

WCS recommendations for CITES SC81

Geneva, Switzerland, 2-6 November 2026



The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international conservation NGO that has been working across the globe for more than 125 years to save wildlife and wild places. We have conservation programs on the ground in about 60 countries that work in partnership with governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders on science-based conservation efforts.

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Recommendations regarding SC81 agenda items

WCS addresses only a subset of SC81 agenda items and documents below. However, we would be pleased to discuss these and any other documents and issues with SC members and other Parties, before or during the meeting of SC81.

For late documents, we will share our views and recommendations with SC Members and Parties at the meeting, and by updating this document on [our website](#).

The numbers refer to the official SC81 agenda item number, and the title should hyperlink to the working document.

13. Enhancing the work and efficiency of the Convention through the permanent committees

13.1: [Enhancing the work and efficiency of the Convention through the permanent committees: Report of the Working Group](#)

We support the pilot exercise outlined for CoP21, with sufficient detail presented to evaluate whether the increased investment in process meaningfully organizes the work of the Permanent Committees and Secretariat (e.g., time spent on categorization and alterations against previous prioritization). Generally, we maintain that scoring processes should cite, wherever possible, any evidence or indicators that are independently verifiable.

13.2: [Enhancing the work and efficiency of the Convention through the permanent committees: Information requests to Parties: Overview and Key Challenges](#)

Parties' decisions to not submit a response to Notifications requesting specific information undermines decision-making by the Permanent Committees and the CoP on issues ranging from Asian big cats to elephant ivory stockpiles, to amphibian species, and more. Many of these

Notifications are connected to the implementation of existing resolutions on threatened species. We support the establishment of an intersessional working group with a mandate to identify ways to increase substantive, comprehensive responses to such Notifications. One option is to ensure that the SC and CoP take recommendations and decisions that cite the findings of technical analyses to clarify the most important Party input.

14: [Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade \[Decisions 19.17 \(Rev. CoP20\) & 20.23\]](#)

WCS is pleased to have been a member of the WG prior to CoP20 on the “Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade,” and to having been able to share our extensive [One Health work and expertise](#), and [science-based work on pandemic prevention](#) with the Parties. It is vital that prevention at source (particularly of pathogen spillover from wildlife) of the next outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic of zoonotic origin be addressed at the national as well as international levels. We believe that CITES and its implementation have a role to play in this prevention, but there is also much that needs to be done that is outside the remit of CITES.

This is a matter of urgency, and there are actions that are critical for governments to take, to help prevent another devastating pandemic of zoonotic origin. Implementation of a true trans-sectoral One Health approach is vital in that regard. We see CITES implementation as part of such a trans-sectoral approach, which must include management and regulation of domestic wildlife use, habitat degradation and loss, animal “farming” and handling, markets for live wildlife, and by necessity must involve multiple agencies and national authorities. Different factors contribute to pathogen spillovers (and spill-back) from wildlife to humans, other wildlife, and livestock. The evidence is clear that wildlife farms/captive breeding facilities, markets (particularly in live and freshly slaughtered animals, and particularly involving birds and mammals) and associated trade (domestic and international) contribute significantly to the risk of pathogen spillover. International wildlife trade is one of these factors, and as such, these issues are highly relevant from a CITES perspective.

We appreciate that many Parties have taken positive steps to address the risk of pathogen spillover from wildlife (farmed and from the wild), but many have not yet taken sufficient action. In May 2024, WOA released its [Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade](#), which provides guidelines to key actors in wildlife trade to identify and select pragmatic, flexible, and relevant risk-management strategies, and to ensure their effective implementation. We urge Parties to implement those Guidelines.

We appreciate the adoption by CBD CoP16 of [Decision 16/19](#) which includes a [Global Action Plan for Biodiversity and Health](#) (Action Plan) with actions for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages in the implementation of the GBF. The Action Plan includes taking biodiversity and health into consideration, using a One Health approach, in implementation of the GBF Targets, including Targets 4, 5 and 9 as particularly relevant in the trade context. The Action Plan has clear recommendations on reducing the risk of pathogen spillover. Since all CITES Parties but one are Parties to the CBD, we urge the SC and CITES Parties to endeavour to implement the Action Plan along with their implementation of the GBF.

