should be addressed by the PC and AC under the related agenda items
<p>7. Cooperation with advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements</p>	<p><i>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <p>Reports on the activities of the Secretariat and the Chairs of the AC and PC in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions: SSN generally <u>supports</u> discussions on harmonizing nomenclature of species among the conventions. SSN also welcomes the recognition that “guidelines

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<p>AC23 Doc. 7</p>	<p><u>of biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2007 CSAB meeting agreed that it may be valuable for conventions to adopt, endorse or use guidelines developed by other conventions ▪ CITES Secretariat suggests this include RC 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on the CBD's <i>Addis Ababa principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity</i> and harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature of species ▪ For the next CSAB meeting in May 2008, the secretariats will prepare a summary of guidelines which might be adopted, endorsed or used by the conventions <p>• <u>2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BIP is an initiative led by UNEP-WCMC, with US\$3.6 million of funding from the Global Environment Facility, to streamline biodiversity indicators for the 2010 biodiversity target ▪ The CITES Secretariat was asked to be the key indicator partner for the 'Status of species in trade' element of the indicators of sustainable use ▪ Indicators are scheduled to be developed by the end of 2009 and the Secretariat will keep the Committees advised of progress ▪ Secretariat recommends that interested Committee members and observers offer comments and advice on the development of the indicators <p>• <u>International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of governments, and inter-and non-governmental organizations, including the CITES Secretariat. Most recent meeting held in November 2007. ▪ The Steering Committee recommended that urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a means and enhancement of existing institutions, to provide an objective source of information about biodiversity change and its impacts on ecosystem services and human well-being ▪ The Committee invited the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider establishing an international interface between science and policy to address these objectives <p>• <u>Conclusion:</u> The AC and PC are invited to identify volunteers to offer guidance on the development of indicators for the sustainable use of species in trade</p>	<p>from other conventions (and other organizations) [i.e. including CITES] could also be more widely adopted" and encourages the CITES Secretariat and the AC and PC to promote CITES within other conventions, particularly the CBD. SSN recalls that RC 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) applies to non-detriment findings and as such is specific to CITES, but considers that the advice in Annex 2 should be made known to the advisory bodies of other conventions. SSN believes that other conventions could utilize relevant provisions of CITES including, recognition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ wild fauna and flora are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth (CITES Preamble) ▪ species should be maintained throughout their range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystems in which it occurs (Article IV) ▪ any living specimen should be so handled as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment (Article III, IV, V) ▪ the Precautionary Approach should be applied in cases of uncertainty (RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP14)) ▪ the fundamental principle in decision-making regarding the level of sustainability must be scientifically based (RC 14.7) <p>• <u>2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership:</u> The BIP website states that the 'status of species in trade' element "<i>monitors changes in the species threatened by international trade, as listed in the Appendices of CITES</i>" and proposes that "<i>trade data can be used to identify trends in a variety of aspects of sustainable use, including production rates of sustainable and non-sustainable commodities or species, the source and quantity of specimens from specific areas, and trends in harvest rates of species. For example, changes in the CITES Appendices can denote a change in the perceived or actual threat posed by international trade, acting as an indirect proxy for changes in threats to the survival of the species in question</i>" (www.twentyten.net). SSN is concerned by these statements. The CITES Appendices do not reflect whether permitted trade in a listed species is sustainable, nor can trade data alone indicate sustainability. SSN recommends that the CITES scientific committees have a formal role in the development of these indicators.</p> <p>• <u>International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity:</u> no comment.</p> <p>• <u>Conclusion:</u> Recalling that "<i>the proper implementation of Article IV is essential for the conservation and sustainable use of Appendix-II species</i>" (RC. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)), indicators for</p>

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			sustainable use of species in trade should be based on the text of CITES and its Resolutions, with emphasis on Article IV requirements. SSN recommends that the CITES scientific committees have a formal role in the development of these indicators.
8. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species			
8.1	8.1 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade AC23 Doc. 8.1	<i>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, adopted at CoP13 and a discussion paper on the evaluation, including an overview of species selected Invites the AC and PC to determine how an advisory working group will be established and to instruct the Secretariat on further steps needed to undertake the evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN encourages the AC and PC to invite observer organizations to join the advisory working group. SSN recommends that the AC and PC select species, including species that have been selected more than once, to be used as case studies in the evaluation. We believe that case studies will best illustrate problems associated with the Review. The establishment of an accessible database of the relevant information concerning the species that were subject to the Review of Significant Trade is vital to the evaluation.
8.2	8.2 Progress report on the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar AC23 Doc. 8.2	<i>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Madagascar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN commends Madagascar for their significant efforts to improve CITES implementation SSN is concerned that little information is provided on the process or standards for the making of non-detriment findings. SSN, however, commends Madagascar for its intention to post information on their quota-setting methodology online to promote transparency, and encourages other CITES Parties to follow this example. SSN is concerned that the report states that there is no telephone or Internet in the offices of the head of the department responsible for conservation of biodiversity, nor in the offices of the Customs officials. Such services should be a priority for funding. SSN encourages the AC to recommend that the CITES Secretariat, and the broader CITES Community, assist Madagascar in finding funding sources for long-term assistance with logistics SSN believes that a country-based Review is a valuable exercise but that it should not replace or diminish the capacity of the AC and PC to conduct species-based Reviews
8.3	8.3 Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade AC23 Doc. 8.3	Invites the AC to note a report that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the Secretariat received a review of recommendations to suspend trade made in Phases I to IV of the Review (all species selected before 2000) that had 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recalls that the Secretariat indicated at AC19 that it had hired a consultant to develop an "Access database containing all relevant information concerning the animal species that were subject to the Review of Significant Trade." SSN encourages the

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	<p>been in place for at least two years. The Secretariat will review and discuss with the AC/PC Chairs the conclusions that will be presented to SC57</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that a request from Tanzania to withdraw the recommendation to suspend trade in Fischer's lovebird (<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>) will be discussed at SC57 • Provides a brief summary of the status of reviews undertaken after CoPs 11, 12, and 13 	<p>Secretariat to make this database available on-line so that problems involving Article IV implementation, recommendations made, and actions taken for these species can be reviewed by all interested parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN is concerned that the CITES Secretariat has published a 2008 quota from Tanzania for the export of 10,000 specimens of <i>Agapornis fischeri</i> though a trade suspension has been in place since 1993 made in the context of the Review of Significant Trade (CITES Notification No. 2007/004)
<p>8.4</p> <p>8.4 Species selected following CoP13</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 8.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides reports on biology, management, and trade of the <i>Testudo graeca</i> (spur-thighed tortoise) population of Lebanon, and <i>Mantella</i> spp. (Mantella frogs) and the responses of range States to these reports • The AC is requested to review these reports and responses and revise the categorizations provided and to formulate recommendations for species of urgent concern and of possible concern • <i>Testudo graeca</i> (Lebanon): From 1996–2005, an estimated 34,000 specimens were exported, of which half have been declared as captive-bred. All exports from Lebanon have been suspended since 2004. Report recommends classification as Least Concern (no action to be taken) • <i>Mantella</i> spp. (Madagascar): 15 species for which status ranges from Least Concern to Critically Endangered. Exports numbered an estimated 150,000 specimens from 2000-2005. Report recommends classification as Least Concern (no action to be taken) for all species 	<p><i>Testudo graeca</i>: SSN <u>supports</u> the classification of Lebanon's population as Least Concern as long as the export suspension remains in place. If Lebanon intends to reinstate exports, the species should be reinserted in the Review.</p> <p><i>Mantella</i> spp.: SSN <u>opposes</u> the classification of all <i>Mantella</i> spp. as Least Concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The taxonomy of the group has been and continues to be unstable • No global population estimate for any of the species is available; no quantitative studies of the possible impact of collection on wild populations have been carried out to date • Measurements of abundance (national population densities per hectare) are based on surveys carried out over small areas generally during the breeding season. Because dense or very dense breeding aggregations of some species may occur, such data is not representative; the review states that such data "<i>should not be extrapolated to larger areas.</i>" • The number of individuals collected is generally 50-100% higher than the number intended for export to account for pre-export mortality • The review argues that, "<i>adverse impact of collection has generally not been demonstrated</i>". This is a reversal of the non-detriment requirement; exports should not be viewed as non-detrimental in the absence of proof of detriment. • Export quotas should not be established for Endangered (<i>M. crocea</i>) or Critically Endangered (<i>M. expectata</i>, <i>M. milotympanum</i>, <i>M. viridis</i>) species
