



**SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF
THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE**
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND • 18-22 July 2017

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

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

| ISSUE | | PROPOSED ACTIONS | SSN RECOMMENDATIONS |
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| 1. Agenda AC29 Doc. 1 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the provisional agenda of the meeting for consideration and adoption. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| 2. Working Programme AC29 Doc. 2 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the provisional working programme of the meeting for consideration and adoption. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| 3. Rules of Procedure | | | |
| 3.1 | Adoption of the Rules of Procedure AC29 Doc. 3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the Rules of Procedure (RoP) as adopted at AC28. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| 3.2 | Review of the Rules of Procedure No document | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| 4. Admission of observers AC29 Doc. 4 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available at the time this document was prepared. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| 5. Animals Committee strategic planning for 2017-2019 (CoP17-CoP18) | | | |
| 5.1 | Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee AC29 Doc. 5.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides current Resolutions (Annex 1) and Decisions (Annex 2) that require actions from AC. Invites AC to consider these when working on its programme of work. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC adopt the invitation of the Secretariat. |
| 5.2 | Animals Committee workplan AC29 Doc. 5.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by AC Chair. Provides actions directed to AC by Resolutions and Decisions and the lead for each issue. Requests AC Members to review the document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC adopt the recommendations of the Chair. |

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| <p>6. Review of Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>AC29 Doc. 6/PC23 Doc. 7</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.5 directs AC/PC to identify inconsistencies and overlap between RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Establishment of Committees</i> and their own RoP and submit these to SC70. Decision 17.9 directs AC/PC to review their Terms of Reference as contained in RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) in order to, <i>inter alia</i>, remove redundancies, clarify the functions of the Committees, and present any amendments to SC. Recommends that AC/PC establish a joint intersessional working group on these issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat. |
| <p>7. CITES Strategic Vision</p> <p>No document</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| <p>8. Appendix-I listed species</p> <p>AC29 Doc. 8/PC23 Doc. 9</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.24 directs AC/PC to review a report on conservation status of, and legal and illegal in trade in, species included in Appendix I, and formulate recommendations to Parties and to CoP18. Invites AC/PC to identify funding sources for the report and consider how scope of the analysis could fit different budget scenarios. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat. |
| <p>9. Capacity building and identification materials</p> <p>AC29 Doc. 9/PC23 Doc.10</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.32 directs AC/PC to establish a joint working group on capacity building and identification materials to, <i>inter alia</i>: review current materials and provide guidance on revision/creation of materials; review RC 3.4 on <i>Technical Cooperation</i> and RC 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Identification Manual</i>; and, report to AC/PC and CoP18. Provides a table of references to capacity building and identification materials contained in CITES Decisions (Annexes 1 and 2), suggested work packages and timelines for their completion (Annex 3). Suggests that AC/PC may want to establish an intersessional working group on this issue and consider the suggested work plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat including the establishment of an intersessional working group. |
| <p>10. Non-detriment findings (NDFs)</p> <p>AC29 Doc. 10/PC23 Doc. 11.1</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 16.53 invites Parties to submit their experiences with the making of NDFs for inclusion in the CITES website; Invites AC/PC to review NDF materials and organize expert workshops on this issue. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat, commend Australia for sharing information in response to the Notification, and encourage other Parties to do so as well. |
| <p>11. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)</p> <p>No document</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| <p>12. Strengthening</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Mexico on behalf of the North American Region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC note this work. |