WCS calls Parties' attention to a landmark publication issued by the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade, Live *Wildlife Trade and Markets* (<https://alliance-health-wildlife.org/2026/05/29/new-alliance-publication-white-paper-on-live-wildlife-trade-and-markets/>). The paper examines the links between live wildlife trade, zoonotic disease risks, biodiversity loss, animal welfare, and global health security through a comprehensive One Health perspective. Drawing on current scientific evidence, it highlights how wildlife trade chains and live animal markets can create conditions that facilitate pathogen emergence, transmission, and spillover. The paper explores key drivers and risk factors associated with legal and illegal wildlife trade, including international exotic pet trade, online commerce, regulatory gaps, and global supply chains. It further outlines prevention-oriented approaches and policy recommendations aimed at reducing pandemic risks at source while supporting biodiversity protection, animal welfare, and ecosystem integrity.

Regarding SC81 Doc. 14:

- WCS encourages all Parties to respond to the Notification to the Parties that the Animals Committee has requested the Secretariat to issue, pursuant to Decision 20.12, and to share their experiences and scientific and technical input, regarding the prevention, detection, and control of the risks of pathogen spillover associated with international wildlife trade.
- WCS encourages all CITES authorities to work closely with their CBD focal points, as relevant, in the implementation of the GBF, particularly as relates to its Target 5 and implementation of the CBD Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health.
- WCS supports further discussion on the merits of a Resolution of the Conference of the Parties on these issues. However, whether or not Parties adopt a new resolution, the extensive scientific information and data now available are clear on what is needed to prevent the next pandemic of zoonotic origin, particularly in terms of commercial breeding, handling, and trade in live (and freshly slaughtered) wild birds and mammals. We know enough to act, and the precautionary principle necessitates action on a fast track.

15: Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international organizations

While we note, and support, the ongoing collaboration with UNODC in the context of ICCWC, WCS encourages more coordination between CITES and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). This is particularly true considering the CITES Secretariat's recent participation in the work of the UNTOC Intergovernmental Expert Group on Crimes that Affect the Environment, and the upcoming draft resolution to be negotiated at UNTOC COP13. If adopted in its current form, this draft resolution would launch negotiations of an additional UNTOC Protocol covering, among other environmental crimes, trafficking in wild fauna and flora – and making the coordination between UNTOC and CITES ever more important. WCS encourages the SC to include UNTOC in paragraph 8 (a) of Doc. 15.

Regarding Doc. Inf. 1 "Mapping Exercise for the Partnership Strategy", the rationale for including some non-governmental organizations and not others remains unclear, and we suggest it be expanded.

16: [IPBES Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species](#)

We recommend an editorial amendment to the proposal of Canada regarding Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17): *“Welcoming the outcomes of the IPBES Assessment on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species, requested by CITES and the CBD, which provides policy and solution-oriented approaches ~~to ensure that use of wild species is sustainable towards more sustainable use of wild species.~~”*

We believe that there may be value in Mexico’s suggestion to consider how Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP20) on *Compliance and enforcement* may be amended to strengthen a response to overexploitation, while respecting customary sustainable use. However, we do not believe this requires another open-ended review process for Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP20), which was recently completed.

We strongly oppose consideration by the Standing Committee and Parties of amendments to Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) proposed by the Observers Conservation Force and Dallas Safari Club on page 24. Parties have already considered this option at CoP20 and rejected the approach, and [see [Summary Record CoP20 Com. II. Rec. 4 \(Rev. 1\)](#) regarding COP20 Doc. 30].

We appreciate the observation from Canada that Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* helps to address overexploitation, but the proposed changes are not clear enough at this point to warrant negotiation of resolution text; the process is well respected and sufficient at present. We do not agree with further consideration of the amendments proposed by the Observers Conservation Force and Dallas Safari Club, which would extend CITES beyond its mandate and objectives.

17: [Review of Resolution Conf. 10.4 \(Rev. CoP14\) and Resolution Conf. 13.2 \(Rev. CoP14\)](#)

We recommend that the SC endorse Option 2: Merge Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) and Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) into a single resolution that could be titled *Cooperation and synergies between CITES and CBD*.

Consolidation is preferable to Option 1. We do not necessarily object to Option 3, but it could overshadow important aspects such as the unique value of the CBD’s financial mechanism for implementation of CITES.

18: [World Wildlife Trade report \(Decisions 20.18 and 20.19\)](#)

WCS does not believe this report should be a priority for the Secretariat; however, we recognize that Parties have provided extrabudgetary funding specifically for this. Should this report be produced, it should be submitted as an Information document to CoP21.