<p>8.5</p> <p>8.5 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP14</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 8.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminds the AC that RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species directs the AC <i>inter alia</i> to select species of priority concern for review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN looks forward to additional information from the Secretariat on <i>Huso huso</i> and notes that the species is classified as Endangered (IUCN 2007); evidence suggests that stocks have declined by 90 percent in the past 20 years. Quotas for 2008 remain almost as high as for 2007, and have been criticized as

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a summary of annual recorded net level of exports for Appendix-II species over the five most recent years Reminds the AC that the Secretariat, in April 2007, proposed the inclusion of <i>Huso huso</i> (beluga sturgeon) in the Review with immediate effect. The Committee voted on and declined this proposal in August. The Secretariat may again propose its inclusion in the Review after reviewing the 2008 export quotas Suggests that the AC consider available information on the export of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> (Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin) from Solomon Islands (including the export of 28 specimens in November 2007 and the establishment of an export quota of 80 dolphins per year) and determine whether <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> should be included in the Review 	<p>"too permissive" (Source: Pew Institute for Ocean Science)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>supports</u> the inclusion of Solomon Islands' population of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> in the Review. Regarding exports by Solomon Islands, the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group has stated, "...that a non-detriment finding under CITES is not possible for these populations, and that exports should not take place."
8.5.1	<p>8.5.1 Selection of the Solomon Islands population of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> for inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 8.5.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Israel, this document reports that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solomon Islands exported 33 live <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> in July 2003 and an additional 28 live specimens in October 2007; Solomon Islands has indicated that it intends to allow future exports of up to 100 live dolphins each year The 2003 capture of dolphins in the Solomon Islands included more than 100 animals and captures in 2007 almost as many again In response to these exports, the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group has stated that that "a non-detriment finding under CITES is not possible for these populations, and that exports should not take place." Encourages the AC to include Solomon Islands population of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> in the Review of Significant Trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>supports</u> the inclusion of the Solomon Islands population of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> in the Review of Significant Trade on an expedited basis Solomon Islands has established a national annual export quota of 80 specimens per year despite concerns expressed by the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Groups that non-detriment findings are not possible There are serious concerns about the depletion of local populations of this species because studies have revealed that local populations are resident and small and that there is usually very little, if any, exchange of individuals between adjacent populations SSN agrees that a zero quota on exports may be the most appropriate short-term action until the Solomon Islands is able to conduct the necessary research
9. Review of the use of source code 'R'	<p>AC23 Doc. 9 (Rev. 2)</p>	<p>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.52 directs the AC/PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtain information on the management program for species to which source code 'R' is applied review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching and identify common elements in these programs based on this review, propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code 'R' to CoP15 Provides data on all exports of specimens of species with the source code declared as 'R', for the years 1991-2005 and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>recommends</u> that the following countries using the R code be requested to supply additional information on their management programs: Australia (<i>Ornithoptera</i> spp.), Benin (reptiles), Cuba (<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>), Ghana (reptiles), Honduras (reptiles), Indonesia (butterflies), Italy (<i>Acipenser</i> spp.), Madagascar (reptiles and amphibians), Macedonia (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>), Nicaragua (birds, amphibians), Peru (birds, reptiles, fish), Papua New Guinea (butterflies), Turks and Caicos Islands (<i>Strombus gigas</i>), Togo (reptiles), Tanzania (reptiles), Uzbekistan (<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>). While this represents a fair diversity of fauna taxa, the AC/PC may inquire of Parties present if they have examples of management systems for plants that might resemble ranching.

