



**SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT
THE SIXTY-NINTH MEETING OF
THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE**
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND • 27 November-1 December 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
1. Adoption of the agenda SC69 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. Adoption of the working programme SC69 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. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure SC69 Doc. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.2 directs the SC to review its Rules of Procedure (RoP) and align them as closely as possible with the CoP RoP. Provides proposed changes to the RoP of SC65 (Annex 1) and provides revised RoP with edits included (Annex 2); changes, <i>inter alia</i>, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacing “alternate regional member” with “acting regional member” to clarify that the alternate member will only exercise the rights of the Member under the rules if the regional member is not present; Deleting requirement that observers be approved by the Chair; Clarifying that credentials may be valid for only one meeting; Placing limitations on the number of Party delegates and observers that can be seated in plenary; Clarifying that official Inf. documents can only be submitted by Parties and the Secretariat (As per CoP RoP); Requiring a quorum at any time; Limit the right to make a point of order to Members; Adopting the CoP RoP regarding working groups; and That all decisions made by the SC enter into force on the last day of the meeting rather than when summary is endorsed. Requests the SC to adopt the RoP in Annex 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN supports most of the recommendations of the Secretariat, and appreciates its observation that “the contribution of observers to the SC meetings has enriched proceedings and increased transparency.” However, SSN strongly urges the SC to amend proposed Rule 12, paragraph 3, to read “...Information documents submitted by Parties, NON-PARTIES, OBSERVERS and by the Secretariat relating to specific items on the agenda of the meeting shall be numbered by the Secretariat and included in its list of official documents,” and to recommend that this change also be made to the RoP of the CoP. The key criterion for including Inf. Docs as official documents should be their relevance to items on the agenda rather than their source, and Inf. Docs submitted by observers have already been accepted at meetings of the AC.
4. Credentials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
5. Admission of observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available at the time this document was prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.

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6. Election of the Alternate Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
7. Financial matters SC69 Doc. 7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides (Annexes 1-7), Financial report on costed programme of work for the CITES Secretariat for 2016; Financial report on costed programme of work for the CITES Secretariat for 2017 as of 31 July 2017; CITES Trust Fund contributions as of 31 December 2016; CITES Trust Fund contributions as of 31 July 2017; CITES Trust Fund annual distribution of the unpaid contributions as of 31 July 2017; and Statement of income and expenditure for the CITES Trust Fund account for 2016. Requests the SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the reports on the costed programme of work for the full year of 2016 and for 2017 for the period up to 31 July 2017; Note the overspending related to security costs at governing and scientific body meetings organized in Geneva; and Approve use of USD 70,000 from 2017 savings for the 50 per cent co-funding of the 4th year extension of the JPO Marine Species Officer in 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
8. Access to funding			
8.1	Global Environment Facility: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update on activities related to the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) in which the Secretariat participated. Reports on a knowledge management webinar on <i>Implementation of electronic CITES permits to improve control of trade in wildlife</i> and International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) related activities that were approved for funding. Invites the SC to note this report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC note this report.
8.2	External funding: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports that, since CoP17, the Secretariat has received confirmation for extra-budgetary contributions from China (including Hong Kong SAR), the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, and USA. Reports that the Secretariat has benefited from seconded staff and other personnel support since CoP17. Reports that there is no funding to organize a Wildlife Donor Roundtable that focuses on the sustainable use of wild fauna and flora. Invites the SC to note this document, welcome the generous support, and encourages Parties to provide support, including for the Wildlife Donor Roundtable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC note this report.
9. Administrative matters			

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9.1	Administrative matters including host country arrangements for the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a report on administrative performance of the Secretariat since CoP17, including host country arrangements for the Secretariat. Invites the SC to take note of this report. Recommends that the SC request the Secretariat to work with UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to get further clarity on the programme support cost allocation and that the Secretariat ensure that the services provided by UNEP are fully consistent with the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC note this document.
9.2	Administrative hosting models for the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
9.3	Administrative hosting models for the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by UNEP. Provides information on administrative and financial management support provided to CITES by UNEP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
10. Revision and replacement of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 SC69 Doc. 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current CITES Strategic Vision expires after CoP18. Decision 17.18 directed the SC to: establish a Strategic Plan Working Group to develop a proposal for a strategic vision for the period after 2020, and any associated action plan and indicators; review progress in implementing the current Strategic Vision; and submit to CoP18. Invites the SC to establish the working group with representation from all regions and from the AC and PC, with a mandate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review progress in implementing the current Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 against the adopted indicators; and Develop a proposal for a Strategic Plan for the period after 2020, associated action plan and indicators, and submit to SC70. Invites the SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree that the next Strategic Plan should run from 2021 to 2030; and Endorse the outline of the next Strategic Plan and related documents (Annex), to be used by the working group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat
11. Rules of Procedure			
11.1	Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Con-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.1 directs the SC to review rules of procedure (RoP) of the CoP. Provides background information on rules to be addressed, in- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.

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ference of the Parties SC69 Doc. 11.1	<p>cluding: observers (4); credentials (5); quorum (9); procedure for deciding on proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II (25); right to vote (26); secret ballot (27); and amendment of the RoP (28, 32). Many of the issues addressed in the document relate to a regional economic integration organization (European Union) becoming a Party to the Convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides <i>Proposed amendments to the Rule 23 on Procedure for deciding on proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II, as put forward by the Secretariat in document CoP16 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1) (Annex)</i>. • Recommends that an intersessional working group on review of the RoP of the CoP be established and present results to SC70. 	
11.2 Review of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17): Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.3 directs the SC, with input from AC and PC, to revise, as appropriate, RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Establishment of committees</i>, for consideration at CoP18. • Reports that the AC and PC created an intersessional working group on this issue. • Provides a list of issues to be addressed. • Invites the SC to establish an intersessional working group on RoP to examine related issues, articulate recommendations of the AC and PC; and submit recommendations to revise RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) to SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat and also consider, in its revisions, input from the AC/PC working group on the review of the terms of reference of the AC/PC, as appropriate.
11.3 Adoption by the SC of a Code of Responsibility for NGOs participating in CITES meetings SC69 Doc. 11.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. • States that the SC has the authority to enact a Code of Conduct that would apply at CoP18, under its authorization to carry out “interim activities” under RC 11.1 (Rev CoP 17). • Recommends that the SC enact a <i>Code of Responsibility For Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) at CITES meetings</i>, that, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs not be allowed to distribute documents via pigeonholes at meetings; • NGOs accredited at CITES shall be transparent about any financial assistance they provide to CITES Parties in relation to the implementation and enforcement of the Convention. • Parties subject to offers of financial assistance, by NGOs, for their traveling needs to attend CITES meetings and/or for CITES related projects, report the offer to the Secretariat; and • NGOs accepted as observers to refrain from publicity and posting banners in public areas of the venue of the meeting; this prohibition extends to advertisements in all media including newspapers, radio and TV covering the CITES meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN urges the SC to reject this document. • Article XI par. 7 of the Convention provides no basis for distinguishing NGOs from other categories of observer, including intergovernmental and governmental agencies, once they have been admitted to meetings of the CoP. There is therefore no basis in the text of the Convention for applying a separate code to NGOs only. • Enacting a Code of Conduct governing activities of a meeting of the CoP is not an “interim activity” as the Code would only apply during the course of a meeting. The SC therefore lacks the authority to enact a code that would be binding on meetings of the CoP or other committees. • Some aspects of the proposed Code of Conduct (e.g., on interventions) are already covered by the existing RoPs of the CoP and committees. • Some of the document’s provisions (e.g., requiring Parties to report any financial support provided by NGOs, and the prohibition on NGOs advertising in media) seek to regulate activities not governed by the text of the Convention and not directly relating to the conduct of meetings. Further, requiring NGOs to refrain from publicity reduces the transparency with which CITES meetings should be conducted, and may restrict the distribution of information enhancing public knowledge of the activities and achievements of CITES. • SSN notes that mechanisms are already in place to address many of

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		<p>the purported problems identified in this document. CoP RoP Rule 4 (2), SC RoP 6(1), AC RoP 7(2), PC RoP 7(2) permit the withdrawal of the right of observers to participate if agreed by the requisite number of Parties. In addition, CoP RoP Rule 29 allows for complaints regarding observer participation to be addressed by the Bureau, including those related to distributed documents. In response, the Bureau can propose that the CoP withdraw the right of admission of an organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the document implies that NGO activities have presented problems for the conduct of meetings, meeting chairs have almost invariably commented at the end of meetings that NGO behavior has been helpful and exemplary. • Additionally, RC 17.3 urges Parties whose delegates did not obtain funding from the Sponsored Delegates Project, but benefited from self-funding or funding from another government, international organisations, non-governmental organisations or private bodies for their participation in a CoP meeting to inform the Secretariat about such funding before the relevant CoP meeting and CALLS upon the Secretariat to publish this information before the meeting.
<p>12. Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 16.10 (Rev. CoP17) directs the SC to assess the functioning of the AC and PC conflict of interest policy in RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP17). • Provides examples of conflict of interest procedures under other relevant agreements and organizations. • Invites the SC to request the relevant working group (likely that on RoP) to assess the current conflict of interest policy, make recommendations for refining the definition of conflict of interest and a mechanism to deal with conflicts; and make recommendations to SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>13. Designation and roles of Management Authorities</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that the Secretariat has experienced cases of multiple authorities claiming to be that Party's Management Authority, difficulties in determining which of the Management Authorities in a Party is the one authorized to communicate with other Parties and with the Secretariat, and confusion over which persons are authorized to represent a Party at CITES meetings. • Requests the SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an intersessional working group to prepare a new resolution on Management Authorities, including procedures for their designation, for SC70 and CoP18; and • Encourage Management Authorities to act as registration focal points for upcoming CITES meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>14. Engagement of rural communities in the CITES processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared the SC Chair in consultation with the Secretariat, Namibia and Ethiopia. • Decisions 17.28-17.30 direct the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, establish a regionally-balanced intersessional working group comprised of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN is concerned as to how representatives of rural communities will be chosen, how such a group will be funded, and how the group will operate given that it is closed to observers admitted to the SC meetings but open to unnamed groups without observer status.

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<p>SC69 Doc. 14</p>	<p>Parties and representatives of rural communities to consider how to engage rural communities in CITES processes and present findings to SC70 and CoP18.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the SC to establish the working group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN urges the SC, before establishing a working group, to address these issues so that the group's proceedings are open and transparent and that its membership truly reflects the diversity of interests of rural communities worldwide.
<p>15. Demand reduction: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.47 directs the SC to assess the need for development of CITES guidance on demand-reduction strategies and make recommendations for consideration at CoP18. Decision 17.48 directs the Secretariat, <i>inter alia</i>, subject to funding, to: contract a consultant to report on best practices and challenges for demand reduction strategies to combat wildlife trafficking; convene an expert workshop for Parties to review the report and make recommendations to SC; support Parties in implementing these strategies; and report on enhancing the effectiveness of demand reduction to SC69 and SC70. Provides the responses of Parties to CITES Notification No. 2017/038 on their demand reduction efforts; funding is being sought for preparation of the Secretariat's report. Secretariat notes its concern that the term "demand reduction" has been used in reference to <u>legal</u> trade, whereas RC 17.4 refers to <u>illegal</u> trade only, and invites the SC to encourage Parties to clearly distinguish between legal and illegal wildlife products when undertaking demand reduction initiatives; and replace "demand reduction" in the title of future documents with wording such as "Strategies to reduce demand for illegally sourced wildlife products" or "Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species" (title of RC 17.4). Invites the SC to "agree that a CITES guidance on demand reduction strategies is needed". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand reduction campaigns need to be tailored to the country and species involved and to the consumer profile. Many resources are already available to help Parties determine what will work best for them, and further guidance may not be necessary. If the SC determines that guidance is needed, it should be developed in consultation with Parties and organizations that have already demonstrated success in reducing demand. Any decision on guidance should be made <i>after</i> the review and expert workshop called for in Decision 17.48. SSN disagrees with the Secretariat's comments in paragraph 10 that Parties and others should not reduce demand for <u>legal</u> trade. Much 'legal' trade is detrimental to the survival of species, and as the Significant Trade Review has shown, is actually illegal, or stimulates demand for illegal trade in the species concerned. Reducing demand for such trade is in the interest of conservation. SSN disagrees that the term "demand reduction" be avoided, as it is already widely and appropriately used for both legal and illegal trade. SSN strongly objects to the Secretariat's suggestion, previously rejected by the Parties, that CITES-listed wildlife and wildlife products in legal trade be labelled as "eco-friendly" or "eco-certified", as any certification scheme would require an unacceptable investment of resources to ensure that it is not misused.
<p>16. Livelihoods and food security</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by China and the Secretariat. Decisions 17.41-17.43 direct the SC to consider the proposed resolution on <i>Food security and livelihoods</i> (CoP17 Doc.17), "invite the proponents of the resolution, ...to develop a revised version for consideration by the SC"; and provide recommendations to CoP18. Recommends that the SC establish a CITES livelihoods and food security working group to consider a stand-alone resolution on this issue, incorporation into existing resolutions, or implementation through other means; and report to SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN urges the SC to reject this document. The draft resolution in CoP17 Doc. 17 misstates the purpose of CITES by stating that its aim is "conservation of renewable resources" and that CITES "naturally adheres" to UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Strategic Objectives, including efficient agriculture and disaster relief. In its comments, the Secretariat noted that "CITES is an autonomous convention with its own governance processes and does not systematically incorporate into its work the outcomes of FAO or other processes", and commented that existing CITES mechanisms already deal with these issues where relevant. The draft resolution would require CITES to incorporate "food and nutrition security, preservation of cultural identity and security of livelihoods" into listing decisions, conflicting with both the Convention text and the CITES Listing Criteria. CITES already conserves food resources for poor communities by reducing unsustainable and illegal international trade in wild species,