We can support the scope of a report that contains information on:

- Geographic reach (e.g., expansion in number of Parties)
- Taxonomic coverage of listings
- Scale of transactions in CITES-listed species

- Most significant proportions of document exports
- Significant shifts in exports, e.g., shifts to captive-bred specimens – where such data do not preempt or prejudice any findings of AC and SC discussions regarding captive breeding
- Spotlights on recent listings, with objective framing that does not overemphasize one national experience over others
- Regional trends in exports

We do not recommend that a section on emerging trends be included unless they are described in the scope above (e.g., shifts in CITES transactions).

23: [Compliance Assistance Programme \(Decision 20.26\)](#)

WCS commends the efforts of the Secretariat and the voluntary participation of Cambodia, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Togo, and Viet Nam in the CAP.

We particularly welcome the document's reference to longer implementation periods, as opposed to the traditional one-year timeframe, as some of the structural reforms supported by the CAP often require more time to achieve meaningful results.

WCS continues to note the CAP's limited focus on enforcement and encourages it to play a more active role in strengthening efforts to combat illegal trade, complementing ICCWC's work and addressing critical gaps, where possible.

27: [Indigenous peoples and local communities \(Decision 20.33\)](#)

WCS fully understands, respects, and supports the vital role that Indigenous Peoples and local communities play in conservation around the world. We fully acknowledge and respect their rights as enshrined by UNDRIP and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Across the globe, in our field programs in more than 55 countries, WCS collaborates with IPs and LCs to achieve a shared vision for a more secure, inclusive, just, equitable, and resilient future, where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies and communities that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on earth.

WCS believes that robust, meaningful engagement with IPs and LCs in the implementation and enforcement of CITES should be undertaken by Party governments according to their respective legal frameworks. We strongly support the engagement at the national level of IPs and LCs in the implementation and enforcement of CITES, as well as in the delivery of [Target 5](#) of the GBF. Towards that end, we strongly support national-level processes to engage IPs and LCs in CITES processes and meetings, to ensure their voices are well represented.

We note that in addition to economic and other livelihood benefits that can accrue from effective and equitable implementation of CITES and national legislation, there is a significant risk of harm to local livelihoods and cultural values if wildlife exploitation and trade are illegal and/or unsustainable, or if they pose a risk of pathogen spillover. There is always an economic benefit to someone from trade, by definition, but it rarely actually accrues significantly and equitably to IPs or

LCs. In all too many cases, the commercial exploitation and trade in wildlife provides only marginal economic benefits and undermines the rights, livelihoods, well-being, and socio-cultural values of Indigenous Peoples.

We stress that there is an assumption by some that the livelihoods of IPs and LCs will always be negatively impacted by CITES restrictions in the marketplace, without considering the potential for undermining alternative worldviews through a focus on markets. Many IP organizations, for example, have raised concerns in other fora that promoting a market-based approach undermines efforts to resist such an approach, and to protect their cultural integrity and traditional economies. Indeed, perhaps CITES should also discuss how wildlife trade and a market-based approach, and exploitation of certain species for economic gain, potentially undermines the cultural integrity and traditions of Indigenous Peoples.

We support attendance of Indigenous Peoples Organizations at CITES meetings as observers. We are also supportive of a separate fund being established to facilitate their participation in meetings, as long as it is in addition to the Delegates Travel Fund and does not disadvantage any developing country CITES authorities to attend CITES meetings. We do not support a special color code or sticker that identifies an individual as a representative of an Indigenous Peoples' or local community organization; we worry it could backfire. Some NGOs and IGOs, for example (including WCS) have individuals on our delegations that self-identify as Indigenous, but might not want such a label.

WCS strongly recommends that the "Guidance on Consulting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on proposals to amend the Appendices" remain clearly optional and non-binding. It is posted on the CITES website, and Parties can easily download it. We do not recommend incorporating this guidance into a Resolution of the CoP, which would make it seem more obligatory. The guidance has useful elements, whose utility varies based on national circumstances; inclusion in a resolution could lead to it being seen or used as a barrier to preparation or submission of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices. We agree with Parties which have repeatedly pointed out that engagement with IPs and LCs should be addressed at the national level and that it is a matter for each Party to decide how to engage with communities and other stakeholders, based on national laws, policies, history, and circumstances. Some countries do not have or recognize Indigenous Peoples, whilst others have strict legal requirements and treaty obligations. The Secretariat or other Parties should not intervene in these national level actions.