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		<p>requests the AC/PC to select countries using the code on a regular basis so that the Secretariat may request information on the management programs for these species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC/PC are invited to decide how they will review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching 	
<p>10. International expert workshop on non-detriment findings</p> <p>AC23 Docs 10</p>		<p>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by Mexico on behalf of the International Steering Committee in charge of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings • Decision 14.49 encourage Parties to provide financial support for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs) • Provides information on the date, venue, objectives, format, working groups, and species to be discussed in the workshop • Invites AC and PC Members, Parties, and NGOs to suggest experts and case studies to be considered for discussion in the workshop • Invites Scientific Authorities to provide information on the use of the IUCN checklist in making non-detriment findings • Invites Parties, NGOs and IGOs to provide financial support for the workshop 	<p>SSN, as a member of the workshop Steering Committee, <u>commends</u> Mexico for its leadership on this issue and looks forward to participating in the workshop</p>
<p>11. Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 14.8 on Periodic Review of the Appendices, states that: <i>"the Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The list should be established at their first meeting after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period."</i> 	
11.1	<p>11.1 Schedule and responsibilities for species selected for periodic review between CoP13 and CoP15</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 11.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a list of species that were agreed to be included in the Periodic Review, as amended after CoP14 • Reminds the Parties that <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> (fin whale) was deleted from the list after CoP14 because of Decision 14.81, which states that <i>"no periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place."</i> • Reminds the Parties that <u>all</u> species of Felidae have been 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>recommends</u> that the IUCN Cat Specialist Group be requested to undertake phase II (outside of the <i>Lynx</i> complex) of the review of Felidae species in cooperation with the range States. Otherwise, the large number of species (30) to be reviewed may make it difficult to complete the reviews on a timely basis • SSN <u>encourages</u> the AC to retain the subspecies <i>Crossoptilon crossoptilon harmani</i> in the review. There is no reason that a change in taxonomic status should affect the review, which in any case breaks down species on a country-by-country basis

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		<p>included in the list in accordance with Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes that <i>Crossoptilon harmani</i> (Tibetan eared pheasant) is now recognized as a subspecies of <i>C. crossoptilon</i> and requests the AC to decide whether the subspecies, <i>C. c. harmani</i> should be retained in the Review Requests the AC to establish how it will conduct the reviews of species that were selected after CoP13 and establish a schedule 	
11.2	11.2 Periodic review of Felidae		
11.2.1	<p>11.2.1 Periodic review of Felidae – progress report from the United States of America</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 11.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the United States of America Reports that they have initiated a survey of US state and Canadian provincial authorities in order to obtain an updated bobcat population estimate for North America and will include this information in a final <i>Lynx</i> spp. status review at AC24 Proposes a strategy for the review of Felidae including the removal of the following species from the Review, based on RC 14.8 c) ii): Asian big cat species (<i>Panthera tigris</i>, <i>Uncia uncia</i>, <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>, <i>Panthera pardus</i> within its Asian range, and <i>Panthera leo persica</i>), <i>Panthera pardus</i>, and <i>Panthera leo</i> 	<p>Generally support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>supports</u> the suggestion of the United States that certain species be removed from the Review. RC 14.8 states the following taxa, <i>inter alia</i>, should not be considered for review: “species that were the subject of listing proposals at the previous two meetings of the Conference of the Parties (whether or not the proposals were adopted),” and “species subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties” In contrast to the recommendation of the United States that range States undertake the review, SSN <u>recommends</u> that the IUCN Cat Specialist Group be requested to undertake Phase II (outside of the <i>Lynx</i> complex) of the review of Felidae species in cooperation with the range States. Otherwise, the large number of species (30) to be reviewed may make it difficult to complete the reviews on a timely basis
