



**SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE
CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND 16-21 JULY 2018**

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
▶▶ indicates document for joint sessions of AC30 and PC24

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
1. Agenda AC30 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 AC30 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 (RoP) AC30 Doc. 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.7 directs the Secretariat to propose revisions to AC RoP in relation to RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Establishment of committees</i>. Provides RoP adopted at AC29 with amendments suggested by the Secretariat including, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the term 'Acting Members'; Deleting requirement for credentials; Clarifying that Members elect the Chair; Including text on declaration of conflict of interest; Requiring a quorum for a session; Providing rules on establishment of working groups; and Entitling Parties to make points of order, except when calling for a vote (also being considered by SC). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
4. Admission of observers AC30 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	Implementation of the work plan for 2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
5.2	Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	Parties		
<p>►► 6. Review of Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 6/PC24 Doc. 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by AC/PC Chairs on behalf of the intersessional working group on the review of the terms of reference of AC and PC. Decisions 17.5 and 17.9 direct AC/PC to, <i>inter alia</i>, review their Terms of Reference as contained in RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Establishment of Committees</i> and provide proposed amendments to the SC for the CoP. Provides proposed amendments (Annexes 1 and 2) that, <i>inter alia</i>, clarify the role of the Committees and provide greater detail on election of Members. Invites AC/PC to agree on the changes and submit them to SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC adopt the recommendations in the document. 	
7. CITES Strategic Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. 	
<p>►► 8. Appendix-I listed species</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 8/PC24 Doc. 8</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. Reports that the Secretariat was unable to identify any donors interested in partially or fully funding the research project. Invites AC, if appropriate, to draft revised Decisions concerning Appendix-I species for consideration at CoP18, including terms of reference for a consultant to carry out the work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN considers that this is a significant undertaking and agrees that the consultant requires a clear mandate. SSN recommends that AC prepare a draft decision for CoP18 that includes the terms of reference for the consultant. 	
9. Capacity building and identification materials			
9.1	<p>►► Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 9.1/PC24 Doc. 9.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.32 directs AC/PC to establish a working group to, <i>inter alia</i>, review and provide advice on capacity building materials. Provides an update on related activities of the Secretariat. Reports that working group discussions were limited and suggests that the Secretariat can, in the future, inform AC and PC as needs arise and seek their review or inputs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC and PC take note of this document and consider the Secretariat's concerns.
9.2	<p>Update of the identification guide for CITES-listed alligator lizards (<i>Abronia</i> spp.)</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 9.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Mexico. Invites AC to recommend that, <i>inter alia</i>, the Secretariat post the updated guide on its website and Parties provide feedback on the guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC adopt the recommendations in the document.

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9.3	<p>Publication of a ranching protocol for Morelet's crocodile (<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>) in Mexico</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 9.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Mexico. Invites AC to recommend that, <i>inter alia</i>, the Secretariat post the protocol on its website; Parties provide feedback on the guide; and Parties discuss whether to apply the protocol to other crocodile species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note the report, but not support application of the protocol to other crocodile species as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has not been reviewed by AC; and Such protocols should be species-specific.
10. Non-detriment findings			
10.1	<p>►► Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 10.1/PC24 Doc. 10.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides draft Decisions for CoP18 that, <i>inter alia</i>, direct: the Secretariat and AC/PC to review materials available to the Parties on making non-detriment findings (NDFs), make recommendations on additional needs/research, and organize and participate in one or more workshops on NDFs. Provides response of Colombia to Notification regarding the making of NDFs (Annex). Invites AC/PC to provide comments on the draft Decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC revise the draft Decisions to include clear timeframes that emphasize the importance of the work. In the decision directed to the Secretariat, insert in para. b) "at the joint session of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and the 25th meeting of the Plants Committees" after "in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties." The same language should be added to para a) in the decision directed to AC/PC after "Review the Secretariat's gap analysis of NDF materials and guidance."
10.2	<p>Results of the 'International expert workshop on non-detriment findings for hunting trophies of certain African species included in CITES Appendices I and II'</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 10.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by the European Union. Provides the results of a workshop held in Seville, Spain, 26-29 April 2018. Reports that consensus was reached on several scientific variables that can inform and guide making of NDFs and the sustainable management of key trophy species. Invites AC to, <i>inter alia</i>, be informed of a proposed second workshop, and consider the relevance of the outcomes to Resolutions and Decisions on NDFs, hunting trophies, livelihoods, leopards, rhinos and lions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC not consider the relevance of the outcomes of this meeting to Resolutions and Decisions on NDFs because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop attendees were primarily from the trophy hunting industry, and included few independent scientists and experts on the species discussed; Attendees did not form a consensus on scientific variables that can inform and guide making of NDFs; Attendees disagreed with many of the conclusions and recommendations in the workshop results document; Attendees were given very little time to review and comment on the results document, and many participants' comments were not included; Economic considerations have no role in NDF decisions, which should be science-based; The results document confuses NDF requirements with stricter domestic measures and "best hunting management practice guidelines;" and The results document promotes the use of 'conditional NDFs' although such findings would contravene CITES requirements.
11. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.