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| | significant trade reviews AC29 Doc. 13.4 | <p>disadvantages of country-wide significant trade reviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that the Secretariat is seeking US\$10,000 for a consultancy on this issue. • Recommends that AC/PC establish an intersessional working group on this issue. | <p>Secretariat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN believes that, based on the country-wide pilot review of Madagascar, country-wide reviews have already been shown to be cumbersome and ineffective. • Given that the Secretariat has reported difficulties in finding funding for a number of other more urgent projects, we question the need to devote resources to finding funding for the proposed study. |
| 14. Captive-bred and ranched specimens | | | |
| 14.1 | Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity AC29 Doc. 14.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 17.7 on <i>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i> directs AC to: identify compliance concerns related to trade in specimens using source codes C, D, F or R; review responses from countries concerned and related information; and determine if trade is in compliance. • Decision 17.105 directs AC to prepare recommendations regarding the first time RC 17.7 is implemented, including opportunities for harmonization with RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i>. • Presents (Annex) a summary of statistics of species traded, derived from the five most recent years, under source codes C, D, F or R. • Invites AC to select a limited number of species-country combinations for review and identify any related urgent enforcement matters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC implement the recommendations of the Secretariat and select species/countries for review. • Regarding species/countries discussed in AC29 Doc. 13.2 Annex 1, SSN recommends the following be selected for inclusion in this review: <i>Centrochelys sulcata</i> (African spurred tortoise) [Ghana Mali, Sudan Togo], and <i>Testudo graeca</i> (spur-thighed tortoise) [Syria]. • SSN recommends that AC also consider previous documents on this issue while conducting the selection, including Annex 1 of SC66 Doc. 41.1, Annex 1 of AC27 Doc. 17 (Rev. 1) and AC26 Inf. 3. |
| 14.2 | Non-detriment findings for specimens with source codes W, R and F AC29 Doc. 14.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.104 directs AC to review the differences in the nature of NDFs made for specimens with source code W, R and F and provide guidance for Parties on these issues. • Invites AC to initiate the review and decide on the membership of and Terms of Reference for an intersessional working group on this issue. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC implement the recommendations of the Secretariat. |
| 15. Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.89 directs the Secretariat to undertake a review of relevant CITES provisions, resolutions and decisions, to examine how Parties have applied the interpretation of RC 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives</i> to wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA; under what circumstances wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA meet the current interpretation; and whether any revisions should be considered. Findings are to be reported to AC29, PC23 and SC68. • Decision 17.90 directs AC/PC to review Secretariat's report on how Parties have applied the interpretation of RC 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives</i>, to wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA. • Provides draft Terms of Reference for the study to be conducted (Annex). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that bio-engineered wildlife products should be regulated under CITES as readily recognizable parts and derivatives. Trade in such specimens raises serious enforcement concerns and may stimulate consumer demand for wild-sourced CITES species. • Because the issue raises important questions regarding the proper interpretation of the treaty, SSN urges AC/PC to consider streamlining the draft TOR so that the consultant's study focuses specifically on the salient legal issues as defined by Decision 17.89. • Issues related to the CBD, WTO, and other international agreements are not relevant to the strictly legal question of whether CITES applies to trade in bioengineered wildlife products and derivatives. • SSN is concerned that trade in such specimens may create enforcement difficulties and undermine the effects of demand |