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			<p>thereby ensuring populations of wild species may continue to meet human needs for food, cultural and livelihood uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no need for a resolution on this issue or for the establishment of the working group.
17. Livelihoods			
17.1	<p>Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 17.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the Secretariat. • Decisions 17.36 to 17.40, <i>inter alia</i>, invite Parties to promote the use of the CITES and livelihoods toolkit, guidelines and handbook and direct the Secretariat to facilitate work on livelihoods issues including, <i>inter alia</i>, organizing workshops and updating the relevant portion of the CITES website. • Reports that the Secretariat will work with the Management Authority of China to organize a workshop on CITES and livelihoods in 2018. • Suggests that “a review of trade by the main exporting countries where there exist poor rural communities may be worth considering” and that “Parties and other stakeholders could consider how to better educate consumers to differentiate between legal and sustainable trade and illegal trade in CITES-listed wildlife and wildlife products.” • Invites the SC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN urges the SC to reject the proposed trade study as it is unnecessary and a waste of resources; the Secretariat should instead devote its resources to undertaking studies already directed to it by Decisions of the Parties. It is unclear what purpose the proposed study is expected to serve; the Secretariat notes only that it may “potentially benefit rural communities due to the pattern of harvesting, etc.” • Educating consumers about wildlife trade is important, but this topic is better addressed under agenda items dealing with enforcement and demand reduction.
17.2	<p>Report on the CITES and livelihoods workshop</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 17.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by China, Peru and South Africa in consultation with the Secretariat. • Provides the report (Annex) of a workshop on CITES and livelihoods held in South Africa in November 2016. • Workshop recommendations include, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the recognition of the conservation and livelihood benefits from legal and sustainable trade in wildlife; • Making livelihoods considerations part of decision making including amendment proposals and issuance of permits; • Revising RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP17 Annex 6) to include a new section on socio-economic considerations including “justification” for proposals; • Expanding NDFs to include livelihood issues; • Incorporating information on livelihood implications in the Periodic and Significant Trade Reviews; and • Developing an evaluation mechanism to consider the effects on livelihoods of proposed resolutions and decisions. • Requests the SC to consider the recommendations of the workshop and propose a way forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN urges the SC to reject the recommendations of the workshop. Many of the workshop recommendations, if adopted, would undermine the CITES process, conflict with the text of the Convention and existing resolutions, greatly increase the workload of the Secretariat when preparing comments and proposals, and prevent CITES from affording necessary protection to species on which poor communities depend. • The inclusion of livelihood considerations in CITES decision-making processes have been rejected several times in the past, and risks undermining the principle aim of the Convention and diverting scarce resources to issues more appropriately addressed through other instruments or individually by Parties as agreed in RC16.6. • Existing CITES processes already allow governments to consider livelihood issues when making decisions when relevant, without requiring that socioeconomic considerations should <i>a priori</i> displace scientific information, enforcement concerns, or data on trade levels. • Effects of CITES implementation on livelihoods should be dealt with individually by Parties as agreed in RC 16.6. SSN opposes any attempt to allow socioeconomic issues must not disrupt vital CITES functions such as the listing of species, the Review of Significant Trade, or the making of Non-Detriment Findings.
18. Community awareness on wildlife		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.86 directs the Secretariat to, <i>inter alia</i>, contract a consultant to prepare a report on best practices and chal- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that, in order to increase transparency and accountability, all contracts, including this one, be open to proposals

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<p>trafficking: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 18</p>	<p>allenges experienced by Parties in their implementation of strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness about the economic, social and environmental impacts of trafficking in wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that it is the Secretariat's understanding that this is meant to focus on rural communities that live in the immediate vicinity of conservation areas, since work in destination countries is already covered by the work on demand reduction. • States that the Secretariat sees IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi) as best placed to undertake this review; that SULi has recommended an expert and has established a panel within SULi to review the outputs. 	<p>from all interested bodies through a public bidding process.</p>
<p>19. Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.56 directs the SC to explore options to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets, and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. • Provides an update on developments on related activities since CoP17. • Invites the SC to note this document and offer inputs on how the Secretariat could best contribute towards a follow-up framework to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>20. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): Reports of the Secretariat and Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment.
<p>21. Capacity-building needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.34 directs the SC to monitor implementation of activities related to capacity-building, review the work of the AC and PC in this regard, make recommendations on how capacity-building activities specified in Resolutions and Decisions may be consolidated, rationalized and made more coherent; and make recommendations to the CoP. • Provides an update on the Secretariat's work; Decisions and Resolutions related to capacity building (Annexes 1 and 2); and a summary of responses to a Notification on capacity-building (Annex 3). • Invites the SC to note the document, consider different approaches to collect information on and monitor these activities, and provide guidance on whether and how to approach consolidation and rationalization of capacity-building activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC note this document. • SSN supports the Secretariat's suggestion that information collected from capacity-building reports be summarized on the capacity-building page of the CITES website (para. 12).

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<p>22. United Nations World Wildlife Day: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update on the celebration of World Wildlife Day in 2017 and preparations for 2018. Recommends that the SC establish a World Wildlife Day working group that can contribute ideas for the celebration, develop a theme for World Wildlife Day in 2019, and report to SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>23. Follow-up of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth Conservation Programme: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.27 directs the SC to consider a report from the Secretariat on the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth Conservation Programme. Provides a report on these activities. Invites the SC to note the document and thank South Africa and the Youth for Wildlife Conservation for information submitted; encourage South Africa to integrate CITES in its Youth Conservation Programme; and request the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to encourage other Parties to inform the Secretariat of progress made to implement RC 17.5 on <i>Youth engagement</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>24. Arrangements for CoP18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
<p>25. Terminology in relation to rural, indigenous and local communities</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.57 directs the SC to examine terminology used in different Resolutions and Decisions when referring to "rural", "indigenous" or "local" communities, and make recommendations to CoP18. Describes terms used in different Resolutions and Decisions. Invites the SC to request the SC intersessional working group on rural communities to review the need to harmonize the terms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat. SSN notes the difficulties other fora have experienced with these terminologies, and cautions that terms such as "indigenous communities" have differing meanings and legal consequences in different countries; harmonization may obscure these differences in ways that affect domestic implementation of CITES.
<p>26. Review of Resolutions and Decisions: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a list of non-substantive errors in Resolutions and Decisions and a list of Resolutions for which the Secretariat is likely to propose amendments. Invites the SC to agree to the proposed corrections for non-substantive errors, take note of the Secretariat's intention to propose revisions to certain Resolutions; and comment on any further consolidations or corrections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>27. National laws for implementation of the Convention: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.61 directs SC69 to review the progress of Parties in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention. Provides an update on the status of Parties under review and related information. Recommends that the SC congratulate Chile, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Israel, Kuwait and Morocco for having their legislation recently placed in Category 1; identify Botswana, Guinea, Congo, India, the Lao PDR and Uzbekistan as Parties requiring attention as a priority; and consider adoption of compliance measures at SC70. States that the SC may wish to invite the Secretariat to explore organizing a symposium on strengthening legal frame- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.

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		works to combat wildlife crime for Francophone African Parties.	
28. National reports			
28.1	Submission of national reports SC69 Doc. 28.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update on annual reports received. Recommends that the SC determine whether the following Parties have failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years without justification: Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Djibouti, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea Saint Lucia, Angola, Maldives, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. If so, a Notification will be issued instructing Parties to suspend trade with these Parties until they have provided the missing reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
28.2	Improving access to annual report data SC69 Doc. 28.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposes to make the CITES Trade Database available as a downloadable file from the CITES Website with data as submitted by Parties. Invites the SC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC note this document and commend the Secretariat for making more detailed information on CITES trade available.
28.3	Annual illegal trade reports: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 28.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.122 requires the SC to prepare recommendations for CoP18 in response to recommendations of the Secretariat regarding establishment of a global framework to store and manage illegal trade data. Provides: <i>Guidelines for the preparation of the CITES illegal trade report</i> (Annex 1); a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) proposal for a database to store and manage illegal trade data collected from annual illegal trade reports (Annex 2); and requirements to be met concerning the management of this data (Annex 3). As of September 2017, only 13 Parties had submitted an annual illegal trade report. Highlights the importance of these reports, which will contribute directly to implementing the UN General Assembly Resolution on <i>Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife</i>. Invites the SC to: approve the Guidelines; recommend to CoP18 that UNODC be asked to host a database of illegal trade data; endorse requirements in Annex 3; and request the Secretariat to work with UNODC to prepare a detailed proposal to develop the database for SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC welcome this work on annual illegal trade reports and development of the database, which provides an important opportunity for Parties to analyze the extent of illegal trade in CITES species. SSN recommends that the Guidelines in Annex 1 be amended so that annual illegal trade reports are made publicly available on the CITES website (excluding any nominal information). SSN recommends that the SC encourage Parties to provide funding and support for the Secretariat and UNODC, in collaboration with other ICCWC members, to analyze the data submitted in annual illegal trade reports and provide recommendations to the SC. SSN recommends that the SC invite the Secretariat to provide an oral update on the number of Parties who have submitted annual illegal trade reports, due October 31, 2017. SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
29. Compliance matters			
29.1	Compliance report SC69 Doc. 29.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.66 directs the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, consider whether: to establish a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP); further guidance is needed for verifying legal acquisition of CITES specimens to be exported; and make recommendations to CoP18. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC commend the Secretariat for organizing a workshop on legal acquisition findings and adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat with the exception of recommendations regarding <i>B. borealis</i> and <i>P. erinaceus</i>. Regarding <i>B. borealis</i> (Japan):