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on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)			
12. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species			
12.1	Overview of the Review of Significant Trade AC30 Doc. 12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i> (hereafter RST) directs the Secretariat to report at each meeting of AC on the implementation by the range States concerned of the recommendations made by AC. Provides information on <i>Python reticulatus</i> from Malaysia. Presents a list of species for which the Review is ongoing, including an indication of the current status of the Review (Annex). Invites AC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note the document. With regard to <i>Python reticulatus</i> from Malaysia, SSN notes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No population data are available for Malaysia on which scientifically-based NDFs or export quotas could be based. The quota published is for Peninsular Malaysia only; the true origin of skins in trade is unclear. The species has been reported in illegal trade from protected areas, regions in Malaysia with trade restrictions in place and from neighboring countries.^{1,2}
12.2	Species selected following CoP17 AC30 Doc. 12.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding species selected at AC29, provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses of the range States (Annex 1); and UNEP-WCMC's species report (Annex 2) including recommended categorizations. <i>Inter alia</i>, the report recommends that the following species/country combinations be classified as 'Action is needed': <i>Balearica pavonina</i> (black-crowned crane), Mali; <i>Amazona farinosa</i> (Mealy Amazon parrot), Guyana, Suriname; <i>Ara ararauna</i> (blue and gold macaw), Guyana, Suriname; <i>Ara chloropterus</i> (red and green macaw), Guyana, Suriname; <i>Poicephalus gularis</i> (red-fronted parrot), Democratic Republic of Congo; <i>Uromastix geyri</i> (Saharan spiny-tailed lizard), Mali; <i>Cuora amboinensis</i> (South Asian box turtle), Indonesia; <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> (European eel), Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC agree to the recommendations in the species report. Regarding species for which significant numbers of wild specimens are reported in trade from non-range countries (e.g. <i>Poicephalus gularis</i> (Mali); <i>Uromastix geyri</i> (Benin, Ghana, Togo)), SSN agrees that the matter should be referred to the SC, and recommends that AC urge the SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider such exports as a separate agenda item at SC70; and Direct the Secretariat to communicate with the exporting and importing countries regarding this trade to request information on compliance with Article IV of CITES.
12.3	►► Country-wide significant trade reviews AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.111 directs AC/PC to explore the benefits and disadvantages of the country-wide significant trade reviews. Provides a report on evaluation of the country-wide significant trade review process (Annex). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN believes that the significant trade review process has too narrow a focus to be useful for a country with broad systemic problems related to wildlife trade. The RST relates only to the making of NDFs, and does not examine CITES administration in the country as a whole including issues related to illegal trade. A country-wide review, if useful at all, should be more analogous to the proposed Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) [Decision 17.66] than to the RST. SSN recommends that, if country-wide reviews are re-

1 https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/2016/natusch_et_al_2016_sustainable_management_of_the_trade_in_reticulated_python_skins.pdf

2 Malaysia's Management and Scientific Authorities. INFORMATION ON PENINSULAR MALAYSIA'S NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS APPROACH FOR TRADE IN RETICULATED PYTHON (*Python reticulatus*) SKINS