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| AC29 Doc. 15/PC23 Doc. 16 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends that AC/PC provide comments on the Terms of Reference and consider study results at AC30/PC24. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction programs, and urges the AC to take these problems into account. |
| 16. Quotas for leopard hunting trophies | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.115 directs AC to consider information from range States and other information, and make recommendations to the range States and SC. • Reports that information has not been received from range States. • Invites AC to note the document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC note the document. |
| AC29 Doc. 16 | | | |
| 17. Transport of live specimens | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Transport of live specimens</i> recommends, <i>inter alia</i>, that suitable measures be taken by the Parties to promote the full and effective use of the IATA (International Air Transport Association) Live Animals Regulations (for animals), the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations (for plants) and the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants for the preparation and transport of live specimens. • Notes that the Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IATA to cooperate on reducing illegal trafficking in wildlife. • Recommends that AC/PC note the document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC/PC note the document. • SSN also recommends that the AC considers re-establishing a Transport Working Group in order to provide a point of engagement with IATA, to assess the effectiveness and implementation of the CITES guidelines for non-air transport, and make appropriate recommendations as deemed necessary. |
| AC29 Doc. 17/PC23 Doc. 17 | | | |
| 18. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.179 directs AC to consider reports from the Secretariat on the implementation of RC 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'</i>, and Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b), regarding findings that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them, and make recommendations to SC and CoP18. • Secretariat reports it will make the information available intersessionally. • Recommends that AC establish an intersessional working group on this issue. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat. • SSN further recommends that AC direct the proposed Working Group to consider the report to be produced intersessionally by the Secretariat with other relevant studies, reports and expertise relating to the care and welfare of wild animals under the range of circumstances to which they might be exposed in trade. |
| AC29 Doc. 18 | | | |
| 19. Progress in the development of an identification guide for the species of the genus <i>Abronia</i> (alligator lizards) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by Mexico. • Provides an identification guide (Annex) for <i>Abronia</i> species. • Invites AC to note the progress made and provide feedback on the guide. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC adopt the recommendations of Mexico. |
| AC29 Doc. 19 | | | |
| 20. Sturgeons and paddlefish (<i>Acipenseriformes</i> spp.) | | | |
| 20.1 | Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.183 directs AC, based on the information submitted by range States, to discuss the content of the table contained in Annex 3 of RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish</i>, including possible amendments, and report to SC. • Provides the responses of Parties (Annex). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment. |

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| | AC29 Doc. 20.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC is invited to consider the information submitted by range States of <i>Acipenseriformes</i> regarding the content of the table "Overview about stocks shared by range States and the respective species" in Annex 3 of RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), and discuss possible amendments to this table to SC. Invites AC to consider the issue of the definition of "country of origin of caviar" outlined in CoP17 Doc. 50, and its collaboration with the SC in that regard. | |
| 20.2 | Identification of sturgeons and paddlefish specimens in trade AC29 Doc. 20.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 16.137 directs AC to, <i>inter alia</i>, assist the Secretariat in determining the specifications of a study on identification of sturgeon and paddlefish specimens in trade and monitoring its conduct. Reports that no external funding for the study has been identified. Invites AC to comment on this document, and make suggestions as to how best to proceed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| | 21. Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.) AC29 Doc. 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.188 directs AC to consider reports on implementation of Appendix II listing of European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>), trade and conservation of unlisted species, and information from range States; and provide recommendations to ensure sustainable trade in <i>Anguilla</i> species for consideration at CoP18. Recommends that AC organize itself intersessionally to consider studies when they are available. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC establish an intersessional working group on this issue. |
| | 22. Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae) AC29 Doc. 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.192 directs AC to analyze results of a survey of range States of precious corals (black, red, and pink coral species including species within the order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae), and a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) study on precious corals; and provide recommendations to SC. Provides the responses of Parties to the survey/questionnaire (Annex) and reports that the Secretariat is seeking funding for the FAO study. Recommends that AC establish an intersessional working group on this issue. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC establish an intersessional working group on this issue. |
| | 23. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Conservation and management of sharks</i>, directs AC to examine information provided by range States on trade and other information, and report to the CoP; to make species-specific recommendations at CoPs on improving the conservation status of sharks; and to report progress on shark and ray activities at CoPs. Decision 17.211 directs the Secretariat to request from Parties information on shark and ray conservation and management activities, and make responses available to AC; and provide data on trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2000 for consideration by AC. Reports on Secretariat's work on capacity building assistance | <p>SSN recommends that AC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome this document and thank the Parties that have responded to the corresponding Notification. Urge major shark trading Parties that have not yet responded to the Notification do so urgently in order to help inform the various implementation and capacity building efforts. Commend the CITES Secretariat and Parties that have provided information to the CITES Shark and Ray portal for making these resources available. Thank the European Union for confirming additional financial support for implementation of CoP17 Resolutions and Decisions. |