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that Secretariat has been corresponding with Japan since September 2016 about its persistent (1,400 + whales over 15 years) introduction from the sea (IFS) of Appendix I North Pacific sei whales ((<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>) for primarily commercial purposes without a reservation. Since that date Japan has introduced and commercially sold another 130 sei whales and will introduce and sell up to 134 more in 2018. Secretariat proposes that SC69 endorse further discussion and information gathering including a mission to Japan that would report to SC70. • Regarding trade in kosso (<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>), no response was received from China and Nigeria regarding reports that retrospective permits were issued by Nigeria for imports into China; recommends that the SC should recommend that: Parties should not accept permits or certificates for this species from Nigeria unless confirmed by the Secretariat; and the Secretariat assess the responses provided by China and Nigeria and further report to SC70. • Recommends that Parties not accept permits that refer to Kosovo as country of import, export or re-export as Kosovo is not regarded as a State in relation to the Convention. • Proposes establishment of an intersessional working group on compliance matters to explore ways to establish a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP). • Reports that an international workshop on legal acquisition findings will be held in Brussels, 13-15 June 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 14.3, including the CITES <i>Guide to Compliance Procedures</i>, allows the SC to take measures against non-complying Parties and provides that compliance matters should be handled “as quickly as possible,” especially “where a Party’s compliance matter is unresolved and persistent and the Party is showing no intention to achieve compliance.” • The Secretariat’s recommendations do not reflect the urgency and clarity of this situation: extensive evidence shows that Japan’s use of sei whales is primarily commercial; as a developed country it does not need technical and other assistance; and a mission would be unnecessary and costly. • SSN recommends that the SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a determination <u>at SC69</u> that Japan’s IFS of sei whales violate Article III and that Japan must immediately suspend the IFS of all sei whale specimens; • Recommend that Parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Japan, pursuant to paragraph 30 of the Annex to RC 14.3, until the SC has confirmed that Japan has ceased to introduce parts and derivatives of sei whales; and • Urge Japan to confiscate and destroy all sei whale meat either being offered for sale or in storage awaiting commercial sale. • Regarding <i>P. erinaceus</i>, SSN shares the concerns raised in a recent report about the illegal timber trade in Nigeriaⁱ and recommends that the SC suspend trade in all CITES-listed timber species from Nigeria. • In addition, SSN recommends that the SC recommend that the Secretariat, in cooperation with CITES partner enforcement bodies, conduct a thorough investigation into the export of <i>P. erinaceus</i> from Nigeria to China, and further report to SC70.
29.2	Application of Article XIII	
	<p>29.2.1. Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 29.2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC67 (2016) provided recommendations to Lao PDR regarding compliance, enforcement, NDFs, wildlife farms, etc., and also recommended that Parties suspend commercial trade in rosewood (<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>) from Lao PDR. • Provides information on Secretariat’s visit to Lao PDR, noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suspension of trade/export of logs and sawn wood of <i>D. cochinchinensis</i> has been effective; • There is movement to ratify a revision of the penal code for wildlife crimes; • Lack of progress on: appointing new Management and Scientific Authorities, making NDFs, population surveys or monitoring of wildlife farms, adopting national legislation to implement CITES and enforcing national laws on wildlife protection; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat with these amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding wildlife farms, expand recommendations to include inspections, marking and enforcement for wildlife farms of <i>all</i> CITES-listed species, noting that claimed captive-bred macaque and turtle species have been exported from Lao PDR and that a wildlife trading company is proposing a pangolin breeding facility in the country.ⁱⁱ • Support recommendation to conduct an inventory on tiger farms, but urge Lao PDR to include the three facilities referred to in SC69 29.2.1 as well as the facility at the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zoneⁱⁱⁱ and the facility at LakSao.^{iv} The inventory is urgently required as tigers and their parts and derivatives are still entering domestic and international trade.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant changes in the number of tigers on two farms, from 102 to 235 tigers in one, and from 400 to 97 tigers in another. These changes could not be accounted for by Lao PDR authorities; animals may have been “moved” to other facilities in Lao PDR, China and Viet Nam; • Ivory, rhino horn, tiger and other wildlife specimens are illegally traded in markets in Vientiane, Luang Prabang and the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone; • Ivory stockpiled in Burundi is allegedly leaving Africa via Uganda with Lao PDR as destination; • Ivory carving and production facilities are being moved from China to Lao PDR and African countries; • Live trade in Asian elephants from Lao PDR to China is likely taking place without CITES documentation; and • Leasing of live elephants to China in contravention of legislation in Lao PDR and CITES. • Proposes: updated recommendations to Lao PDR; continuing the suspension of trade in <i>D. cochinchinensis</i> from Lao PDR; and requesting Lao PDR to report on progress to Secretariat. • Regarding tigers, the Secretariat recommends that Lao PDR create a Committee to evaluate options for the phasing out of tiger farms and conduct an inventory, marking scheme and genetic analysis, and that Lao PDR report to the Secretariat by 1 July 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call upon China and Viet Nam to confirm if permits were issued for the import of tigers from Lao PDR and to determine if the specimens were live animals or parts and derivatives. • Remind Lao PDR, China and Viet Nam that as per Decision 14.69, tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives, including domestic trade. • Urge Lao PDR to prohibit by SC70 all legal domestic trade in ivory from wild or captive African and Asian elephants, and shut down ivory stores, markets and processing factories. • Urge Lao PDR to work with relevant countries to investigate the flow of ivory to and through Lao PDR, and prosecute those involved. Lao PDR is now the fastest-growing ivory market in the world, with a significant increase in Chinese-owned retail outlets selling ivory since 2013; most ivory being trafficked is from Africa. • According to Lao PDR’s National Ivory Action Plan, ivory from captive elephants can be legally traded despite the call for closure of domestic markets in RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17). Lao PDR has made no commitment to amend its national legislation to prohibit all trade in ivory sourced from wild or captive elephants. It remains unclear whether applicable laws in Lao PDR protect both African and Asian elephants. • SSN urges the SC to adopt compliance measures at SC69 and if recommendations have not been implemented by SC70, recommend a suspension of trade in CITES-listed species with Lao PDR.
<p>29.2.2 Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 29.2.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC66 adopted recommendations for DRC concerning, <i>inter alia</i>, quota management, issuance of export permits, exports of African grey parrots (<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>) (suspension of commercial trade), trade in Afrormosia (<i>Pericopsis elata</i>) (verify permits). • Reports that, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRC has established a new national CITES Committee; • DRC has not established an information system to verify legal origin of traded specimens, control and monitor quotas, and prepare annual reports; • DRC has not developed a scientifically-based field survey for <i>P. erithacus</i>; illegal trade of the species within and out of DRC continues; • DRC believes that the trade suspension for <i>P. erithacus</i> should not apply to Parties holding a reservation to its listing in Appendix I; • A number of fraudulent permits for pangolins were claimed to originate in the DRC; and • A 2017 report^{vi} states that Kinshasa’s ivory market appears to be flourishing despite increased enforcement activity. • Proposes that the SC recommend: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations regarding an information system and verification of permits. • Regarding <i>P. erithacus</i>: SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat, but amend them also to maintain the recommendations from SC66 and SC67 directing DRC to: develop a scientifically-based field survey and a National Management Plan; and submit results of any field survey to AC. • SSN is concerned that DRC has not shown a concerted effort to address illegal capture and trade in grey parrots or to prosecute those involved in trade. We further note that RC 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) recommends that “any Party having entered a reservation with regard to any species included in Appendix I treat that species as if it were included in Appendix II for all purposes”; this would include the recommended suspension. • Regarding ivory trade, DRC should be identified as a country of ‘primary concern’ and urged to expedite implementation of its NIAP, close its domestic ivory market in accordance with RC 10.10 (Rev CoP17) and report regularly on action taken.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regarding export permits</i>: DRC should: establish an information system to, <i>inter alia</i>, facilitate permit issuance and verify legal acquisition; provide copies of permits and certificates to the Secretariat. • <i>Regarding Psittacus erithacus</i>: Parties that have entered a reservation for <i>P. erithacus</i> should treat it as an Appendix II species, and suspend export permits for commercial and non-commercial trade in wild specimens until they can make scientifically-based NDFs; DRC should implement Decision 17.256 on <i>P. erithacus</i> and not establish experimental export quotas. • <i>Regarding illegal trade</i>: DRC should: urgently implement its National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP); prosecute criminal cases and provide results to Secretariat; work with relevant law enforcement agencies to improve cooperation. • <i>Regarding Pericopsis elata</i>: DRC should urgently implement measures in its NDF report (PC22 Doc. 12.1), including a database to monitor trade volumes; until it is operational, importing Parties should not accept DRC export permits or certificates unless confirmed by the Secretariat. • Suggests revisiting the SC recommendation to suspend commercial trade in <i>P. erithacus</i>, as it is now in Appendix I; and • Suggests requesting that DRC report to the Secretariat in time for SC70. 	
<p>29.2.3 Application of Article XIII in Guinea</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 29.2.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC63 (2013) recommended a suspension of commercial trade with Guinea in response to enforcement concerns. • Reports that a response received from Guinea in August 2017 did not provide clarifications sought by the Secretariat. • Recommends that the SC direct the Secretariat to undertake a technical mission to Guinea and continue to monitor Guinea's progress on these issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat. • SSN notes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2007-2014, Guinea exported more than 5,700 live grey parrots (<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>) despite a 2006 trade suspension recommended under the Review of Significant Trade; and • From 2007-2012, Guinea exported 122 live chimpanzees (<i>Pan troglodytes</i>) and ten gorillas (<i>Gorilla gorilla</i>); the majority claimed to have been bred in captivity although no such facilities exist in the country.
<p>29.3 National ivory action plans process: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 29.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions 17.70 to 17.82 (Annex 1) relate to the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) process; Decision 17.73 directs the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, review reports of Parties already in the process and determine if assistance is required; on the basis of recommendations by the Secretariat, determine whether any Party should continue to participate in the NIAP process. • Provides a summary of progress made under the NIAP process. • Reports that in May 2017, the SC agreed by postal procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN is concerned that progress evaluations by NIAP countries continue to be largely based on self-assessments. Despite progress, response has not been proportionate to the levels of poaching, illegal trade, and corruption involved. There continue to be few investigations and prosecutions following seizures; conviction rate is low (only 19.3% of 150 large-scale seizures from 2000 to July 2017 are known to have resulted in convictions).^{vii} • SSN therefore opposes the 'Substantially achieved' ratings for China, Hong Kong SAR of China, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia,

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>with the Secretariat's recommendations that Malawi and Togo develop a NIAP and Japan, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates not participate in the NIAP process at this time, but deferred decisions on whether or not Qatar, Singapore and Sri Lanka should participate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 27 Parties identified as countries of concern, only 12 (Japan, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Angola, Cambodia, Congo, Gabon, Laos, Mozambique, Malaysia and Thailand) have submitted progress reports to SC69 (Annexes 2-15). • Gives 'Limited progress' rating to Cambodia, Congo, Gabon, Laos; 'Partial progress' rating to Mozambique; and 'Substantially achieved NIAP' rating to China, Hong Kong SAR of China, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Uganda, and Viet Nam. • Secretariat recommends: sending a technical mission to Cambodia; issuing a written caution to Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania requesting that they submit NIAP progress reports within 60 days of the conclusion of SC69 or face compliance measures; that Angola amend its NIAP; that the SC should agree to consider at SC70, based on further progress reports, whether China, Hong Kong SAR of China, Kenya, Philippines and Thailand should exit the NIAP process; and that Malaysia, Uganda and Viet Nam should review their NIAPs. • Recommends that SC: note this document; consider the reports submitted by Parties and the evaluations and recommendations of the Secretariat; and amend Annex 3 to RC10.10 (Rev. CoP17) to change the categories of Concern to "A, B, C" rather than "of primary concern, secondary concern and importance to watch". 	<p>Uganda, and Viet Nam; these countries should be asked to review their NIAPs and improve implementation using CITES NIAP templates and progress reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laos and Mozambique have made few seizures, but may be significant source, transit or destination points in the illegal trade chain^{viii-ix}; they should be identified as countries of primary concern; the SC should request them to revise their NIAPs and expedite implementation. • The ETIS report (SC69 Doc. 51.1 Annex) concludes that Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa and Zimbabwe, currently outside the NIAP process, are heavily implicated in export of commercial consignments of worked ivory to Asia. These three Parties should be required to develop NIAPs that include time-bound actions to prevent processing and illegal export of ivory. • SSN recommends that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC: request the Secretariat to consult ICCWC members and relevant NGOs to assess progress under the NIAP process, particularly in countries that have apparently 'substantially achieved' their NIAPs; refrain from postal voting on NIAPs. • Japan be identified as of 'primary concern' and be requested to develop a NIAP with an urgent commitment to close its domestic ivory market, which contributes to illegal trade with ivory being smuggled to China and elsewhere; fundamental flaws in its domestic ivory trade regulations include registration of whole tusks without proof of legal acquisition and origin. • Singapore, a 'top-10' country for large-scale seizures identified (CoP17 ETIS report) as of 'primary concern', be requested to develop a NIAP with commitments to cooperate with countries in the trade chain to disrupt criminal networks smuggling ivory and to conduct DNA analysis on ivory seizures. • The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) be identified as of 'primary concern' and requested to expedite implementation of its NIAP. DRC was downgraded to "important to watch" without justification; its forest elephant population has declined by approximately 70% since 2006^x. Organized criminal networks are likely sourcing ivory from forest elephants in DRC and other countries^{xi} and Kinshasa has a flourishing ivory market^{xii}.
<p>29.4</p>	<p>Illegal trade in species: Grey parrot (<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>)</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 29.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by the Republic of Congo. • Provides a <i>Report on Poaching and Illegal Trafficking of Grey Parrots in the Republic of Congo</i> that reports, <i>inter alia</i>: • Significant increase in illegal trapping in the north of the country since the listing of the species in Appendix I; • Illegal trade mostly involves DRC and Cameroon nationals; and • More than 870 parrots were seized between 2016 and 2017, requiring significant increase in rehabilitation efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations in this document, noting that lack of enforcement in one country (in this case, the DRC) can have serious conservation and resource implications in neighboring countries.