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			initiated, they should be delinked from should not draw resources from, the RST.
13. Captive-bred and ranched specimens			
13.1	<p>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 13.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on first iteration of RC 17.7 on <i>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i>, including rationale for species/country selection (Annex 1) and responses from selected Parties (Annex 2; no responses received from Sudan). • Provides reviews (Annex 3) by Species360 of known information on breeding biology, captive husbandry and relevant impacts of removal of founder stock from the wild for selected species. • Invites AC to review responses received and, with the Secretariat, formulate draft recommendations and other advice for consideration by the SC. • Requests comments from AC on presentation and content of species information sheets (Annex 3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN notes that successful, cost-effective, large-scale commercial breeding to F2 is unlikely for many species (e.g., mammals, birds, and most reptiles) reviewed in Annex 3; code C is likely misused for these species. • [Annex 2 not available at the time of writing]
13.2	<p>Observations and recommendations on the first iteration of RC 17.7 on Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 13.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 17.103 directs the Secretariat to provide recommendations regarding the first iteration of RC 17.7. • Notes that external funding may not be able to sustain implementation of RC 17.7. • Suggests, <i>inter alia</i>, reconsidering selection criteria in paras. 2(a)(iv) and (v), and amending RC 17.7 by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changing 60-day response deadline for Parties to “in time for consideration at the following meeting of the Animals Committee”; ▪ Adding paragraphs to avoid overlap with other compliance processes. • Suggests replacing Dec. 17.103, 17.105 and 17.107 in light of above. • Invites AC to consider if it wishes to prepare a substantive report on the first iteration of RC 17.7 for submission to the SC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN stresses the importance of implementing RC 17.7 and urges the Parties to find permanent funding mechanisms for its implementation. • SSN believes that it is too early, after only one selection exercise, to judge usefulness of criteria and to prepare a substantive report; this should be postponed. • SSN agrees that overlap with other compliance processes should be avoided but suggests replacing “DIRECTS” with “RECOMMENDS that” in the proposed added paragraphs; AC and SC should retain discretion to act in special cases; for greater clarity “not to select cases” should read “not to select such combinations.” • SSN suggests rejecting the Secretariat’s proposal to change the deadline, as it is vague and unenforceable.
13.3	<p>Non-detriment findings for specimens with source codes W, R and F</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 13.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by AC Chair on behalf of the intersessional working group on captive breeding. • Reports that the Secretariat could not secure funding for broad study to assist the working group in implementation of Dec. 17.104, but did provide information including case studies. • Reviews existing guidance on NDFs considered by working group. • Invites AC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note the document; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN supports the recommendations of the working group but suggests also including a request for Source Code F in para. b) and amending para. c) slightly to clarify that the comparative review should compare NDFs: “a comparative review of NDFs for specimens.”

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the Secretariat to seek further case studies from Parties using source code R, include a comparative review of specimens from source codes F and R with those taken from the wild (source code W), and develop NDF guidance when using those source codes in the agenda of any NDF workshop mandated by CoP18. Provides list of species for which source code R has been used with purpose T (Annex 1) and responses to Notification 2018/032 from Australia and Mexico on making NDFs for specimens with source codes R and F (Annex 2). 	
<p>►► 14. Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.89 directs the Secretariat to review 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 to wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA</i> to wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA; Decision 17.90 directs AC/PC to review Secretariat's report. Provides: Terms of reference (ToR) for the review (Annex 1); responses from Parties to Notification 2018/013 requesting information (Annex 2); overview of different technologies (Annex 3), identification and distinction of products (Annex 4) and a partial draft of the report (Annex 5). Recommends, <i>inter alia</i>, that AC/PC review the draft and endorse the term "synthetic biology" in lieu of "specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC use a general term such as "alternatively produced specimens" rather than "synthetic biology," which does not include specimens produced from natural stem cells. SSN notes that the draft report only addresses part of the ToR, and urges AC/PC to stress that the final report should focus primarily on issues of specific concern to CITES as set out in the ToR; these include production of genetically or physically identical replicas of specimens (such as rhino horn, elephant ivory, and pangolin scales). The report should avoid conclusions on the impacts, positive or negative, of producing such specimens. The positive impacts assumed in the report disregard conservation concerns noted by scientists, economists, and advocates. <small>3,4,5,6,7</small>
<p>15. Quotas for leopard hunting trophies</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.114 requests Parties with quotas established pursuant to RC10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use</i> to review the quotas to determine if they are not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, and to share outcomes with AC30. Decision 17.115 directs AC to consider information submitted and other relevant information, and make recommendations to the range States and the SC. The Secretariat wrote to the 12 relevant Parties in March 2017 and April 2018 requesting information. Malawi stated that its leopard population was healthy when its quota was set but is now very low, and recommends its quota be removed or suspended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The leopard is designated as Vulnerable (IUCN 2016). Most quotas in RC 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) had no scientific basis when established; some have not been reviewed for 30 years despite leopard populations becoming increasingly threatened; such quotas undermine the scientific credibility of CITES. SSN urges AC to recommend to SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quotas be removed from RC 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) unless a recent, scientifically sound, transparent NDF, based on a species management plan, demonstrates that the quotas are not detrimental to the survival of the species, and the specific populations to which the quotas relate, in the wild; Quota for Malawi be removed as requested;