11.2.2	<p>Status of the populations of <i>Lynx rufus</i> in Mexico</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 11.2.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Mexico In support of the implementation of Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14), Mexico committed itself to reviewing the status of <i>Lynx</i> populations in its territory Provides the initial results of a research project to estimate the population density and diet of <i>Lynx rufus</i> (bobcat) in Mexico 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>commends</u> Mexico for undertaking this research The final report should include the resulting raw data as it is impossible to evaluate the soundness of the density estimates without viewing the range of sampling that occurred. For example, it appears that one of the density estimates was based on the sighting of only two specimens SSN <u>notes</u> that one of the four sites had favorable characteristics for the presence of the species, such as low anthropogenic pressure and availability of prey, but no bobcat were present. This calls into question the appropriateness of extrapolating the current density estimates to obtain estimated population sizes in similar ‘suitable’ habitats as issues other than habitat quality or quantity may affect the species’ status

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11.3	11.3 Periodic review of species selected prior to CoP13 AC23 Doc. 11.3 (Rev. 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a table that includes the status of the Review for all 33 species selected before CoP13 There have been no volunteers for the following species: <i>Cephalophus sylvicultor</i> (yellow-backed duiker), <i>Mirounga leonine</i> (Southern elephant seal), and <i>Pteropus macrotis</i> (big-eared flying fox) Provides reports for the reviews of <i>Rhea americana</i> and <i>Tupinambis merianae</i> (previously <i>T. teguixin</i>) by Spain; recommends that both species be retained in Appendix II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>supports</u> the results of the reviews of <i>Rhea americana</i> and <i>Tupinambis merianae</i> (previously <i>T. teguixin</i>), recommending that they be retained on Appendix II
12. Selection of a representative for the Standing Committee Working Group reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of the universal tagging system and the trade in small crocodilian leather goods AC23 Doc. 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.62 states that SC57 shall establish a working group to “<i>initiate a process to review the implementation and effectiveness of the universal tagging system and the trade in small crocodilian leather goods, including their impact on the effectiveness of the Convention</i>”. A representative of the AC shall be included The AC is invited to select a representative for the SC working group 	No comment
13. Sturgeons and paddlefish			
	13.1 Secretariat’s report AC23 Doc. 13.1 (Rev. 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) directs the Secretariat to provide at each AC meeting a written report on activities related to the conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish Provides a list of quotas established for sturgeon species for the quota year 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009, and notes that the caviar trade database is now accessible to CITES authorities only The Secretariat believes that some aquaculture operations may be laundering caviar of illegal-origin Reminds Parties that the personal the personal effect exemption for caviar was reduced to 125 g at CoP14, which has a street value of almost US\$1,000 Requests the AC to note the report 	No comment
	13.2 Evaluation of the assessment and monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species shared between different	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) directs the AC to carry out an evaluation of the assessment and the monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species and report to the SC Provides the most recent reports on assessment and monitoring methodologies for Acipenseriformes species from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>notes</u> the Secretariat’s report and the annexes. Though a number of the studies in the annexes, particularly that for the Amur River (Annex 2) provide more detail than previously, we remain concerned that the methodology used in the Caspian Sea Survey (Annex 1) does not appear to take into account criticisms by FAO and the Pew Institute of Ocean Science. In general, SSN is

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	range States AC23 Doc. 13.2	stocks shared between different range States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the AC to determine how it will carry out the evaluation and reminds the AC that documents for SC54 are due 15 May 2007 	concerned that export quotas remain too high for some stocks, particularly for beluga sturgeon (<i>Huso huso</i>).