Regarding the Recommendations in the document (paragraph 19):

- We consider subparagraphs a) and b) to be acceptable.
- We recommend amending subparagraph c) to read: "request the Chair to, if appropriate and warranted, propose revisions to the Guidance for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- Subparagraph d): We consider it premature for the SC to agree to the proposed amendments to Reso. Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on Livelihoods. Other than the reference to GBF Target 5 in the preambular text, which is fine, we don't see the need for the proposed amendments. We recommend giving Parties time to use the non-binding guidance. Some of the proposed amendments are also somewhat prescriptive; we prefer to trust Parties to

consult Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their country based on their national legislation and circumstances.

- Subparagraph e): In light of current financial and capacity stresses on the Secretariat, we do not see the value in asking the Secretariat to design and implement such a system for coding badges at upcoming meetings of the CITES permanent committees and the CoP.
- Subparagraph f): Regarding terminology, WCS continues to prefer the term “Indigenous Peoples and local communities”, and not the term “rural communities”, as the former is widely accepted in multilateral fora. Since the CBD has not yet concluded its revision of the voluntary glossary of key terms related to this topic, we believe it prudent for CITES to await the CBD glossary (noting that all CITES Parties but one are CBD Parties).

29: [Demand reduction to combat illegal trade \(Decision 20.39\)](#)

WCS supports the recommendations presented in this document regarding Demand Reduction. It is disappointing to note the low level of response to the Notification on this topic and in particular the limited responses from Parties who have been noted as having significant markets for illegal wildlife products. We agree with a need to add additional case studies to the *CITES guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* and again note that this is not the only guidance or tool available to influence consumer behavior.

Evidence-based behavior change approaches, outside of the Guidance document, are often overlooked or under-represented in the CITES documents. As such we support the suggestion for the Secretariat to develop a page on the CITES website dedicated to behavior change approaches, providing a platform to share other approaches and available tools, that Parties can and do use to influence consumer behavior.

WCS is a member of the EU GUARD project Alliance on Demand Reduction and is working closely with Parties and other partners under this project, including ICCWC members, to implement evidence-based behavior change initiatives and would be happy to share the experiences from this work once available.

30: [National laws for implementation of the Convention \(Decisions 20.42 to 20.44\)](#)

WCS works closely with CITES Parties to provide technical support during the updating of national legislation or regulations to implement CITES. Where the Secretariat and SC require additional information or updates, we have endeavored to reiterate this request and provide support where possible.

32: Compliance matters

32.1: [Implementation of Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 14.3 \(Rev. CoP19\) on CITES compliance procedures \[Resolution Conf. 11.3 \(Rev. CoP20\), paragraph 23 c\) – e\)\]](#)

We appreciate this document, and the detailed discussion therein. We appreciate the openness of the authorities in the UAE to the visit and input of the Secretariat, and all the significant progress

they have made. We look forward to discussing these issues with Members of the Standing Committee and other Parties at SC81.

32.2: [Scope and application of recommendations to suspend trade \(Decision 20.46\)](#)

WCS supports the concept of the SC using standard terminology when generating recommendations to suspend trade and being very precise in their formulation. The standard language provided in the Annex to Document 32.2 seems like a good basis on which to proceed (starting at least with SC82 if this proves to be a complicated discussion at SC81).

Importantly, general periods of transition should be avoided, and periods of transition for specific taxa should be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the CITES-listed species and compliance procedure under consideration.

We are also concerned that some of the suggested “exemptions” to recommendations to suspend trade could create loopholes, such as exemptions for “urgent cases” involving live animals, and as such any recommendations must be clear and precise.

32.3: [Addressing compliance matters by the Standing Committee \(Decision 20.47\)](#)

WCS welcomes this discussion and the attention it gives to strengthening the compliance process, which is central to the effectiveness of the Convention and must remain at the heart of the SC’s work. The document rightly focuses on the challenges set out in paragraphs 11–16, mostly the growing workload associated with compliance matters, the limited time available to discuss individual cases, and the need for greater transparency and consistency. The options it presents are designed to address these challenges.