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposes that the SC, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind Parties of the recommendation to suspend imports of <i>P. erithacus</i> from the DRC; Urge all Parties to be extremely vigilant in accepting re-exports of <i>P. erithacus</i> from the DRC and have these permits verified by the Secretariat; and Remind all Parties that export of captive-bred specimens of this species should comply with RC 12.10 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes</i>. 	
<p>30. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 30</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The determination of implementation of recommendations for <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> (common hippopotamus), <i>Python reticulatus</i> (reticulated python), <i>Hippocampus trimaculatus</i> (three-spot seahorse), <i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i> (slender chameleon) and <i>Kinixys homeana</i> (Home's hinge-back Tortoise) (Annex 1); Comments from the AC (Annex 2); Problems identified by AC and PC not related to implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a) (Annex 3); Results of a survey of <i>H. amphibius</i> in Mozambique (Annex 4); and NDF for <i>P. reticulatus</i> skins by Peninsular Malaysia (Annex 5). Invites the SC to adopt recommendations detailed in Annex 1; consider where action is needed in the cases referred by the AC and PC presented in Annex 3; and note other information in this document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding Annex 1, SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations with these exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding <i>H. amphibius</i>, SSN is concerned that earlier population estimates are dismissed as they “may have been” an overestimate; these could indicate a significant decline of populations in Mozambique; SSN recommends that the SC direct Mozambique to adopt a conservative quota. Regarding <i>P. reticulatus</i>, SSN is concerned that Malaysia is apparently not able to make a science-based NDF; although “harvest could potentially represent between 25% and 89% of the total population”, these estimates are countered by simply stating “that the population is likely to be significantly higher” and proposing use of size limits rather than quotas; SSN recommends that the SC direct Malaysia to adopt a conservative quota and to work with the AC to improve its system of making NDFs. Regarding Annex 3, SSN recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct the Secretariat to indicate in the list of CITES export quotas that Equatorial Guinea is not a range State for <i>Triceros montium</i>; and Request information from Lao PDR on their facilities to produce artificial propagated specimens of orchids <i>Dendrobium chrysotoxum</i> and <i>D. moschatum</i>. SSN commends the Secretariat for providing detailed information in Annex 1 on the decision-making process.
31. Enforcement			
<p>31.1</p> <p>Enforcement matters: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 31.1</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.85 directs the SC to examine mechanisms to facilitate efficient international movement of samples for forensic or enforcement purposes, for consideration by CoP18; explore options to strengthen collaboration between CITES and UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption; report to CoP18. Provides an update on related activities. Recommends that the SC involve the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science in implementing Decision 17.85; note the UNGA resolution on <i>Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife</i>; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.

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	<p>note the High Level Principles on Combating Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products adopted at the G20 Leaders Summit.</p>	
<p>31.2</p> <p>International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 31.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an update to Parties on significant activities conducted under auspices of ICCWC since CoP17, as per RC 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Compliance and enforcement</i>. Invites the SC to note this document and welcome donor support for implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>31.3</p> <p>Combating wildlife cyber-crime: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 31.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.94-17.96 direct the SC to hold a workshop on wildlife cybercrime and, if appropriate, prepare a draft resolution for CoP18; and make recommendations to CoP18. Provides update on related activities, including, <i>inter alia</i>, a summary of responses received from a Notification on wildlife cybercrime, and work with INTERPOL and World Customs Organization (WCO). Believing that reference to a 'workshop' refers to a 'working group', invites the SC to establish an intersessional working group on wildlife cybercrime with ToR proposed by the Secretariat; and draw attention of the Parties to INTERPOL's Cyber Wildlife Crime Investigations course. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>32. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 32</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.101 directs the Secretariat to review ambiguities and inconsistencies in the application of Article VII paragraphs 4 and 5 and a broad array of documents and Resolutions that relate to captive-breeding and artificial propagation; provide the review via Notification for comment; and submit recommendations to the SC. Decision 17.106 directs the SC to review the recommendations and provides it recommendations to CoP18. The Secretariat indicates that it plans to focus its conclusions and recommendations on the "impact of the controls on the status of the species concerned in the wild" and on reducing unnecessary reporting and licensing obligations for Parties. Provides a preliminary draft of the review (Annex). Invites the SC to take note of the contents of the present document and offer its comments on the structure of the provisional draft Review in the Annex to the present document and on the broad subject matters covered and issues raised in it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN is concerned that the draft review is very broad (and that many of the policy issues addressed have been considered by the Parties in the past). SSN notes that CoP17 agreed to a new process to review trade in captive specimens (RC 17.7 on <i>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i>). SSN recommends that the SC indicate to the Secretariat that the review should focus on why the current codes are unevenly applied and how to correct this, rather than propose new principles and policies. SSN urges the SC to recommend that the Secretariat, in conducting the present review, assess carefully the risks that proposed changes could create new loopholes for laundering wild-caught specimens as produced under controlled conditions, have an adverse impact on wild populations, or create lower standards for making non-detriment findings for some wild-caught specimens than for others. Given the breadth of the draft review, SSN recommends that the SC indicate to the Secretariat which issues it considers priorities for action.
<p>33. Asian Big Cats in Captivity</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 33</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports that the Secretariat has not received any spontaneous reports from Parties regarding Asian big cats in captivity and a Notification to Parties may be required. Reports that Secretariat has received funding from the EU to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC: Direct the Secretariat to issue a Notification requesting information relevant to Decision 17.229; Direct the Secretariat to implement Decision 17.229 in time for SC70 to make time-bound, country-specific recommendations for further

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	<p>implement Decision 17.229 (to review legal and illegal trade in captive Asian big cats and to conduct Missions to Parties where there are captive facilities of concern).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat will provide a verbal update on progress in identifying a consultant to conduct the review. 	<p>action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC65 Doc 38 Annex 1 identifies priority countries and examples of problem facilities; SC69 Doc 29.2.1 identifies domestic and international trade in captive tigers, their parts and derivatives as a significant problem between Lao PDR, Vietnam and China. SSN recommends that the consultant review and liaison with ICCWC to identify problem facilities (paras. a and b of Decision 17.229) run concurrently, enabling the Secretariat to initiate Missions in advance of SC70.
34. Disposal of confiscated specimens		
34.1	<p>Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 34.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.119 directs SC69 to consider how and to which extent the content of the new, merged RC 17.8 on <i>Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species</i> should be adapted and report to CoP18. Provides results of a survey on disposal of confiscated specimens (Annex 1); and criteria, thresholds and mechanisms used for deciding on specific disposal options (Annex 2). Recommends that the SC request its working group on disposal of confiscated specimens to take into account the results of the survey and other information when implementing Decision 17.119.
34.2	<p>Report of the co-leads</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 34.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Israel and Switzerland as co-chairs of the working group on the disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens proposed to be established at SC69. Provides draft terms of reference (ToR) for the working group.
35. Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA: Report of the Secretariat <p>SC69 Doc. 35</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.89 directs the Secretariat to review the application of RC 9.6 to “wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA”, and whether revisions are necessary to protect CITES-listed species. Provides the draft TOR (Annex) for the review, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Part of Study: how DNA can be synthesized; definitions of terms such as ‘cultured DNA’ relevant to CITES; and case studies of products involving CITES-listed species. 2nd Part of Study: Legal and technological review, including whether RC 9.6 should define ‘parts’ or ‘derivatives’ in this context and the usefulness of creating a new source code for ‘bioengineered’ wildlife products. 3rd Part of Study: tools to distinguish synthetic from cultured DNA; recent developments re synthetic biological substitutes for CITES products; relevant risk management measures and best practices. Invites the SC to provide input to the TOR and establish an intersessional working group on this issue; invites the SC and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat. SSN also recommends that the working group take into account the information and recommendations in CoP17 Inf. 74 on <i>Establishing and working with rescue centres designated under CITES</i>. SSN stresses that participation of rescue centres in the working group’s activities is crucial to implementation of Decision 17.119. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC establish the working group with the suggested ToR. SSN recommends that the working group’s ToR include development and adoption of appropriate harmonized standards for rescue centers, and identification of sources of funding for rescue centers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendation to establish an intersessional working group on this issue. SSN agrees that there is a need to regulate products made or derived from DNA of CITES-listed species, including products or specimens produced to replicate parts and derivatives of CITES-listed species, including products made with either actual or synthetic DNA. Such products could be treated as specimens under CITES because they are derived from actual DNA or the genomes of CITES-listed species (and qualify as parts or derivatives); are readily recognizable as CITES-listed species; or look like CITES-listed species and must be controlled to effectively regulate trade in CITES-listed species. This topic raises questions of terminology, as well as policy questions for the Parties. However, before addressing these issues, the Parties should first tackle the core legal question of whether these products are covered under CITES and how they could be regulated, as called for in Decision 17.89. The draft TOR greatly expand this mandate, potentially over-complicating examination of this the core question. Therefore, SSN recommends deleting the 1st and 3rd parts of the study in the draft TOR, to

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<p>36. Introduction from the sea: Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 36</p>	<p>observers to provide relevant information on this matter to the Secretariat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 16.50 (Rev. CoP17) directs the SC to assess findings of the Secretariat's report on implementation in relation to the provision on chartering arrangements provided for in RC 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Introduction from the sea</i>; and provide an assessment on implementation of this provision and, where relevant, propose amendments to this provision at CoP18. Reports that only a small number of Parties have implemented and reported any Introductions from the Sea; this could reflect challenges in implementing these provisions. Invites the SC to note this document and consider looking more generally at implementation challenges Parties may face in implementing the provisions of RC 14.6 (Rev. CoP16). 	<p>ensure that the TOR are consistent with Decision 17.89 and that they provide the consultant with a simplified mandate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>37. Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 37</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Canada as lead for the SC on the issue of purpose codes. Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP17) directs the SC to re-establish an intersessional working group to review the Parties' use of purpose-of-transaction codes and report to CoP18. Invites the SC to re-establish this working group and provides draft terms of reference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC re-establish the working group.
<p>38. Simplified procedure for permits and certificates: Report of the Secretariat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
<p>39. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations': Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 39</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.180 directs the SC to consider reports from the Secretariat, with information from AC, on implementation of RC 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on the definition of the term "appropriate and acceptable destinations", and Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b) requiring that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species be suitably equipped to house and care for them, and make recommendations and develop guidance to CoP18. Reports that the Secretariat will report to SC70, and will issue a Notification: calling on Parties to provide information on how RC11.20 (CoP17) is currently being implemented, including whether they have encountered problems or found its provisions inadequate or abused; and calling on Parties, interested bodies and organizations to provide information on existing guidelines and best practice regarding the 'suitably equipped' requirement in Article III. Recommends establishing an intersessional working group to review the Secretariat's report and recommendations from AC30, and to prepare draft recommendations for SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC agree to review the Secretariat's report and any recommendations from AC30 at SC70 and establish the intersessional working group. SSN urges the Secretariat to issue its Notification as soon as possible and to invite interested bodies and organizations to respond promptly; the AC intersessional working group must have sufficient time to review information received and to draft findings and recommendations for consideration at AC30.
<p>40. Electronic systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Switzerland, as the SC lead for electronic sys- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations in the docu-