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| AC29 Doc. 23 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> related to sharks and rays, and work with the FAO on implementation of CITES regarding marine species. Provides the response of Parties (Annex 1) and a summary of trade data since 2000 (Annex 2). Invites AC to consider this information and how to fulfill its mandate in RC 12.6 (Rev. CoP17). | |
| 24. Freshwater stingrays (<i>Potamotrygonidae</i> spp.) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.249 encourages the Secretariat, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and Parties to support range States in the modeling of population trends for freshwater stingrays (family <i>Potamotrygonidae</i>); the Secretariat shall report such activities to AC. Provides a summary of responses (Annex 1) received from experts from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Peru on freshwater stingrays and the individual responses received (Annexes 2-9). Invites AC to comment and take note of this document. | <p>SSN recommends that AC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome this document and thank the Parties and experts that have provided additional information. Note that Brazil and Colombia have listed multiple species and native populations of freshwater stingrays (family <i>Potamotrygonidae</i>) on Appendix III. Comment on information received and information still needed on conservation and management of and trade in these species. Encourage Parties and interested organization to provide funding for additional research. |
| AC29 Doc. 24 | | | |
| 25. Banggai cardinalfish (<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>) | | | |
| 25.1 | Report of the Secretariat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.262 directs AC30 to review Indonesia's progress on measures to ensure sustainability of trade in <i>P. kauderni</i> as well as a study to assess the impact of international trade on the conservation status of <i>P. kauderni</i>. Reports that the EU has provided funding for the study on trade of the species. Invites AC to note this document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the AC note this document. <i>P. kauderni</i> (Endangered (IUCN 2007)) is highly prized in the aquarium trade; in 2005, harvest rates were believed to exceed 700,000 to 900,000/year.¹ |
| | AC29 Doc. 25.1 | | |
| 25.2 | Indonesia's initial progress report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Indonesia. Decision 17.259 directs Indonesia to implement measures to ensure the sustainability of trade in Banggai cardinalfish and report to AC30. Provides a summary of activities in response to Decision 17.259 including, <i>inter alia</i>, population surveys, "genetic test for population outside Banggai as its natural habitat", establishment of a new marine protected area, public awareness campaigns, procedures for "trade outside main habitats in Banggai Islands and trade from aquaculture", and re-stocking activities (including in Ambon). Invites AC to provide comments on this report in order to improve efforts and reporting by Indonesia for AC30. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noting that "a number of weaknesses were identified with local monitoring activities" for this species in the past,² SSN urges the AC to recommend that Indonesia utilize experts familiar with the species to conduct any surveys, that it develop standard protocols of proven efficacy for data collection and appropriate methodologies for analysis, and that it provide these to AC30. Noting that artificial introduction of the species has resulted in the establishment of several small populations along trade routes,³ and that the ecological significance of these populations is unknown, SSN urges the AC to recommend that Indonesia restrict evaluation of the conservation status of the species to populations within its native range. Mixing of genetically unrelated individuals during restocking efforts should be avoided. The very high levels of genetic differentiation among subpopulations, which may reflect adaptation to differing local conditions, may decrease the long-term survival capacity of |

¹<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/full/63572/0>

²<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/prop/060216/E-CoP17-Prop-46.pdf>

³<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/prop/060216/E-CoP17-Prop-46.pdf>