3 <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/E-CoP17-Inf-22.pdf>

4 http://www.rhinosourcecenter.com/pdf_files/146/1463925428.pdf

5 https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Douglas_Crookes/publication/318646674_Does_a_reduction_in_the_price_of_rhino_horn_prevent_poaching/links/59800b33aca272d56819fbbd/Does-a-reduction-in-the-price-of-rhino-horn-prevent-poaching

6 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20337676>

7 http://www.rhinosourcecenter.com/pdf_files/146/1463925428.pdf

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides (Annexes 1-6) responses of 6 range states: Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Invites AC to consider the information provided and make recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quotas for range States that did not submit information to AC be removed; and RC 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) be amended to include a procedure requiring any Party wishing to retain its leopard quota to provide a recent science-based NDF at each CoP to justify or revise the current quota, and that all matters related to establishment, continuance or revision of leopard quotas be approved by a two-thirds majority.
16. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' AC30 Doc. 16 (Rev. 1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.178 directs the Secretariat to report to AC and SC on the history and implementation of RC 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'</i>, and Article III, paras. 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. Decision 17.179 directs AC to consider the Secretariat's report and develop guidance, as appropriate, for consideration by SC and CoP. Summarizes history of RC 11.20 and amendments, and responses of 11 Parties to Notification 2018/033 requesting information on implementation of RC 11.20 and Article III paras. 3(b) and 5(b). Concludes that Parties did not report problems with implementation, except for provisions relating to <i>in situ</i> conservation in RC11.20 adopted at CoP17 for which there has not yet been sufficient time to assess their adequacy. Also concludes that some Parties felt that a checklist or best practice guidance would be useful, and suggests elements that might be included in a checklist. Recommends that AC consider: the information in the document and its annex; developing a non-binding checklist; establishing an in-session working group to make recommendations for AC to consider and report to SC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 11 Parties responded to the Notification; from 2007 to 2016, 122 Parties reported imports of 6,533 live Appendix I animals belonging to 133 species (source: CITES Trade Database), indicating that the majority of Parties have had to implement Article III para. 3(b) during this period. SSN notes that responses to the Notification from other invited stakeholders, included in AC30 Doc. 16A, do not appear to have formed part of the Secretariat's analysis. SSN urges AC to form an in-session working group to consider this document and to develop generic guidance, taking full account of all responses to the Notification. SSN urges AC to consider SC69 Inf. 36 on live elephant trade, and to recommend that no captive facility should be considered suitably equipped or appropriate and acceptable for live, wild-caught elephants.
17. Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.)			
17.1	Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish AC30 Doc. 17.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports that no relevant export quotas have been communicated to the Secretariat by range States of shared wild stocks of Acipenseriformes species in accordance with the procedures set out in RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish</i>. Invites AC to note this document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note this document.
17.2	Identification of sturgeons and paddlefish	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC consider the recommendations of the Secretariat.