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and information technologies SC69 Doc. 40		<p>tems and information technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions 17.157 and 17.158 direct the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, re-establish the Working Group on Electronic Systems and Information Technologies and, if necessary, make revisions to RC 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>National reports</i> and RC 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Permits and certificates</i>. • Reports on new software for automation of CITES processes. • Provides the draft work program for the Working Group (Annex 1) and a policy brief on automation of CITES permit procedures and electronic information exchange (Annex 2). • Invites the SC to re-establish the Working Group, consider the suggested work plan, and call upon Parties to implement available low-cost software for automation of CITES processes. 	<p>ment.</p>
41. Transport			
41.1	Transport of live specimens SC69 Doc. 41.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Transport of live specimens, inter alia</i>, directs the SC, AC and PC to participate in meetings of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals and Perishables Board (LAPB), examine new references and examine developments related to live transport. • Notes that the Secretariat has no information on whether SC, AC or PC Members attend meetings of the IATA LAPB; reports that the Secretariat has no indication that the CITES Guidelines for non-air transport of live wild animals and plants or RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) need revisions or amendments. • Invites the SC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC note this document and encourage Members of the SC, AC and PC to attend meetings of the IATA LAPB in order to implement the mandate of RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP16). • SSN also recommends that the SC establish a working group to examine the CITES Guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants, assess the extent to which Parties make use of the Guidelines and their usefulness, and make appropriate recommendations to the SC.
41.2	Request for engagement of the CEOs of airlines and maritime shipping companies and executive bodies governing their activities SC69 Doc. 41.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by Zimbabwe. • States that decisions of several airlines and maritime shipping companies to stop transporting/carrying legally acquired wildlife products and specimens are having undesirable and significant negative impact to the economy of Zimbabwe and other countries in southern Africa and has negative consequences on livelihoods of small rural communities. • States that such decisions circumvent CITES provisions authorizing such trade. • Recommends that the SC Chair engage chief executive officers of airlines and maritime shipping companies and executive bodies governing their activities such as IATA and the World Shipping Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC reject recommendations in this document. • SSN notes that Article XIV paragraph 1 of CITES recognizes the right of Parties to take stricter domestic measures, and that these may include measures taken by national airlines. • CITES does not 'authorize' trade; it regulates it. Decisions by private companies not to carry certain products do not 'circumvent' CITES; private companies are not required to engage in or facilitate trade in wild species. • SSN notes that airlines and shipping companies are free to make decisions on which legal products they are prepared to ship, and that interference with these decisions is outside the mandate of CITES. SSN considers that it is inappropriate for the SC Chair to engage with such companies on this issue.
42. Traceability: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 42		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with Mexico and Switzerland. • Decision 17.152 directs the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, establish a working group on traceability and develop a resolution on traceability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC establish the working group.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the proposed work programme of the group (Annex 1) and responses of Parties to a Notification on traceability (Annex 2). Invites the SC to note this document and establish the working group with the suggested work programme. 	
43. Stocks and stockpiles of specimens of CITES-listed species SC69 Doc. 43		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Israel. Decision 17.170 directs the SC to review existing CITES provisions concerning controls on stocks of specimens of CITES-listed species and provide recommendations to CoP18. Provides terms of reference for a related intersessional working group (Annex 1) and a list of related Resolutions and Decisions (Annex 2). Recommends that the SC constitute a working group on stocks and stockpiles of specimens of CITES-listed species; and that the group report to SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations in the document.
44. Identification of specimens in trade			
44.1	Tiger skins: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 44.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports that only one Party had responded to two Notifications requesting confirmation of photographic databases that enable tiger identification from stripe pattern analysis China reported that it does not have such databases. Recommends that the SC call upon tiger range States to provide the Secretariat with the requested information Requests financial support to assess the feasibility of establishing a central repository of photographs of wild tigers and seized tiger skins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN notes that India has already established that it has a photographic database (CoP17 Doc 60.2). SSN calls upon the SC to urge both tiger range States and Parties with instances of commercial trade in the skins of captive bred tigers to provide information on photographic databases. SSN notes that the ExtractCompare database used by India is freely available online. The government of India should be invited to advise on establishing a central repository.
44.2	Identification Manual: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 44.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a brief progress report related to implementation of RC 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Identification Manual</i>. Invites the SC to note this document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC note this document.
45. Cheetahs (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>): Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 45		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.124 directs Secretariat, subject to external funding, to commission a CITES cheetah trade resource kit containing information and tools to implement the Convention; reports no external funding was received and no draft kit available for SC69 review per Dec. 17.129; recommends an intersessional working group be established to review draft if it becomes available; and proposes terms of reference (ToR) for the group. SC66 Doc. 32.5, paragraph18, contains recommendations on halting illegal cheetah trade; Decision 17.127 directs the Secretariat to report on progress on implementing these recommendations; Notification 2017/039 requested information from Parties on their implementation; only Yemen responded, requesting help in capacity building and awareness campaigns; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of Secretariat. SSN notes with concern that the last population of cheetahs in Asia (in Iran) is now estimated at fewer than 50 individuals. SSN is concerned that there is no mechanism in the Secretariat's recommendations to ensure progress is made on enforcement recommendations in SC66 Doc 32.5; we recommend including implementation of these recommendations in the ToR for the proposed working group. SSN urges the SC to include in the ToR of the proposed working group, that it include the CITES/CMS officer to ensure that its work complements activities of the Joint CMS/CITES African Carnivores Initiative noted in AC29 Doc. 29.

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		<p>the Secretariat will liaise with Yemen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages Parties and others to use World Wildlife Day 2018 to initiate public awareness campaigns to reduce illegal trade of cheetahs. 	
46. Sturgeons and paddlefish (<i>Acipenseriformes</i> spp.)			
46.1	<p>Definition of country of origin of caviar</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 46.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.185 directs the SC, in collaboration with the AC, to discuss the definition of country of origin of caviar. Provides possible amendments to “<i>CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar</i>” contained in Annex 1 of RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) (Annex) requiring that permits report the country of the processing plant for the first packaging of caviar into a primary container. Invites the SC to: consider proposing to CoP18 amendments to labelling guidelines (Annex); discuss whether these sufficiently address confusion on “country of origin”; and, if not, consider forming an intersessional working group to resolve any remaining issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
46.2	<p>Stocks shared by range States and the respective species: Report of the Animals Committee</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 46.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the AC. Reports disagreement at CoP17 concerning a proposal to split the shared stock described in RC12.7 (Rev. CoP17) as “North-West Black Sea and Lower Danube River” into “Black Sea” and “Danube River” stocks. AC29 observed that there is not enough scientific information to make recommendations on this issue. Invites the SC to encourage range States to collaborate on research; if no research is available, consider amending the relevant portion of RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) at CoP18 to read “North-west Black Sea and Lower Danube stock”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
47. Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)			
47.1	<p>Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 47.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.189 directs the SC to consider information relating to trade in European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) and adopt recommendations as appropriate. Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That studies on <i>A. anguilla</i> and non-listed eel species will not be available until SC70; On recent enforcement operations regarding the European eel; and On work of the AC to review studies and workshop results regarding eels. Invites the SC to note work of the AC on this issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat.
47.2	<p>Illegal trade in <i>Anguilla anguilla</i></p> <p>SC69 Doc. 47.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by the European Union (EU). Reports that since introduction of the EU trade suspension for <i>A. anguilla</i>, illegal export of live juvenile eels (glass eels) from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations in document.

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		<p>the EU to third countries has substantially increased; information suggests that these glass eels are shipped to farming facilities in Asia, where they are kept until they reach their adult size and further re-exported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the SC to note this document and encourages Parties to strengthen their cooperation in addressing international illegal trade in <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>. 	
<p>48. Humphead wrasse (<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i>): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 48</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 15.87 (Rev. CoP17) directs the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, develop recommendations for improving enforcement and regulation of international trade in humphead wrasse. Provides an update from IUCN on this trade (Annex) including, <i>inter alia</i>, that: there has been a reduction of illegally traded <i>C. undulatus</i> in Hong Kong since enforcement activities there; there is now a market for frozen specimens; there are no recorded imports into mainland China despite frequent sightings in markets; and in Indonesia there are signs of recovery where fishing has been stopped. Recommends that the SC convene an in-session working group to develop recommendations; and consider the need for more information from range and consumer States. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>49. Malagasy ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)</p>			
<p>49.1</p> <p>Report of Madagascar</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 49.1</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Madagascar. In June 2017, the SC decided via postal procedure to maintain its recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> spp. from Madagascar until Madagascar has complied with Decision 17.204 (e-f) by significantly strengthening control and enforcement measures, submitting regular updates on audited inventories of at least a third of the stockpiles of these species, and developing a use plan for consideration, approval and further guidance from the SC. Updates the status of stockpiles, infringement cases and the court case regarding Malagasy timber seized in Singapore; reports that Madagascar has hired a consultant to set up a stockpile verification mechanism and business plan, and is developing methods to estimate the amount of standing timber in order to make an NDF. Annexes include documents related to the court case in Singapore (Annex 2); suspension on rosewood logging in management transfer areas (Annex 3); and a stock verification mechanism and business plan (Annex 4). Reports that Madagascar intends to negotiate with countries in possession of Malagasy rosewood (i.e., China, Tanzania, Mozambique, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong) on the possibility of auctioning these timber stockpiles, and asks the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC uphold its recommendation to suspend trade in <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> spp. In response to Madagascar's insufficient progress in implementing the CITES action plan as per Decision 17.204, in particular with regard to audit and inventory of stockpiles and strengthened control and enforcement measures. SSN is concerned about fundamental flaws and risks in the submitted business plan (SC69 Doc.49.1), including premature partial sale of domestic stockpiles in the absence of the required inventory and financial compensation for alleged owners of illegal timber. SSN notes that RC 17.8 on <i>Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species</i> states that Parties should ensure that any disposal does not further stimulate illegal trade. SSN therefore recommends that the SC: reject the proposed business plan for stockpile disposal (SC69 Doc.49.1); not consider the sale or other dispositions of domestic stockpiles in Madagascar until the CITES Action Plan has been fully implemented; and request the Secretariat not to facilitate any sales of seized stockpiles outside Madagascar until disposal plans are developed in a way that will comply with RC 17.8 and ensure maximum public transparency.

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		Secretariat and the SC to facilitate negotiations.	
49.2	Report of the Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available at the time this document was prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
50. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.): Report of the Secretariat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.216 directs the SC to consider issues concerning conservation and management of sharks and rays, and provide guidance as appropriate. Provides, <i>inter alia</i>, an update on related capacity-building activities; issues involving movement of biological samples; permits for products composed of multiple species; status of a FAO study on utilization of and trade in shark and ray meat and other non-fin products; status of studies regarding traceability and commercially-exploited aquatic species; and measures by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Provides Terms of Reference (ToR) (Annex) for an intersessional working group on sharks and rays. Recommends that RFMOs provide information for making NDFs. Invites the SC to establish the working group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC establish an intersessional working group with the ToR provided. SSN supports efforts by the SC to find simplified procedures for sharing biological samples. SSN encourages CITES to work in synergy with other MEAs to strengthen conservation of sharks and rays. SSN notes that RFMOs cannot be the sole source of information for NDFs because they do not cover every species or fishery.
51. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)			
51.1	Elephant Conservation, Illegal Killing and Ivory Trade SC69 Doc. 51.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews the conservation status of elephants, trade in specimens, the African Elephant Action Plan, and MIKE and ETIS as directed in RC10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Trade in elephant specimens</i>. Provides <i>Status of elephant populations, levels of illegal killing and the trade in ivory: A report to the CITES Standing Committee</i> (Annex), that reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimates of ~415,000 African elephants in 37 range States (a decline of 111,000 over 10 years) and ~44,000-49,000 Asian elephants in 13 range States; High poaching rates in African sites in 2016, suggesting poaching deaths continue to exceed those from natural causes. Poaching has recently increased in Southern Africa though it has not had the same impact as in other areas; Probable overall population decline in MIKE sites; a 10%+ decrease in PIKE for some sites; Illegal ivory trade activity has continued at high levels over the last 6 years with little apparent change; Exports of worked products from Africa to Asia may be increasing; Only 10% of large-scale seizures were forensically examined, despite the mandate in RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17). Suggests more formal mechanism to track testing and en- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat and further measures (listed below) SSN agrees with adoption of a formal mechanism opted to track compliance with RC 10.10 regarding forensic analysis of large-scale ivory seizures and timely reporting to ETIS, including through the NIAP process. SSN recommends that the SC direct the Secretariat to issue a Notification specifically identifying the Parties that have made large-scale ivory seizures, and requesting these countries to report to SC70 on whether they have conducted forensic-analysis of all such seizures. SSN advises a detailed reading of the Annex including the disturbing conclusion from TRAFFIC/ETIS. SSN remains concerned that MIKE data is only available for designated sites in protected areas, and does not cover poaching outside MIKE sites. This focus on better-protected range could underestimate poaching rates across Africa. SSN welcomes the news of decreasing PIKE in East Africa, especially in Kenya and Tanzania, but remains concerned about sites in Central Africa and elsewhere with increased PIKE; a site level PIKE data table should be shared in all future reports. SSN notes that although PIKE decreased in Kruger National Park, the number killed illegally actually increased. SSN recommends that Angola, Cambodia, Cameroon, China (including Hong Kong SAR), Congo, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda and