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| AC29 Doc. 25.2 | | <p>populations resulting from mixing of genotypes.⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN encourages the AC to recommend that Indonesia restrict any aquaculture development for this species to within the Banggai Archipelago, to avoid the introduction of this species to areas outside its native range. In addition, experts in the husbandry of the species in captivity should be consulted to provide input and training to increase likelihood of success of such aquaculture operations. |
| 26. Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>) AC29 Doc. 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.287 directs AC, if requested by range States, to provide advice regarding the making of NDFs for trade in <i>S. gigas</i>, research on sustainability and other technical matters. Decision 17.288 directs AC to review the process for setting of 'scientific quotas for queen conch'. Reports that the Secretariat is seeking funding to implement Decision 17.287. Notes that Nicaragua has submitted export quotas for <i>Strombus gigas</i> for 'scientific purposes'. Invites AC to consider how to review the process for setting of scientific quotas for queen conch. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat states that the use and scope of the term "scientific quotas for queen conch" is not entirely clear and that it could be used either to describe a commercial export quota to finance scientific activities or an export quota limited to trade transactions with a scientific purpose (purpose code 'S'). Considering that NDFs are required for exports whether for scientific or commercial purposes, SSN recommends that AC consider how best to advise Parties on the making of NDFs and the setting of quotas for this species. |
| 27. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>) AC29 Doc. 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.300 directs AC to consider information on trade in <i>T. t. ponticus</i> in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the zero annual export quota for wild specimens for primarily commercial purposes; and to make recommendations to CoP18. Reports that Secretariat will request information from Parties on trade in this subspecies prior to AC30. Invites AC to note this report. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note this document. |
| 28. African wild dog (<i>Lycaon pictus</i>) AC29 Doc. 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Burkina Faso. Decision 17.238 invites Burkino Faso to report to AC on Decisions directed to Parties to, <i>inter alia</i>, prevent illegal trade of African wild dogs and work within Convention of Migratory Species regarding this species. Reports that Burkina Faso, Algeria, Benin and Niger will submit a proposal (Annex) for actions for wild dog and cheetah through the CMS Scientific Council in October 2017. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note this document. SSN notes that African wild dogs are among the species being considered for inclusion in the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative being proposed as part of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020 and summarized in AC29 Doc. 29. SSN therefore recommends that AC maintain an active dialogue with the CMS Secretariat in order to monitor the implementation and outcomes of any decisions agreed by Parties to CMS relating to African wild dogs, and to assist the CMS Secretariat and Parties in the collation and sharing of information on legal and illegal trade. SSN further recommends that AC encourage African wild dog range State Parties to consider listing the species on Appendix III of the Convention, as per Decision 17.235. |
| 29. African lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.241 directs Secretariat (in collaboration with range States, CMS, and IUCN) to, <i>inter alia</i>, investigate mechanisms to support lion conservation plans; develop an inventory of lion populations; undertake studies on legal and illegal trade in lions; undertake a study of lion population trends and conservation and | <p>SSN recommends that AC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express concern that the Secretariat has been unable to secure external funding to implement most elements of Decision 17.241, given the serious and ongoing declines in lion populations across much of their African range; |

⁴ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/prop/060216/E-CoP17-Prop-46.pdf>