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	specimens in trade AC30 Doc. 17.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and monitoring its conduct. • Reports that no external funding for the study has been identified. • Provides a list of recently published related studies (Annex). • Invites AC to comment on the list of studies; and make recommendations to SC70 with regard to Decision 16.137, including, possibly, its deletion. 	
18. Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)			
18.1	Report of the Secretariat AC30 Doc. 18.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.186 directs the Secretariat to contract consultants to undertake studies on <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> (European eel) and unlisted eel species. • Decision 17.188 directs AC to consider these studies and other related information and provide recommendations to ensure the sustainable trade in <i>Anguilla</i> species, to Parties and CoP18. • Provides studies on the implementation of CITES Appendix II listing for <i>A. anguilla</i> (Annex 1); the status of unlisted species of anguillid eels (Annex 2); and a report of a technical workshop on eels (Annex 3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC provide the SC, for CoP18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The recommendations of the reports in the form of a Resolution and/or Decisions, to be adopted by the Parties; and ▪ A Decision, for adoption, that recommends that range States of <i>Anguilla</i> species consider the preparation of a listing proposal for the genus for submission to CoP19.
18.2	Report of the workshop of range States of the American eel AC30 Doc. 18.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by Canada, Dominican Republic and USA. • Provides the result of the workshop regarding <i>A. rostrata</i> (Annex). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC provide the SC, for CoP18, the recommendations of the report in the form of a Resolution and/or Decisions, to be adopted by the Parties.
18.3	Report from the 2nd meeting of the range States for the European eel (<i>A. anguilla</i>) under the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) AC30 Doc. 18.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by the Secretariat on behalf of CMS. • Provides the results of the meeting (Annex). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC review the report to consider ways in which CITES and CMS can cooperate in management and conservation of this and other eel species.
	19. Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae) AC30 Doc. 19	<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 the SC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC establish the in-session working group.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that the study will be made available at the present meeting. • States that AC may wish to establish an in-session working group to prepare recommendations to SC70. 	
20. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) AC30 Doc. 20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Conservation and management of sharks, inter alia</i>, directs AC, if necessary, to make species-specific recommendations to CoPs on improving the conservation status of sharks. • Provides the responses (Annex 1) to a Notification requesting Parties to provide relevant information for this report. • Provides data (Annex 2) on the trade in these species since 2000, noting that species of the genus <i>Sphyrna</i> make up the largest portion of commercial trade in CITES-listed shark and rays. • Invites AC to report progress on shark and ray activities and make species-specific recommendations to the CoP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC urge all exporting Parties to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share their NDFs for these species on the CITES shark portal. ▪ Use the database of measures on conservation and management of sharks. ▪ Share best practices when doing a Legal Acquisition Finding for sharks and rays; and consult the NGO guidance on Legal Acquisition Findings. • Regarding trade in <i>Sphyrna</i> spp., SSN recommends that AC urge Mexico (57,105.88 kg exported / 77.11% of total exports by kilo 2014-2016), El Salvador (7,473.21 kg / 10.1%) and Nicaragua (1,437.11 kg / 1.9%) to provide their NDFs for these species to AC • SSN recommends that AC review available NDFs and provide species/country-specific recommendations. • In 2015-2016, Hong Kong the main importer of hammerhead fins, imported 44,333.78 kg (59.7%) of a global total of 74,243.78 kg. • SSN notes that Florida International University has developed a rapid and inexpensive mobile field DNA test which, with identification tools provided by Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International and The Pew Charitable Trusts, will help address some of the implementation challenges identified by Parties
21. Banggai cardinalfish (<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>)			
21.1	Report of the Secretariat AC30 Doc. 21.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.262 directs AC to review Indonesia's progress on measures to ensure sustainability of trade in <i>P. kauderni</i> and the results of a study to assess the impact of international trade on its conservation status. • Reports that the Secretariat will provide an oral report at AC30 on the study's main findings. • Invites AC to review information available and develop recommendations for AC30. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that AC review the available information. • SSN notes that <i>P. kauderni</i> (Endangered (IUCN 2007)) is highly prized in the aquarium trade; an estimated 1,000,000 specimens are collected each year for the ornamental fish trade.⁸ Declines as high as 90% are reported⁹ with extirpation of several populations.¹⁰ SSN recommends that AC encourage Indonesia to seek listing of the species in the CITES Appendices; listing would complement national management strategies.