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	<p>sure vital information on large-scale ivory seizures is not inadvertently lost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially large quantities of ivory from Burundi's stockpile have recently entered illegal trade (seizures in Uganda and South Sudan); • Ivory stock thefts are ongoing, e.g. in Niassa, Mozambique; • Poaching and illegal capture of Asian elephants may have increased; this should be addressed through appropriate registration systems, monitoring protocols for captive populations, and improved transboundary cooperation; • Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa and Zimbabwe currently remain outside of the NIAP process but are heavily implicated in the export of commercial consignments of worked ivory to Asia; and • Despite a concerted emphasis on combatting illegal ivory trade, including the NIAP process, <i>"the illegal trade trend through 2016 is not yet responding positively more needs to be done to curtail ivory trafficking and illegal ivory markets."</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding was found to analyze stockpile management. • Recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Parties to take note of trends in illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens and poaching; • Note that the MIKE/ETIS subgroup will meet intersessionally; • Remind Parties to use the UNEP-WCMC Guidelines for annual reports when reporting hunting trophies; • Recognize contributions by Parties to the AEF; and • Advise the Secretariat whether it should disseminate the stockpile management system of 'Stop Ivory' to the Parties. 	<p>Viet Nam revise their NIAPs to address the concerns highlighted in the MIKE/ETIS report, and expedite NIAP implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa and Zimbabwe be required to develop NIAPs that include time-bound actions to prevent ivory processing and illegal export of ivory. • SSN is concerned about thefts and large-scale leakages from ivory stockpiles; the SC should recommend urgent development of guidance on management, including disposal, of ivory stockpiles, as required by Decision 17.171 . SSN recommends that the Secretariat consult with NGOs that have already developed such guidance and adapt this as necessary for dissemination to Parties. • SC should: recommend a suspension of trade with Burundi and request a report from Burundi by February 28, 2018 on the state of its ivory stockpile in accordance with RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), para 6(e); encourage Burundi to destroy its stockpile as a matter of urgency. • SSN recommends that the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group be asked to advise SC70 on a more effective mechanism to increase the proportion of large scale ivory seizures being forensically tested in accordance with RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17). 	
<p>51.2</p>	<p>Implementing aspects of RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on the closure of domestic ivory markets</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 51.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted by Burkina Faso, Congo, Kenya and Niger. • RC10.10 (Rev.CoP17) recommends urgent closure of all legal domestic ivory markets contributing to poaching or illegal trade; requests that Parties inform the Secretariat of the legal status of their domestic ivory markets and efforts to close them; directs the Secretariat to identify Parties with unregulated or illegal ivory trade or insufficiently secured stockpiles and to report findings and recommendations, which may include requests to develop and implement NIAPs (see SC Doc. 29.3) and monitor progress in accordance with CITES compliance procedures in RC 14.3, to SC; directs the SC to review actions by Parties and report at each CoP. • Recommends that SC: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN urges the SC to adopt the recommendations in the document. • Domestic ivory markets in consumer, range and transit countries create a significant opportunity for laundering of illegal ivory; their urgent closure can reduce trafficking and elephant poaching. • To enable the SC to assess progress, Parties should be requested to provide information via a Notification. • SSN commends China for announcing that it will close its domestic ivory markets by the end of 2017; Hong Kong SAR is in the process of doing so (a bill in committee will likely pass in early to mid-2018). • Japan has a significant, active ivory market; following a seizure of tusks in June 2017, TRAFFIC stated that "Japan's domestic ivory market is still filled with loopholes that are leaking substantial quantities of ivory to other markets, such as China"^{xiii}; in August 2017,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commend efforts by some Parties to close domestic markets; Reconsider its decision that Japan should not prepare a NIAP; Direct the Secretariat to issue Notifications, as a matter of urgency and at least annually thereafter, drawing Parties' attention to the consensus, agreed at CoP17, to close domestic ivory markets and requesting them to provide information on implementation of RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17); and Direct the Secretariat to report to SC70 on progress to close domestic ivory markets, based on information provided by Parties under RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) as well as data from ETIS, and to include any recommendations for action. 	<p>TRAFFIC stressed that "Japan has an obligation to fulfill these requirements [i.e. the new provisions for Domestic Ivory Markets agreed at CoP17] effectively to ensure that domestic trade in ivory does not contribute to poaching or to illegal trade"^{xiv}.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations have begun on closure of the UK domestic ivory market and further restrictions in the EU. SSN urges the EU and UK to expedite the process to close their markets "as a matter of urgency" in compliance with RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17). 	
<p>51.3</p>	<p>Implementing the CoP17 Decisions on Ivory Stocks and Stockpiles</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 51.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Burkina Faso, Congo, Kenya and Niger. Decision 17.171 directs the Secretariat to develop practical guidance for the management of ivory stockpiles, including their disposal, based on an analysis of best practices and in accordance with RC 17.8 and RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17). Notes that much of the material needed for the guidance is already available, that Stop Ivory and the Elephant Protection Initiative offered relevant materials at no cost and funding requirements were comparatively low. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends that SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek a timeframe and detailed cost estimate from the Secretariat for completing the work detailed in Decision 17.171, taking into account and making use of the available existing material, and further information to be obtained from Parties and experts; Renew the call for further external contributions to ensure that the CoP17 Decisions can be fully and swiftly implemented; and Acknowledges contributions in kind already made as well as subsequent contributions made prior to, or during SC69. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN urges the SC to adopt the recommendations. SSN considers the production of guidance on management of ivory stockpiles a matter of urgency and calls on Parties to provide the necessary funding, recognizing that relevant materials are already available from Stop Ivory and the Elephant Protection Initiative.
<p>51.4</p>	<p>Update on the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI)</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 51.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Ethiopia as Chair to update the SC on EPI's objectives, membership (16 states, 25 supporting NGOs) and recent activities. Welcomes developments over last 2 years including 7 new member states; action by US, China and France to halt ivory commerce; and CoP 17's recommendation to close domestic markets. Reports specific EPI actions, notably ivory stockpile management protocols, funding and implementation of national elephant action plans under the African Elephant Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC thank Ethiopia and commend the continuing work of the EPI. SSN requests the SC to endorse the recommendations in paragraph 9, and to take appropriate steps recommended in SC69 Doc. 51.3 so that the EPI ivory management protocol can be used immediately in preparing practical guidance for management of stockpiles under RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17).

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	<p>(AEAP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends (paragraph 9) that SC: • Take note of EPI's achievements; • Support efforts by EPI states to finance and implement the AEAP; and • Take note of the ivory Inventory Protocol and Inventory Technology developed by Stop Ivory to assist Parties in implementing recommendations under RC 10.10 (Rev. CoP17). 	
<p>52. Legal and illegal trade in Bread palms (<i>Encephalartos</i> spp.): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 52</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.221 directs the SC to consider a report of the Secretariat on legal and illegal trade in <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. and determine further actions. • Reports that information provided by Parties indicates that illegal trade in <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. at the international level is low. • Recommends that the SC encourage Parties to: register nurseries producing artificially propagated specimens of <i>Encephalartos</i>; increase regulation of exporters of artificially propagated specimens; and implement strict measures to regulate the ownership and possession of these species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>53. Hawksbill turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) and other marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 53</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 17.223 directs the SC to review a study on legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, and formulate recommendations. • Reports that the Secretariat is finalizing a work plan for the study. • Invites the SC to note the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC note the report.
<p>54. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 54</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on implementation of Decisions 17.228, 17.230 and 17.231 • The Secretariat notes that no funds have been received to continue review of implementation of RC 12.5 (Rev. CoP17), as per Decision 17.228. • As per Decision 17.230, with the assistance of the EU, INTERPOL hosted a regional law enforcement workshop with China, India and Myanmar; more work needs to be done to address illegal wildlife trade in this region. The Secretariat is working with ICCWC partners to secure additional funds. • As per Decision 17.231, the Secretariat recommends that the SC encourages Parties and other stakeholders to use World Wildlife Day 2018 to raise awareness of the plight of Asian big cats and to reduce demand and illegal trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN urges Parties to provide financial assistance so that the review of implementation of RC 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) may be continued in time for SC70 to make recommendations. • SSN notes that demand for big cat parts and derivatives in China and Southeast Asia is driving poaching and trafficking of Asia's big cats, jaguar, and African lion. • SSN urges Parties and other stakeholders to use World Wildlife Day 2018 to call for an end to <i>all</i> commercial trade and demand for parts and derivatives of <i>all</i> Appendix 1 and 2 big cat species, including from captive bred sources.
<p>55. Great apes (Hominidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No document. • Decision 17.233 directs the SC to consider a report, organized by the Secretariat on the status of great apes and the impact of illegal trade, and prepare recommendations for CoP18. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSN recommends that the SC establish an intersessional working group to consider any report that becomes available prior to SC70.

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<p>56. Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]: Implementation of Decision 17.234 - Follow up on PC23 outcomes</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 56</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by PC Chair. Reports progress on Decision 17.234 that directs the PC to, <i>inter alia</i>, formulate recommendations concerning rosewood timber species for CoP18. Recommends that PC, <i>inter alia</i>, request the Secretariat to conduct a study of certain rosewood species, their status and trade, and potential for CITES listing; also describes concerns regarding annotation #15 (see SC69 Doc. 69.3). Recommends that the SC note progress of PC; clarify aspects regarding annotation #15; and provide guidance on PC recommendations, <i>inter alia</i>, that the Secretariat conduct a study of certain rosewood species, their status and trade and potential for listing on CITES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC: note progress of the PC on these issues; support proposal for the Secretariat to conduct a study of certain rosewood species; and address concerns regarding annotation #15 under SC69 Doc. 69.3.
<p>57. Pangolins (<i>Manis</i> spp.): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 57</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.240 directs the Secretariat to provide a report, with recommendations and draft Decisions, on pangolin status and trade to SC69. Raises concern about fraudulent permits from DRC (involving 10,650 kg of scales) and Nigeria (15,000 kg), and advises importing Parties not to accept these documents; requests the Management Authority of Burundi to clarify its issuance of export permits involving 6,500 kg of scales, since there are no <i>Manis gigantea</i> in Burundi. Provides <i>Implementation of CITES Decisions 17.239 b) and 17.240 on Pangolins (Manis spp.)</i> (Annex) reporting, <i>inter alia</i>, 1,557 seizures involving an estimated 192,576 pangolins between 1999 and 2017 (including very large seizures of scales); emergence of trafficking of scales from Africa to Asian markets; that the most common impediment to compliance is lack of sufficient materials to identify species and derivatives. Annex notes that “China has released, on average, approximately 26 tonnes of scales on to a legal market each year”. Recommends that the SC, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request Parties to: declare stocks of pangolin specimens legally acquired before transfer to Appendix I before authorizing commercial trade and provide copies of any permits to Secretariat; not accept permits issued for such stocks unless verified by the Secretariat; and inform the Secretariat of any fraudulent documents involving pangolin specimens; Encourage Parties to provide relevant capacity-building interventions to enforcement officers at ports; Request the Secretariat to encourage World Customs Organization to develop risk profiles and indicators to address illegal pangolin trade, and encourage International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to tar- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of Secretariat, and the draft resolution for submission to CoP18. In addition, SSN urges the SC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request Burundi, DRC, Nigeria and importing Parties provide updates on their treatment of possibly fraudulent permits; Urge Parties to submit information on volume and type of specimens held and control and management of stockpiles; Request China to clarify the mechanism by which it prevents its release of large volumes of scales onto the domestic market from being used to launder trafficked pangolin specimens; Urge Parties to submit all permits for pangolin specimens to Secretariat for verification; Request Lao PDR, China, Viet Nam, Uganda, Mozambique and Sudan to submit additional information on pangolin farming plans.

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	<p>get and address the criminal networks involved; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider draft Decisions: directing range States to develop <i>in situ</i> pangolin management and conservation programs; directing Secretariat to work with IUCN to determine the number of animals associated with quantities of scales seized and commission development of an identification manual and trade resource kit; and report to the SC, with the SC reporting to CoP19. 	
<p>58. African lion SC69 Doc. 58</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the African lion, Decision 17.241 directs the Secretariat to, <i>inter alia</i>,: develop a population inventory, undertake studies on legal and illegal trade, promote fundraising to support a CITES Task Force, and report progress to AC. Decision 17.242 directs the AC to review the report and submit recommendations to SC; Decision 17.243 directs the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>: consider AC recommendations, consider further actions including the need for a resolution, and establish a CITES Task Force. Reports that the Secretariat is conducting a study on legal and illegal trade for AC; states the need for, and possible tasks of, a CITES Task Force “are unclear;” recommends instead that the SC establish an intersessional working group with a broader composition and mandate that includes enforcement, to review the study and AC recommendations, as well as the other issues in Decision 17.243; and provides draft terms of reference (ToR) for this working group. Invites the SC to note this document; establish an intersessional working group on African lions to review the study and recommendations, and consider its ToR and <i>modus operandi</i>; and request the Secretariat to disseminate information on funding opportunities for conservation and management plans for African lion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of Secretariat. Regarding the ToR for the intersessional working group, SSN recommends including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of paragraphs b) of Decision 17.241 (to develop a population inventory) and paragraph c) of Decision 17.243 (to establish a CITES Task Force); Consideration of the export quota for captive-bred lion specimens set for South Africa; and Liaising with the CMS Secretariat (or other CMS body as appropriate) and the proposed WG on cheetahs (SC69, item 45), to ensure that its work complements activities in relation to the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative noted in AC29 Doc. 29. SSN notes that the working group should not replace the Task Force called for by the Parties in Decision 17.241. SSN urges the SC not to base a possible new lion resolution on RC 17.12 on <i>Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes</i>, as this resolution concerns large-volume, commercial trade; whereas there is a zero export quota on commercial trade in lion parts, excluding South Africa’s captive bred lions. A new resolution should instead aim to ensure conservation and restoration of the African lion across the continent.
<p>59. Illegal trade in Tibetan antelope (<i>Pan-tholops hodgsonii</i>) SC69 Doc. 59</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.132 directs the SC to review outcomes of a workshop (regarding trade in Tibetan antelope) and make recommendations to countries concerned. Provides findings of INTERPOL’s “Operation Ring” workshop on illegal trade in parts of Tibetan antelope, including, <i>inter alia</i>, that: seizures of illegal wool products are increasing in Europe; training for enforcement officers on identification of fibers of Tibetan antelope wool could be useful; and awareness-raising to consumers could reduce demand. Recommends that the SC establish an in-session working group to review the workshop report and develop recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendation of the Secretariat.
<p>60. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.): Report of the Secretar-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decisions 17.140-17.144 direct the SC to, <i>inter alia</i>, evaluate Parties’ implementation of 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses</i>; evaluate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN broadly supports the recommendations of the Secretariat, with one exception: Given the urgency of the issue and and the continuing role that Viet Nam plays in the illicit trade in rhino horn, SSN re-