14. Nomenclatural matters AC23 Doc.14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the specialist on zoological nomenclature Recommends the formation of a Nomenclature Working Group to discuss the following matters: a) Checklist of CITES species: update (UNEP-WCMC); b) Papilionidae; c) Corals; d) Species described after the adoption of the current taxonomic references; e) Specific taxon issues: <i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>; f) Illegal copies of checklists available on CITES website; and g) Any other business related to nomenclature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN <u>welcomes</u> the establishment of a Nomenclature Working Group, and urges that it continue the tradition, established by the old Nomenclature Committee, of being open to all interested Parties and observers
15. Conservation and management of sharks			
	15.1 Reports from Parties on implementation of IPOA-Sharks, opportunities to improve monitoring, verification and reporting of catch, bycatch and discards, and use of commodity codes AC23 Doc.15.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.106 directs the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties requesting them to provide details of their commodity codes for fish products, imports, exports and re-exports, for both CITES-listed and non-listed species, collate the responses and report to AC23. Decision 14.115 directs the Parties to encourage shark fishing and trading entities to identify opportunities to: a) improve the monitoring and reporting of catch, bycatch, discards, market and international trade data; b) establish systems to provide verification of catch information; c) report on their progress at AC23 and AC24; and d) implement the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) as a matter of priority. Provides responses received from Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Grenada and Malaysia to CITES Notification No. 2007/033 of 5 October 2007, which requested Parties to submit the information requested in Decisions 14.106 and 14.115. Additional reports were provided by China, Cuba, Ecuador, and the European Commission. Provides Recommendation 07-06 (Supplemental Recommendation by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Concerning Sharks) adopted at the 2007 ICCAT Meeting. Invites the AC to note the document, and to reflect on future actions it would consider pertinent regarding these matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN is concerned that only five countries provided reports by the deadline. SSN urges the AC to develop and undertake a proactive plan to secure from Parties, particularly those reporting the highest proportion of international trade in shark products, the information requested in Decisions 14.106 and 14.115. In order to compile the information necessary to address this issue, SSN recommends that the AC undertake a study of shark catch, production and markets in key catching and trading countries. As of late 2007, less than 20% of FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Members had implemented a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA), as directed by the FAO IPOA-Sharks. Many of the most important shark trading parties have failed to implement NPOAs, including Indonesia, the EU, India, Spain, Argentina, Thailand, Pakistan, France, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Iran, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Nigeria, and Portugal. The IPOA clearly is not making the positive impact on shark conservation that was intended. This makes the adoption of binding management measures under other agreements, including CITES, even more urgent.

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<p>15.2 Identification of shark species of concern that require consideration for inclusion in the Appendices if their management and conservation status does not improve</p> <p>AC23 Doc.15.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RC 12.6 on Conservation and management of sharks directs the AC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ examine information with a view to identifying key species and examining these for possible listing under CITES ▪ make species-specific recommendations to CoPs if necessary on improving the conservation status and regulation of international trade in these species ● Decision 14.107 directs the AC to continue activities specified under RC 12.6, including refinement of the list of shark species of concern, and report to CoP15 ● Provides Parties' responses to CITES Notification No. 2007/033 regarding their management measures for endangered shark species ● Invites the AC to discuss the progress made and decide on future activities, work plans and timelines for the implementation of RC 12.6 and Decision 14.107 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognizing that Parties' responses regarding shark species of concern have been limited, SSN recommends that the AC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identify additional information needed on the status and trade of shark species of concern and undertake a proactive plan to secure this information and, ▪ explore the use of Appendix III listings as a tool for obtaining international trade data on shark species of concern.
<p>15.3 Linkages between international trade in shark fins and meat and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing</p> <p>AC23 Doc.15.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decision 14.117 directs the AC, in consultation with FAO, to examine and report on linkages between the international trade in shark fins and meat and IUU shark fishing activities, including the main species of sharks taken by IUU fishing, and the relative importance of fins compared to meat in international trade arising from IUU fishing ● States that the CITES Secretariat has communicated with the FAO Secretariat and will report orally on the outcome ● The Secretariat suggests the AC establish a working group on this issue and provide recommendations as to how to proceed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSN <u>welcomes</u> the establishment of a working group on this issue, and urges the AC to open it to all interested Parties and observers. ● SSN <u>recommends</u> that the AC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in addition to identifying the main species taken and the importance of fins compared to meat in trade, identify those States involved in IUU shark fishing activities, including harvests and trade. ▪ acknowledge that allowing the landing of detached shark fins poses serious challenges to the effective identification of species in trade, the gathering of accurate species-specific trade data, and the determination of the portion of that trade derived from IUU fishing. ▪ recommend that RC 12.6 be amended to recognize the language agreed by the UN General Assembly in December 2007 urging that all sharks should be landed with fins naturally attached, and to encourage the Parties to ban the practice of shark finning. ▪ recommend that CITES Parties participating in international shark trade take measures to effectively reduce IUU fishing for sharks, including: requiring installment of VMS (vessel monitoring systems) on all longline and other deep sea fishing vessels, prohibiting the reflagging of vessels, and prohibiting the transshipment of shark fins.