8 Conant, T.A. 2015. Endangered Species Act Status Review Report: Banggai cardinalfish, *Pterapogon kauderni*.

9 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5932e.pdf>

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

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
21.2	Indonesia's progress report AC30 Doc. 21.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Indonesia. Decision 17.259 directs Indonesia to report to AC regarding its measures to ensure the sustainability of international trade in the species. Provides a report on Indonesia's management measures, including restocking specimens. Invites AC to provide comments and suggestions on these management measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage importing Parties to collect more complete information on imports, including the source (wild, captive-bred) of imported specimens. Recommend that restocking be carried out only in areas within its native range where <i>P. kauderni</i> have been extirpated in order to avoid genetic contamination of extant populations. The "T0 Survey" (of only half the known population) should serve only as a reference for regular surveys.
22. Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>) AC30 Doc. 22		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.287 directs AC to provide advice regarding the making of NDFs for <i>S. gigas</i>, if requested. Decision 17.288 directs AC to review the process for setting scientific quotas for <i>S. gigas</i>. Provides responses of Parties (Annex 1) to a Notification requesting information on quotas and scientific research, and a document from Jamaica on scientific quotas (Annex 2). Invites AC to review the process for setting scientific quotas and consider any recommendations; and consider whether Honduras has now fulfilled these commitments (AC22 Inf. 4) regarding management and trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN notes that Honduras, the only range State that responded to the Notification that sets scientific export quotas, reported that it had set an annual scientific export quota of 360 tonnes The AC should advise Honduras to label these exports with purpose code "T" rather than "S" as the specimens are captured, sold and exported by industrial fisheries.¹¹.
23. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>) AC30 Doc. 23		<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. Provides responses of Bulgaria, Georgia, and Turkey (Annex). Reports that trade records for 2014 show the commercial exportation of 3 live specimens of <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> from the wild from Ukraine to Thailand. Invites AC to make recommendations to SC70; and consider inviting Ukraine to provide additional information on the 2014 trade transaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN notes that all three reporting range States indicate that they have not issued export permits for <i>T. t. ponticus</i>. Georgia and Turkey have a general prohibition on take of specimens of this species from the wild. SSN recommends that AC request additional information from Ukraine on its trade in <i>T. truncatus</i>.
24. African wild dog (<i>Lycaon pictus</i>) AC30 Doc. 24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Burkina Faso. Decision 17.238 invites Burkina 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 the Convention of Migratory Species regarding this species. Provides responses of Burkina Faso, Namibia, and South Sudan regarding the related Decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note this document and that further information be reported to future AC/SC meetings as part of any reports of progress of the Initiative. In June 2018, the CMS Scientific Council recommended that Burkina Faso be encouraged to continue to solicit data from Parties in order to inform conservation actions under the joint CITES/CMS African Carnivores Initiative. <i>L. pictus</i> is classified as Endangered by IUCN (2012) and is not listed in the CITES Appendices.

11 https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/queen_conch/docs/Actions%20QC%20Honduras%20SAG%20933-2016%20GACETA.pdf