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<p>iat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 60</p>	<p>the reports submitted by Mozambique and Viet Nam, and determine if they have satisfactorily addressed all recommendations; report recommendations to CoP18.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a report from Viet Nam (Annex 1); notes report from Mozambique (SC69 Doc. 29.3 Annex 12); provides updates on Mozambique, South Africa, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe; reports horn stock declarations received from 10 Parties (two with no stocks). Recommends that SC, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Mozambique to strengthen efforts to address criminal syndicates targeting and corrupting local communities; Request Mozambique to include, in its report on implementation of its NIRAP to SC70, reporting on implementation of its amended Conservation Law, including information on arrests, prosecutions and convictions for offences involving rhinoceros and elephant poaching or illegal trade in rhinoceros horn and ivory; At SC70, consider the report of Mozambique and whether further measures are needed; Encourage South Africa to closely review poaching and trafficking trends to ensure that any emerging crime trends regarding regulatory measures for domestic trade in rhinoceros horn are swiftly identified and addressed Encourage Viet Nam to: initiate, through Viet Nam WEN, intelligence driven operations and investigations to address activities of criminal elements remaining active; institutionalize collection of samples from seizures for forensic analyses; and develop country-specific materials to help officers identify worked rhinoceros horn and ivory specimens worn as jewelry; Request Viet Nam to submit a report on the implementation of Penal Code 2017, including information on arrests, prosecutions and convictions for offences involving illegal trade in rhinoceros horn; Consider the report submitted by Viet Nam and the recommendations of the Secretariat at SC71, to determine if the implementation of Penal Code 2017 and activities sufficiently respond to illegal trade in wildlife. 	<p>quests that the SC recommend that Viet Nam prepare a preliminary report on the implementation of the new Penal Code for SC70, and a fuller report for SC71.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN welcomes progress in Mozambique, in particular with its amended Conservation Law, looks forward to approval of the associated Regulations and training programmes, and encourages Parties and NGOs to assist Mozambique with the capacity needs outlined in this document. SSN is concerned by the lack of progress in dismantling criminal networks mentioned in the February 2017 South African media release highlighted by the Secretariat. Many of its rhino "kingpins" remain free; At least 3 major trials resulted in further postponements, in one case for the 17th time.^{xv} A case in its 7th year was postponed for a further two months^{xvi} and a 3-year-old case for 6 months;^{xvii}. SSN is extremely concerned by South Africa's proposed export of rhino horn for "personal purposes", and urges the SC to encourage Parties to resist all efforts to import rhino horns as personal effects. SSN urges the SC to request South Africa to: undertake an urgent review of criminal procedures applied to high-level rhino crimes; report to SC70 prior to the planned adoption of regulations on export of horns for "personal purposes"; clarify whether these regulations will apply only to privately-held stocks, or to government-owned horns as well. Combined horn stocks declared to the Secretariat by 10 Parties totalled to only 1,021 kg. SSN is concerned that some Parties known to hold very large stocks^{xviii} may not have been declared these for 2017. SSN urges the SC to request all Parties to: comply with the provisions in RC 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) relating to rhino horn stocks, preferably using the reporting template provided by the Secretariat; submit samples of seized rhino horn for forensic analysis to determine origin (where possible); and to develop strategies aimed at putting rhino horn stockpiles permanently beyond use. SSN recommends that China and Namibia be added to the list of Parties for priority attention. SSN urges the SC to reconvene the SC Rhino Working Group with a mandate to review the information provided in SC69 Doc. 60 and additional information as it becomes available, to develop specific, time-bound recommendations for all Parties identified for Priority Attention, and to report to SC70.
<p>61. Illegal trade in the helmeted hornbill (<i>Rhinoplax vigil</i>): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 61</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.265 directs the Secretariat, to, <i>inter alia</i>: consult range States on their measures to conserve and protect this species; assist Parties to develop and implement measures to eliminate illegal trade; and report to the SC. Decision 17.266 directs the SC to review the implementation of Decision 17.265 and report to CoP18. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN commends range States for their work in conserving this species, and for their detailed responses to the Secretariat. Recent reports^{xix} confirm that poaching is ongoing, and is spreading to other parts of Indonesia (besides Kalimantan) and to other range States. A final version of the Action Plan^{xx} is under review by the Helmeted

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides reports received from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand (Annex). Notes, <i>inter alia</i>, that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Though all major range States have engaged in actions to conserve the species and reduce illegal hunting and trade, these actions vary widely and their collective impact is difficult to assess; urgent concerted efforts to reduce illegal hunting and trade are a high priority. Assistance directed to Parties should be framed in the context of the implementation of the global Action Plan under development for this species. Local management plans have been developed in Indonesia and Thailand. Invites the SC to note this document. 	<p>Hornbill Working Group and should be available as an Inf. Doc at SC69. SSN commends the Working Group and the IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group for the preparation of this Action Plan, and strongly supports its recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN strongly supports the Secretariat's view that assistance to Parties should be provided in the context of the global Action Plan. Resources remain a problem (noted for Myanmar in particular), and SSN urges the SC to ask Parties to provide the necessary assistance. SSN recommends that the SC note this document and the Action Plan, and approve any actions in support of the conservation of this Critically Endangered species.
<p>62. Snakes (Serpentes spp.): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 62</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.278 directs Parties to eliminate important illegal and unreported trade in snake specimens by, <i>inter alia</i>: ensuring that permits are properly issued, examining enforcement efforts, and undertaking education activities for those involved in trade. Decision 17.281 directs the Secretariat to invite Asian Parties to report on the status of their implementation of Decision 17.278. Provides responses of Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Thailand (Annex 1). Invites the SC to note this document and agree that Decisions 17.278 and 17.281 have been implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC request the Secretariat to: ask for reports from the five remaining relevant Parties (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam); provide a compilation of all the reports received; follow up on any relevant information that was not submitted; and provide this and any recommendations to SC70.
<p>63. Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 63</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.286 directs the SC to review enforcement and traceability issues concerning international trade in queen conch, and make recommendations. Reports that information from some range States has been submitted <i>via</i> the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission; the Secretariat will report on this issue at SC70. Invites the SC to note this document and encourage range States that have not yet submitted information to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.
<p>64. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.): Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 64</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.298 directs SC69 to consider recommendations of the Secretariat and the CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force on related enforcement and implementation issues; and recommend actions by the Parties for these species. Provides these recommendations, and reports that the Secretariat will deploy a Wildlife Incident Support Team (WIST) to Madagascar regarding illegal trade in <i>Astrochelys yniphora</i> (angonoka tortoise). Invites the SC to: adopt recommendations of the Task Force and Secretariat; request the Secretariat to prepare a revision of RC 11.9 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles</i>; note the success of "Operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt the recommendations of the Secretariat.

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	Save Kurma” initiated by India; and encourage Parties to undertake similar enforcement actions.	
65. Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>)		
<p>65.1</p> <p>Report of the Secretariat</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 65.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 17.150 directs the SC to evaluate information on totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) submitted by Parties and make recommendations for actions. Provides a summary of developments including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to a Notification (see Annex) regarding illegal catch and trade in totoaba, awareness raising efforts, and enforcement activities; References to awareness raising campaigns by China and US, totoaba trafficking capacity-building workshops, a regional market sweep in China (no totoaba products found or arrests made), enforcement efforts in the USA (only data for 2013 reported), intra-national and international collaborations on totoaba trafficking, outcome of a trilateral meeting held in Mexico in August 2017 (see also SC69 Doc. 65.2), and a 30 June 2017 rule in Mexico prohibiting most gillnet use in large portion of the Upper Gulf of California; and The Secretariat has not secured funding for a report on totoaba and vaquita (<i>Phocoena sinus</i>) as per Decision 17.149. Recommends that the SC note the document, encourage continued collaboration of China, Mexico, and the US, and make additional recommendations based on new data/information presented at SC69. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations of the Secretariat and urge China, USA, and Mexico to provide additional reporting for SC70 that includes seizures, arrests, case-specific prosecution results, and net removal/retrieval data. SSN also recommends that the SC urge China and the USA to increase inspections (unannounced) of fish markets, restaurants, and other totoaba product retailers; and expand enforcement efforts. SSN urges the SC to recommend to Mexico that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand and fully fund illegal/abandoned net removal programs in the Upper Gulf; Expand totoaba enforcement efforts particularly in the Upper Gulf and at air, land, and sea ports; Expand efforts to develop and test alternative fishing gear for alternative livelihood training; and Take action to reduce bycatch of juvenile totoaba in shrimp nets. SSN is deeply concerned about plans to open a totoaba sport fishery and potentially trade in totoaba from captive breeding facilities without assessing product demand, and the potential impact of such trade (including illegal trade) on the wild population. SSN notes with concern that: China reportedly was unable to find totoaba in a regional market sweep; the USA has not reported its enforcement actions since 2013; penalties against those convicted of illegal possession/trade in totoaba in the USA and Mexico have been weak; and Mexico withdrew charges against over 100 people arrested for illegally possessing/trafficking totoaba due to a deficiency in Mexico’s law (reportedly now corrected). Greater efforts are urgently required to eliminate illegal trade in totoaba to protect and conserve two Critically Endangered, Appendix I listed species: fewer than 30 vaquita remain; and no totoaba population assessment has been undertaken for over 40 years. In 139 days of searching at sea between 10 February 2016 and 23 April 2017, 374 illegal gear types including 261 illegal totoaba gillnets were removed from the Upper Gulf.
<p>65.2</p> <p>Implementation of Decisions 17.145 to 17.151 on totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>)</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 65.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Mexico, China, and USA. Summarizes results of a trilateral meeting of Mexico, China, and USA on “Combatting Illegal Trafficking of Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) fish” in Ensenada, Mexico in August 2017. Countries agreed to, <i>inter alia</i>: create a trilateral enforcement contact group to improve totoaba investigations; consider adoption of a specific instrument of cooperation to formalize collaborative efforts; continue training programs for totoaba identification and trade characteristics; develop trilateral edu- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commend progress made and encourage all three countries to substantially increase collaborative intelligence-led enforcement efforts to combat illegal trade in totoaba and to strengthen conservation/protection of totoaba and vaquita; and Express concern that agreements reached at trilateral meeting have not been acted upon after four months, despite the commitment to immediate implementation. Regarding the vaquita, SSN recommends that the SC commend

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	<p>cation and public awareness strategies; conduct joint international operations and collaborate actively in various relevant international agreements to stop totoaba trafficking; and immediately implement these agreements given the urgency of situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the SC may wish to note progress achieved, provide advice for implementation of related Decisions, and encourages Parties and wider CITES community to provide funding for the totoaba/vaquita study under Decision 17.149. 	<p>Mexico on its promulgation of a rule partially prohibiting gillnets but encourage it to amend the rule to: fully ban gillnet use in Upper Gulf by removing exemptions for corvina and Spanish mackerel; extend the ban to all vessels, not just small ones; prohibit the use of active gillnets (not just passive use); extend the night fishing ban to cover all hours of darkness; and ban the possession, sale, and manufacture of gillnets at sea and on land in the Upper Gulf (current rule only prohibits transport of gillnets).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See additional information under SC69 Doc. 65.1.
<p>66. CITES Appendix III SC69 Doc. 66</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by New Zealand. Decisions 17.303 and 17.304 direct the SC to consider development of guidance on application of Appendix-III CITES listings and make recommendations, including possible amendments to RC 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Inclusion of species in Appendix III</i> to CoP18. Provides terms of reference for an intersessional working group on Appendix III listings. Invites the SC to agree to establish the working group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations in document.
<p>67. Procedure for entering reservations with respect to the amendments to Appendices I, II and III SC69 Doc. 67</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article XV of the Convention allows Parties, during the 90 days until a listing comes into force, to enter reservations to that listing. Reports that after CoP17, several Parties submitted reservations after the 90 day deadline; the reservations were rejected after at least one Party objected. States that the Secretariat is of the view that there is no basis to depart from the 90 day deadline and that accepting late reservations would undermine the integrity of the Convention and its functioning; there seems to be no established practice of accepting such late “reservations” as indicated by Switzerland as the UN Depository in its discussions with the Secretariat. Proposes that the SC propose to CoP18 that RC 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Reservations</i> be amended to include a paragraph clarifying this matter. It may also consider the adoption of a Decision on further guidance to the Depository on late reservations with respect to amendments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC propose to CoP18, an amendment to RC 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) stating that there is a firm deadline for submitting a reservation to a listing and that no reservations will be accepted after the deadline. The document states that, “OLA (United Nations Office of Legal Affairs) would never extend the deadline for objections to the entry into force of an amendment, noting that the numerous treaties deposited with the UN explicitly require such notification of objection to the entry into force to be made within a deadline. These treaties do not mix the concept of objections to the entry into force (explicit notification of no consent to be bound) with the concept of general reservations to a provision/provisions of a treaty; these are treated as two different legal concepts.” SSN believes that there is no need for a clarifying decision.
<p>68. Periodic review of the Appendices: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees SC69 Doc. 68</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by AC and PC Chairs. Provides: an update on species selected for review by the AC and PC; outputs of the Appendix-I listed species for which commercial trade has been recorded from wild-sources (source codes W, R and U, and no source reported) 2006-2015 (Annexes 1 and 2); such trade may be contrary to the provisions of CITES. Invites the SC to: note this document; request its Finance and Budget Sub-Committee consider allocating funds specifically for the Periodic Review process; and consider documents pro- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations in document and establish an in-session working group to consider the documents provided in the Annexes.