<p>16. Transport of live animals</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) directs the AC to: a) participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA; b) examine additional references for transport of live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSN supports the efforts of the Parties to ensure that living specimens are prepared and shipped so as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment (as required in Articles

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	<p>specimens for incorporation into RC10.21 (Rev. CoP14); c) examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into RC10.21 (Rev. CoP14); and d) examine regularly high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.59, directs the AC <i>inter alia</i> to: a) participate in the regular meetings of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and the reviews of the OIE Guidelines for the Transport of Animals by Sea, by Land, and by Air; b) collaborate with OIE in the development of its web portal with information on regulations and guidelines for transport for live animals other than by air; c) examine new or additional references for transport of live animals; and e) report to CITES CoP15, including proposals to amend RC 10.21 (Rev.CoP14) • The next meeting of the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board will take place in spring 2008 and there will be (another) opportunity to nominate a representative to the Live Animals and Perishables Board Advisory Panel in late 2009 as members are selected for a two-year term • The Committee is invited to decide on the actions needed to implement these instructions and a schedule for this work 	<p>III, IV and V)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN is concerned that no mechanism is currently in place to address paragraph (d) of RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) and recommends that the AC address this • SSN is concerned that many countries, particularly developing countries, do not have sufficient access to training and documentation on the regulation of transport of live animals (such as the IATA Live Animals Regulations) and that this remains a serious impediment to their ability to implement the Convention. SSN recommends that the AC, with the CITES Secretariat, assess the Parties' needs and undertake follow-up actions. • SSN recommends that the AC request the Secretariat to report on how live animal transport is incorporated into capacity-building and training programs organized by the Secretariat. SSN believes such integration to be essential
<p>17. Progress report on the Identification Manual</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a report on the progress made with the production of the Identification Manual that currently can be viewed on-line in PDF format files • The Secretariat proposes to transform the Manual into a web-based database in which the identification segment for each species or group of species could be created and modified by users in an approach known as a "Wiki" • A demonstration of a Wiki format CITES Identification Manual will be presented during the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN <u>supports</u> the Secretariat's efforts to transform the Identification Manual to an online format. • However, SSN is concerned that many Parties may not have regular, reliable access to the internet. These same Parties also do not necessarily have paper copies of available identification manuals. Before spending more time or resources on this initiative, SSN urges the AC to recommend that the Secretariat make sure that paper copies of the identification manual are available and distributed in sufficient number in developing countries where availability of computers and the Internet is problematic. The AC should ask the Secretariat to issue a CITES Notification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ requesting Parties that need paper copies to inform the Secretariat ▪ reminding Parties of the availability of such copies and of how to procure them ▪ calling on Parties that have developed material for the identification of CITES-listed species to send information on

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		<p>resources they have available to the Secretariat so that this information can be supplied to all Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> calling on Parties, observers and others to provide funding needed to purchase and send identification manuals to Parties that do not have them
<p>18. Proposal to transfer the Mexican population of <i>Crocodylus moreletii</i> from Appendix I to Appendix II</p> <p>AC23 Doc. 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Mexico Species identified by IUCN as Lower Risk Mexico estimates the global wild population at more than 100,000 individuals with nearly 20,000 adults. IUCN states that there are more than 10,000 mature individuals in the wild. Mexico bans taking of wild specimens but allows trade in products from three captive-breeding facilities registered with the CITES Secretariat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal fails to explain the significant differences in population size estimated by IUCN (10,000 adult individuals) and the proposal (20,000 adult individuals for Mexico only) The data on habitat availability were obtained through modeling and appear to be gross overestimates. There is no information on predicted habitat loss whether from development, pollution, or climate change--scientists predict that most of the Gulf of Mexico and Yucatan Peninsula will be inundated with the increase in sea level due to climate change SSN notes that Mexico does not currently have a monitoring program in place in order to generate information on population trends over time. Such a program should be in place prior to downlisting and commencement of use of wild specimens. The proposal does not indicate how non-detrimental trade levels of wild crocodiles will be determined. Mexico fails to provide full details regarding illegal trade in the species including the seizure of 98 specimens in 2007.
<p>19. Time and venue of the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee</p> <p>No document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	<p>No comment</p>
<p>20. Any other business</p> <p>No document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	<p>No comment</p>
<p>21. Closing Remarks</p> <p>No document</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document 	<p>No comment</p>



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