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
25. African lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>) AC30 Doc. 25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.241 directs the Secretariat 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 management practices; support capacity building in lion conservation/management; and report on progress to AC30. Decision 17.242 directs AC to consider the report of the Secretariat, and submit recommendations to SC70 and the African lion range states. Provides an update on the Secretariat's work re Decision 17.241 and a report on <i>The Legal and Illegal Trade in African Lions</i> (Annex) which states, "...there are indications that a perception of increasing value and demand in Asia is going to lead to increased poaching." Reports that an African lion range State meeting is tentatively scheduled for November/December 2018. Invites AC to: review the Secretariat's update and report; submit recommendations to SC70; and consider requesting the Secretariat to prepare recommendations for SC70 following the proposed lion range State meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC strike an in-session working group. Regarding the report in the Annex: SSN notes that the legal trade in lion bones provides laundering opportunities for tiger bones in Asian markets; SSN urges AC to take any updates to this report and any other new information into account during its deliberations. Regarding recommendations for CoP18, SSN urges AC to ensure that these fully reflect the outcomes of AC30, SC70, the proposed range State meeting. SSN notes that the report of the International Expert Workshop referred to in paragraph 19 (AC30 Doc. 10.2) does not represent the consensus view of all participants at the workshop, and therefore recommends to AC that this document not be considered in its decision-making (see SSN comments on AC30 Doc.10).
26. Great apes (Hominidae spp.) AC30 Doc. 25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.232 directs the Secretariat to prepare a report on the status of great apes and the relative impact of illegal trade and other pressures on their status. Provides a draft report (Annex) that recommends, <i>inter alia</i>, directing the Secretariat to examine CITES permits issued for great apes, including all permits for trade of potentially wild caught great apes (source code W, U or I), for discrepancies in reported import/export figures; and notes that "wild-caught great apes are not acceptable for trade among zoos, safari parks or other educational or scientific institutions except under extraordinary circumstances." Invites AC to provide feedback on the draft report to the Secretariat for submission to SC70, and to consider establishing an in-session working group for this purpose. draft to the Secretariat for submission to SC70, and to consider establishing an in-session Working Group for this purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN urges AC to establish an in-session working group and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose that RC 13.4 (Rev. CoP16), on <i>Conservation of and trade in great apes</i>, be amended to include recommendations from the report aimed at improving enforcement and curbing illegal exports of great apes, and to include lesser apes (family Hylobatidae). Amend recommendation 14 to read: "Encourage more investigation into domestic and cross-border trade in bushmeat, and encourage subsequent monitoring of any bushmeat alternative initiatives to determine efficacy." Add a recommendation to Parties to: "Encourage more investigation into domestic and cross border trade in live apes and ape body parts, and national and district level action to address the poaching leading to apes in trade." Include data on trade records and seizures and relevant information from TRAFFIC's assessment of the ape trade in Southeast Asia¹² in the final report.
27. Snakes (Serpentes spp.)			
27.1	Conservation, sustainable use of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports on interdisciplinary workshop for CITES authorities and other stakeholders of range States of Asian snake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC take note of this document.

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	and trade in snakes AC30 Doc. 27.1	<p>species in international trade held in Bogor, Indonesia (1-4 May 2018).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites AC to take note of this document and provide comments as appropriate on the activities conducted by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 17.284. 	
27.2	Information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo AC30 Doc. 27.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.276 encouraged Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo to implement measures for certain snake species and report to the Secretariat in time for AC30. As of May 2018 only Indonesia had submitted a report (Annex 1), which had already been presented in SC69 Doc. 62 Annex 1. The Secretariat suggests that Decision 17.276 could lead to confusion, duplicative recommendations, or interference with the Review of Significant Trade, and notes that <i>Calabaria reinhardtii</i> and <i>Python regius</i> were not selected for review. Invites AC to review the Indonesian report and make recommendations to the SC as appropriate; and to make recommendations to the SC concerning Benin, Ghana, Honduras, and Togo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN is concerned that no reports have been received from Benin, Ghana, Honduras or Togo and urges AC to direct the Secretariat to continue to request such reports, and to recommend that the SC set a deadline for responding so that appropriate decisions may be taken at CoP18. SSN notes that Decision 17.276 addresses issues (including poaching, enforcement and regulatory control) that go beyond the scope of the Review of Significant Trade. <i>Python regius</i> was not selected for RST in part because the species was already subject to review under Decision 17.276, even though <i>Python regius</i> from Togo is not covered by that decision. SSN is concerned that Indonesia's submission does not address reports¹³ that wild-caught <i>Morelia viridis</i> have been exported in large numbers as captive-bred.
	28. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) AC30 Doc. 28	<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. Provides additional guidance on techniques to survey and monitor wild populations of these species. Notes that generic guidance on size and age restrictions is extremely difficult, if not impossible; size-and /or age-restrictions should therefore be species-specific. Invites AC to note this document and consider the information provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC note this document.
29. Periodic Review of the Appendices			
29.1	Overview of species under Periodic Review AC30 Doc. 29.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Periodic review of the Appendices</i>, <i>inter alia</i>, directs the Secretariat to maintain a list of previously reviewed species, including review dates and links to appropriate documents. Lists animal species selected for review between CoP13 and 15, 15 and 17, and 16 and 18 (Annexes 1-3, respectively); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC adopt the recommendations in the document.