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| <p>AC29 Doc. 29</p> | <p>management practices, including the role of international trade; support capacity building in lion conservation/management; support education to improve human-lion coexistence and population recovery; promote fundraising for overall initiatives and CITES Task Force on African lions; create a CITES website portal to share NDF information and guidance; and report on all progress to AC29 and AC30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.242 directs AC to consider the report of the Secretariat, and submit recommendations to SC69 and SC70 and the African lion range States, as appropriate. • Provides an update on the Secretariat's work with CMS on this species and other carnivores; text of a <i>Joint CMS CITES African Carnivores Initiative</i> is provided (Annex). • Reports that the Secretariat has been unable to secure necessary funding for much of the related work (the EU has agreed to facilitate 1-2 components). • Invites AC to consider this document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the importance of the Chad/Niger/Togo proposal to list lions on Appendix II of CMS in terms of providing a mandate for including lions in the CMS-CITES Joint Programme of Work, and urge Parties to both CITES and CMS to support the proposal; • Welcome the inclusion of lions in the proposed CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative, and recognize the urgency for the initiative; • Urge the Secretariat to secure funding for and initiate the trade studies in Decision 17.241(e) as a <i>high priority</i> to inform wider actions aimed at reversing lion population declines, and to report to AC (and CMS Secretariat) intersessionally once studies are complete so that AC can formulate recommendations to SC; • Note that the Secretariat has not offered information on South Africa's (ZA) quota on exports of captive-bred lion products; urge ZA to adopt a precautionary approach on export quotas for commercial trade in lion bones, bone pieces and products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth from captive breeding operations pending the trade studies in Decision 17.241(e); and urge other Parties with captive lion breeding operations to issue a zero export quota for all products. |
| <p>30. African grey parrots from DRC (<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>)</p> <p>AC29 Doc. 30</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC66 recommended a suspension of international commercial trade in <i>P. erithacus</i> from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) until it developed a field survey and management plan for the species. • SC67 requested DRC, <i>inter alia</i>, to complete the field study by 30 April 2017, and submit it to AC29, together with a National Management Plan. • Invites AC to consider any information submitted by DRC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document from DRC was available at the time this document was prepared. • <i>P. erithacus</i> was transferred to Appendix I at CITES CoP17; DRC, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates entered reservations on this listing. The reservation from Kuwait was submitted late and was not accepted. • Considering that DRC has taken a reservation on the Appendix I listing of this species and may seek to re-establish international commercial trade, SSN recommends that AC recommend to the SC that the trade suspension be maintained, and expanded to include those specimens of DRC-origin exported from other Parties with a reservation on this species. |
| <p>31. Snakes (Serpentes spp.)</p> | | |
| <p>31.1</p> | <p>Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.279 directs AC to, <i>inter alia</i>, review guidance on the making of NDFs for the export of CITES-listed snakes, and make recommendations to SC. • Provides a document (Annex) containing guidance on the making of NDFs for trade in Appendix-II listed snakes. • Invites AC to review the document and provide recommendations to SC. <p>SSN recommends that AC request that SC reject the guidance as it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests that NDFs be turned into "findings of sustainability", in contravention of the terms of CITES. • Fails to recommend that historical species-specific levels and patterns of harvest and mortality be considered when making a NDF. • In its <i>Primary Evaluation</i>, greatly minimizes the importance of certain factors in the making of NDFs, including species status, habitat loss and illegal trade, and classifies annual harvests of <2,000 as 'low' regardless of species status or related threats. • Ignores the fact that annual harvest levels may be highly destructive for rare taxa such as island endemic sub-populations. • Ignores recent comprehensive reviews of snake taxonomy. An increasing number of subspecies and morphs are now recognized |

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| | AC29 Doc. 31.1 | | as distinct species; NDFs should be based on extensive biological knowledge specific to locally exploited populations. |
| 31.2 | Information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo AC29 Doc. 31.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.279 directs AC to review information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo provided in accordance with Decision 17.276, and to make recommendations to SC. Decision 17.276 encourages certain Parties to take specific actions regarding: <i>Boa constrictor imperator</i> (Honduras); <i>Python regius</i> (Benin); <i>Calabaria reinhardtii</i> (Benin, Ghana and Togo); <i>Morelia viridis</i> and <i>M. boeleni</i> (Indonesia). States that information received will be provided to AC. Invites AC to note this document, to review information transmitted by the Secretariat and make recommendations to SC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC review any information when it becomes available. |
| 31.3 | Standards for python traceability AC29 Doc. 31.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Switzerland for consideration by AC. Provides a document on standards for python traceability. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note this document. |
| 32. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) AC29 Doc. 32 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.293 directs AC to review guidance developed by the Secretariat as directed by Decision 17.291 on, <i>inter alia</i>, surveying wild populations, assessing impacts of offtake, implementing adaptive management programs and differentiating wild from captive-bred or ranched specimens; and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretariat. The Secretariat has been unable to secure the needed funding to develop the guidance, but work has already been carried out in developing guidance on the making of NDFs for tortoises and freshwater turtles. Reports that the CITES Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Task Force met in Singapore in April 2017 and adopted actions addressing, <i>inter alia</i>, identification, illegal trade, seizures and disposals and including the development of a three-step identification process. Invites AC to provide guidance in clarifying what additional guidance (e.g. survey methodologies) is required for making NDFs, and on the utility of a three-step identification process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN notes that preparing proper NDFs for tortoises and freshwater turtles requires detailed knowledge of the biology of individual species, that this knowledge is in many cases not available, and that for many species NDFs should therefore be viewed with caution. SSN also notes that there are few turtle species for which a satisfactory NDF could be made for a 'large' (100+) commercial shipment of adult specimens collected from the wild, especially if there has been little or no active population management. SSN therefore recommends that any guidance on the making of NDFs should emphasize these difficulties, especially for trade in breeding-age adults collected from the wild. In general trade in such individuals should be restricted as much as possible to protect the breeding population. |
| 33. Periodic Review of the Appendices | | | |
| 33.1 | Overview of species under Periodic Review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Periodic review of the Appendices, inter alia</i>, directs the Secretariat to maintain a list of species previously reviewed by AC, including dates of the review and links to the appropriate documents. Lists animal species selected for review between CoP13 and 15, CoP15 and 17 and CoP16 and 18 (Annexes 1-3, respectively). Notes that the Secretariat prefers an online database of reviewed species; this would cost US\$50,000 for the period between CoP17 and CoP18. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note the document and assist the Secretariat in seeking funding for establishing an online database. |