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		vided in Annexes.	
69. Annotations			
69.1	Establishment of a working group on annotations SC69 Doc. 69.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides Terms of Reference (ToR) of the working group on annotations. Invites the SC to: formally re-establish the working group, confirm its membership, and identify a process for inviting additional members; offer comments and guidance regarding tasks included in the ToR; consider the desirability of additional studies for characterizing commodities of CITES-listed tree species in international trade; and provide any additional instructions to the working group with regard to potential revision of Annotation #15. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations in document.
69.2	Annotations for Appendix II orchids: Report of the Plants Committee SC69 Doc. 69.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
69.3	Interpretation of annotation #15 SC69 Doc. 69.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by PC Chair and the Secretariat. Provides interim definitions for terms used in annotation #15 (re: <i>Dalbergia</i> spp., <i>Guibourtia demeusei</i>, <i>G. pellegriniana</i> and <i>G. tessmannii</i> in Appendix II) for use between CoP17 and CoP18. Invites the SC to: agree to proposed interim definitions; request the Secretariat to communicate these to Parties; and agree these exclusively relate to Annotation #15. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN recommends that the SC adopt recommendations in the document.

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>70. Review of RC 10.9 on Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 70</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 16.160 (Rev. CoP17) directs the SC to establish a working group, operating in English and French, in collaboration and consultation with all range States, to review RC 10.9 and present its proposals to CoP18. The group could consider, <i>inter alia</i>, the scope of the resolution; its relationship with RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP17); and whether or how a more efficient and cost-effective mechanism to review elephant listing proposals could be developed. Expresses concerns about the limited value of RC 10.9, including that, for the 20 years the Resolution has been in effect, the CoP has made limited use of the Panel of Experts reports. Notes that the review could assess whether RC 10.9 should be retained or repealed, or if parts could be incorporated into RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN notes that no progress was made in amending RC 10.9 since CoP16, and the SC did not consider a working group (WG) to be a priority. At CoP17, the Secretariat noted additional concerns about the limited value of RC 10.9 stating that “the cost, time and effort spent on African elephant listing proposals is greater than for any other CITES-listed species...” SSN recommends that Parties seek repeal of RC 10.9; a WG is not necessary, but if one is set up it should be an open, transparent and inclusive in-session WG making recommendations directly to SC69. Provision for a Panel of Experts to assess downlisting proposals for elephants was originally made in 1989 before the specific and detailed listing criteria in RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) were adopted. In light of these criteria, Panels of Experts are no longer needed. SSN believes that establishing <i>ad hoc</i> Expert Panels, as suggested by the Secretariat, is not appropriate for elephants; all CITES Parties are required to assess proposals and amend the Appendices accordingly. Available resources should be focused on closing domestic ivory markets, combatting ivory trafficking and developing guidance for stockpile management.
<p>71. Listing of marine species</p>		
<p>71.1</p> <p>Cooperation under the FAO-CITES 2006 MoU, with special reference to the scientific and technical evaluation of commercially exploited aquatic species listing proposals</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 71.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Japan. Discusses how the SC could further improve delivery of scientific and technical advice for Parties on listing proposals for commercially exploited aquatic species. Notes that since CoP13 an FAO Expert Advisory Panel has reviewed marine species listing proposals, that FAO’s role was further formalized in the 2006 MoU between FAO and CITES, and that at CoP17 FAO supported working with the Secretariat to strengthen assistance to Parties. Suggests that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early consultation with fishery and environmental bodies would simplify subsequent review; Earlier submission of listing proposals and relevant information would allow more time for review and debate; There may be opportunities for harmonization among bodies (eg TRAFFIC, FAO) reviewing listing proposals; Ad-hoc consultations between the Secretariat, FAO or other relevant bodies may improve coherence of the advice given; and When the CoP discusses marine species proposals, precedence should be given (after Parties) to speakers from relevant fisheries and environmental bodies. Invites the SC to discuss strengthening the process of delivering advice to Parties, and to consider developing draft deci- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN urges the SC to reject this document. Listing decisions should be made on the basis of the best scientific information available, and that Parties should be given the maximum time possible to consider both this information and the recommendations of advisory bodies. Mechanisms to provide this information (including the existing FAO-CITES MoU) are already in place; actions such as requiring submission of proposals before the current deadline could place some Parties at a disadvantage. Advisory bodies may use their own criteria when formulating recommendations to the Parties, and that harmonization of recommendations may not be possible; rather than providing ‘coherent’ advice it may be better for Parties to consider differing points of view when formulating their positions. Attempts to achieve ‘coherence’ are unlikely to include all points of view and may have the effect of prioritizing some sources of advice over others; Parties should be free to weigh different sources of advice as they see fit. Select observer bodies should not be given automatic precedence during debate; recognition of speakers should remain the discretion of meeting Chairs. Although SSN supports improving the quality of information available to Parties, we see no need to develop draft decisions on these issues.

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	SSN RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>71.2 Analysis of the relevance of the advice provided by the FAO Panel of Experts for proposals on marine fish species and evaluation of the conservation benefits of marine fish species listed at CITES CoP16 and CoP17</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 71.2</p>	<p>sions on this issue for CoP18.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. States that at CoP17 advice from FAO on listing decisions was ignored or disregarded by several Parties, and that several the Secretariat recommendations at CoPs 16 and 17 contradicted recommendations of the FAO Expert Panel. States that establishing the FAO Panel of Experts is costly and complicated, but that it has little effect on decision-making. Urges the SC to request the Secretariat to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the relevance of the FAO Panel of Experts in the CITES decision-making process for the listing of marine fish species in its Appendices; Undertake, in conjunction with the FAO, a full evaluation of the conservation effectiveness of the listing of marine fish species in the Appendices at CoP 16 and CoP17; and Report on its findings at CITES SC70. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN urges the SC to reject this document. Parties to CITES are sovereign nations that are not obliged to follow recommendations from any body, including FAO. Parties are not required to explain their votes, and a vote contrary to FAO's recommendation is not proof that its advice was ignored or disregarded; the decision may have been based on other factors. The Secretariat is required by CITES Article XII.2(h) to make its own recommendations, not to blindly follow recommendations of others. The issue of FAO recommendations, including differences between the Secretariat and FAO based on differing interpretation of terms in the listing criteria (e.g., 'reducing') has already been considered at SC58^{xxi} and CoP15^{xxii} and need not be addressed further.
<p>72. Analysis of the relevance of the criteria of RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>SC69 Doc. 72</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. States that CITES listing criteria are a 'one way street', used for listings/uplistings but ignored for downlistings/delistings, and that species deemed 'not to meet the criteria' by FAO or the Secretariat are nonetheless listed. States that the current situation "creates doubt as to the importance or even the relevance of the criteria in the CITES decision-making process with respect to the amendments to the Appendices". Requests the SC to instruct the Secretariat to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an analysis of all Proposals to amend the Appendices submitted since and including CoP11, in relation to the findings from the Secretariat and – for marine species – by the FAO Panel of Experts as to whether the proposal met or did not meet the criteria; and Report its findings to SC70, including any recommendations on the relevance of the criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSN urges the SC to reject this document. Listings/uplisting or downlistings/delistings are decided by a two thirds majority of the Parties; Parties are sovereign in their decisions and not required to accept the recommendations of either FAO or the Secretariat. As Parties are not required to explain their votes, it is impossible to tell whether votes differing from FAO/Secretariat recommendations are a result of 'ignoring' the criteria or of interpreting them, and the data in listing proposals, independently. There is therefore no reason to consider the criteria 'irrelevant'. CITES already has a mechanism, the Periodic Review, to examine whether species continue to meet the listing criteria. The Secretariat has already presented its views, in its pre-CoP recommendations on listing proposals, on whether the criteria were or were not met, and the Parties have already acted in each case. The analysis called for in this document would therefore be wasteful of resources, repetitious, and unlikely to provide anything new and useful.
<p>73. Reports of regional representatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report of North America is available as SC69 Docs. 73.5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
<p>74. Any other business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
<p>75. Determination of the time and venue of the 70th meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.
<p>76. Closing remarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment.



Species Survival Network

1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450; Washington DC 20037 USA
info@ssn.org www.SSN.org

- i <http://www.eia-global.org/rosewood-racket>
- ii SC69 Doc. 57A
- iii SC67 Doc 12.1
- iv Three part story by Vietnamese journalists <http://www.vtc.vn/phong-su-kham-pha/tham-nhap-duong-day-buon-ban-ho-tu-lao-ve-viet-nam-d314759.html>, <http://www.vtc.vn/phong-su-kham-pha/tham-nhap-duong-day-buon-ho-ve-viet-nam-doi-mat-ba-trum-ngoai-bien-ai-d314765.html>, <http://vtc.vn/phong-su-kham-pha/buon-ho-vao-viet-nam-nhung-manh-khoe-dua-chua-son-lam-qua-bien-gioi-d314771.html>
- v <http://www.savetheelephants.org/about-ste/press-media/?detail=new-research-shows-laos-is-now-the-fastest-growing-ivory-market-in-the-world>
- vi <http://www.traffic.org/home/2017/8/30/kinshasas-ivory-market-still-flourishing-finds-traffic-study.html>
- vii <https://eia-international.org/illegal-trade-seizures-elephant-ivory>
- viii EIA (2017), Shuidong Connection, <https://eia-international.org/report/shuidong-connection-exposing-global-hub-illegal-ivory-trade>
- ix <http://www.savetheelephants.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2017-Vigne-Lao-Ivory-Report-web.pdf>
- x SC69 Doc. 51.1, Annex
- xi EIA (2017), Shuidong Connection, <https://eia-international.org/report/shuidong-connection-exposing-global-hub-illegal-ivory-tradeop.cit>.
- xii TRAFFIC Report noted in SC69 Doc.29.2.2
- xiii TRAFFIC (2017) Ivory seizure exposes Japan's lax ivory trade controls, 23 June
- xiv Kitade. T., (2017) An updated review of online ivory trade in Japan. TRAFFIC Briefing
- xv <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/11/wildlife-watch-rhino-poaching-trial-south-africa/>
- xvi <https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/alleged-rhino-poaching-brothers-win-bail-vow-to-fight-us-extradition-20170623>
- xvii <https://africasustainableconservation.com/2017/09/20/south-africa-hugo-ras-protest-over-rhino-poaching-trial-delay/>
- xviii <https://www.news24.com/Green/News/Rhino-horn-stocks-now-18-tons-20130703>; <http://af.reuters.com/article/africaTech/idAFKCN0YE1R9>; <https://www.news24.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/zimbabwe-national-parks-boss-suspended-in-probe-over-missing-rhino-horn-20160628>; http://www.rhinosourcecenter.com/pdf_files/119/1196847755.pdf
- xix <https://www.asiasentinel.com/society/hornbill-hunters-sumatra/>; <http://www.traffic.org/home/2016/9/2/malaysia-nabs-12-with-over-200-parts-of-threatened-species.html>; <http://englishnews.thaipbs.or.th/three-arrested-commercial-trade-dead-protected-wildlife-online/>.
- xx Nerissa Chao, Anuj Jain, Jessica Lee, Caroline Lees, Bee Choo Ng, Serene C. L. Chng, Willy Marthy, Chin Aik Yeap, Yok Yok Hadiprakarsa and Madhu Rao (Eds) (2017) Range-wide Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. IUCN Species Survival Commission Hornbill Specialist Group.
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- xxii <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/15/doc/E15-63.pdf>