13 https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/28/E-AC28-14-01_Annex3.pdf

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	<p>summarizes cases from Annexes 1-3 (Annex 4); and provides species selected for review between CoP17 and 19 (Annex 5).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites AC to note this document and consider the six reviews provided in AC30 Doc. 29.2 	
<p>29.2</p> <p>Species Review</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 29.2.1-29.2.6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents reports and draft amendment proposals from Australia, recommending precautionary transfer to Appendix II of the following taxa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dasyornis broadbenti litoralis</i> (Western rufous bristlebird) subspecies extinct (last record 1906) (29.2.1). <i>D. longirostris</i> (Western bristlebird): survives in a few areas of SW Australia; chief threat habitat loss; no record of trade (29.2.2). <i>Leporillus conditor</i> (greater stick-nest rat): survives on offshore islands only; no record of trade (29.2.3). <i>Pseudomys fieldi</i> (hark Bay mouse): survives naturally on one offshore island; chief threat predation by introduced species; no record of trade (29.2.4). <i>Xeromys moides</i> (false water-rat): habitat loss chief threat; no record of trade; also recorded from Papua New Guinea (29.2.5). <i>Zyzyomys pedunculatus</i> (central rock rat): fire and predation by feral cats chief threat; no record of trade (29.2.6). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recognizes that none of these taxa are or are likely to be affected by trade, and supports their precautionary transfer to Appendix II. SSN urges Australia to continue to enhance conservation efforts for surviving populations of these taxa.
<p>30. Proposals for possible consideration at CoP18</p>		
<p>30.1</p> <p>Draft proposal for the inclusion of the subgenus <i>Holothuria</i> (<i>Microthele</i>) in Appendix II</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 30.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by the European Union. Involves four coastal, shallow-water species of sea cucumber (teatfish) from Indo-Pacific reef ecosystems (East African coast to Polynesia). Populations are depleted or overexploited in most range countries. Main threat is overfishing to meet demand for use in various luxury cuisines. Most sea cucumbers are imported into Asia, mainly via Hong Kong SAR, Singapore and Taipei, and re-exported to other countries. The global sea cucumber fishery has grown from 4,300 tons in 1950 to a record 23,400 tons in 2000, falling to 18,900 tons in 2001. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC support the proposal. The high commercial value of these species, the ease with which shallow-water forms can be harvested, and their vulnerability due to their biology and population dynamics combined have contributed to overexploitation and collapse of the fishery in some regions.
<p>►► 31. Appendix-III listings</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 31/PC24 Doc. 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Joint AC/PC intersessional working group on Appendix III listings. Decision 17.305 directs AC/PC to advise the SC working group on possible guidance for range States on characteristics of species that may benefit from inclusion in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that AC/PC adopt this report.

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION	SSN RECOMMENDATION
	<p>Appendix III.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides biological and trade characteristics for listing. • Raises issues involving changes of nomenclature for species listed in Appendix III. • Considers it appropriate for AC/PC to assist in the review of a species in Appendix III if requested by the listing Party. • Requests AC/PC to adopt this report for consideration by the SC in its work on Appendix III listings. 	
<p>32. Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 32</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the Nomenclature Specialist (Fauna). • Reports on tasks directed to AC at CoP17, including a new standard reference for lions (<i>Panthera leo</i>), identification of CITES-listed corals in trade (Annexes 1a and 1b), use of online taxonomic databases, and bird family and order names. • Recommends deliberation on minimizing inclusion in the Appendices of scientific names based on domesticated forms. • Concludes that no comprehensive standard reference for <i>Ovis</i> (wild sheep) currently exists, and suggests alternatives. • Also notes ongoing issue of nomenclatural changes for Appendix III species, and overlooked description of the scorpion <i>Pandinus camerounensis</i>. • Suggests that AC re-establish its Nomenclature working group to address these issues. • Presents UNEP-WCMC report on new species and other taxonomic and nomenclature changes (Annex 2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN supports re-establishing the Nomenclature working group at AC30. • SSN urges AC to recommend the BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World as the new standard reference for birds. • SSN agrees that ways should be found to list wild species under separate names from their domestic relatives. • SSN urges AC to work with the SC to clarify the effect of nomenclature changes on the implementation of Appendix III. • SSN recommends that <i>P. camerounensis</i> be considered to be listed on Appendix II based on the standard reference cited in this document.
<p>33. Annotations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>34. Regional reports</p> <p>AC30 Doc. 34.3-34.6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional reports for Central and South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America and Oceania are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>35. Any other business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>36. Time and venue of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>37. Closing remarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.



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