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| <p>35. Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.313 directs AC to review the taxonomy and nomenclature of <i>Panthera leo</i>; the document notes that changing the existing listing of <i>P. l. persica</i> to specify [population of India] would avoid a substantive change to the current listing. Reports that the Secretariat will provide oral updates regarding coral identification, online databases as standard nomenclature references, and its efforts to secure resources for an analysis of differences between proposed new standard references (NSRs) on birds with respect to taxonomy of Passeriformes and changes to bird family and order names. Invites AC to consider the relative merits of adopting Lourie, Pollom and Foster (2016) as a new NSR for the species in the genus <i>Hippocampus</i>, or to suggest alternative ways forward. Provides supplementary information on taxonomy of the Eurasian species of <i>Ovis</i> (Annex 1); suggests listing <i>Ovis aries arkal</i> and <i>Ovis aries cycloceros</i> in Appendix II and deleting the species-wide annotated listing of <i>Ovis aries</i> from Appendix II. <i>O. a. ophion</i> and <i>O. a. vignei</i> would remain on Appendix I. Provides a table of nomenclatural changes affecting CITES-listed species (Annex 6), notes that Annex 6 probably includes only a fraction of the changes proposed in the literature, and encourages AC to assist in identifying further taxonomic references of interest. Reports that the Nomenclature Specialist reached out to the IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group regarding errors in the reference for these species and issues regarding changing nomenclature. Reports that <i>Daboia russelii siamensis</i> warrants recognition as a valid separate species (<i>D. russelii</i> is listed in Appendix III) but adoption of this nomenclatural change would substantially effect the listing of the species; suggests that India could clarify whether its Appendix III listing was intended to cover the entire range of the species or its national population only. Invites AC to share their recommendations for the establishment of a digital library of nomenclature references, considering that many are not Open Access documents. Recommends that AC formulate recommendations regarding <i>P. leo</i>, <i>Ovis</i> spp. and <i>Hippocampus</i> spp.; and that AC consider the addition of the Nomenclatural Standard References proposed for newly listed species. | <p>SSN recommends that the AC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the proposed changes and recommendations; and, Also consider the taxonomy of <i>P. leo</i> in light Bertola <i>et al.</i> (2015)⁵ which suggests, <i>inter alia</i>, a taxonomic separation between E and S African populations. |
| <p>AC29 Doc. 35</p> <p>36. Annotations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Canada, on behalf of Namibia and Canada as joint leads for SC on the issue of Annotations. Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP17) directs SC to re-establish the working group on annotations, in close collaboration with AC and PC. Reports that Parties and observers have begun consultations by | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC act on the invitation contained in the document. |

⁵ <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0137975>

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| AC29 Doc. 36/PC23 Doc. 33 | email on the terms of reference identified in Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP17). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites AC/PC to note this document and provide guidance on terms of reference provided. | |
| 37. Regional reports AC29 Doc. 37.1- 37.6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional reports for Asia, Europe, North America, and Oceania were available at the time this document was prepared. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| 38. Any other business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| 39. Time and venue of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |
| 40. Closing remarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. |



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