WCS considers, however, that the problem statement omits an important concern: the risk that the compliance process rewards procedural fulfilment rather than real outcomes. A Party may appear compliant (submitting its reports, adopting or committing to adopt legislation, and holding workshops and trainings) while enforcement on the ground remains weak and illegal or unsustainable trade continues. Closely linked to this is the question of how cases are closed and measures withdrawn. At present, a case may be closed, and measures lifted, on the basis of procedural progress alone, before there is credible evidence that outcomes have changed. WCS would welcome explicit acknowledgement of this risk, as it has a direct bearing on which options should be prioritized. Our comments below are guided by this concern.

Institutional options

WCS encourages Parties to establish a dedicated space, with sufficient time, for the consideration of compliance matters. As paragraph 13 makes clear, complex cases are currently considered under significant time pressure. We particularly support the establishment of a compliance subcommittee of the SC (Option B) or, alternatively, an intersessional working group on compliance (Option C). Both would allow deeper and more consistent examination of cases while keeping final decision-making with the SC. It is essential, however, that observers are included in whichever body is established.

Procedural options

WCS strongly supports the tracking system for SC recommendations (Option E). We particularly welcome the proposal to distinguish essential actions, those required to address significant compliance concerns or avoid escalation, from advisory measures. Clearly identifying the minimum essential actions expected of each Party would help shift the focus of the compliance process from outputs to outcomes. To serve this purpose, essential actions should, wherever possible, include outcome-based benchmarks, such as demonstrable improvements in enforcement, rather than only the completion of activities. WCS also supports a standardized process for bringing compliance matters to the attention of the Standing Committee (Option C), including the referral template and indicator framework in paragraphs 49–50.

Finally, we urge the SC to oppose the confidential discussion of potential compliance matters (Option A), as closed sessions without observers, or documents, run counter to the transparency objectives set out in the document itself. Moreover, they risk delaying the consideration of urgent compliance matters by adding a preliminary step before a matter can be formally considered. WCS also cautions Parties against the SC explanatory notes on the rationale of measures (Option D), as preparing such notes would add to the very workload pressures the document seeks to relieve. The rationale for measures could instead be captured through the referral template and tracking system.

33: Application of Article XIII

33.2: [Application of Article XIII in Bangladesh](#)

WCS recognizes the significant progress made by the Bangladesh CITES MA since SC79 and in response to Article XIII requirements. Noting a number of the outstanding actions mentioned in the report, WCS supports the Secretariat's recommendations, including maintaining the suspension of commercial trade in CITES-listed birds until further progress can be demonstrated. WCS welcomes the new Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2026, which aligns the Schedules with the CITES Appendices, updates species lists, empowers Border Guard Bangladesh, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Coast Guard, and Bangladesh Customs to enforce this act, and increases penalties. WCS further supports a fixed deadline for the pending amendments to a number of regulations including the Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Rules and Customs Import Policy, and for endorsement of the Guidelines for Trade Control of CITES-listed Marine Species and the Protocol for Seized Marine Specimens. WCS also welcomes the completion of four new NDFs. WCS remains committed to continue supporting the Bangladesh CITES MA in strengthening enforcement capacity, species identification and traceability, and in implementing the recommendations for shark and ray trade.

33.5: [Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

We look forward to providing additional comments closer to SC81.

33.6: [Application of Article XIII in Ecuador and Peru](#)

WCS notes the progress made by Ecuador in the implementation of shark and ray listings detailed in this document. We strongly agree with the recommendations to continue the suspension in trade in silky, mako and thresher sharks until adequate NDF's are in place.

However, presenting information on the proposed new NDF's to the Chair of the AC and Secretariat alone is inadequate, given the scale of the trade in question, the technical nature of the issue and the fact that several of these species are classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

This document contains detail of large-scale ongoing trade in species that are classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and ensuring that any continued trade in these species is sustainable must be prioritized, and information provided by Ecuador to that end in the form of revised NDF's should be presented to the Animals Committee for their analysis (not just that of the AC chair) before this issue is brought back to SC 82.

33.8: Application of Article XIII in India

[We look forward to providing additional comments closer to SC81.](#)

33.9: Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

WCS works closely with the Government of Lao PDR on site-based conservation work, as well as the implementation of CITES and national counter wildlife trafficking efforts. WCS stands ready to work closely with the Government of Lao PDR to fully implement the recommendations adopted by the SC to resolve any outstanding issues with implementation of CITES.

33.10: [Application of Article XIII in Nigeria](#)

WCS works closely with the Government of Nigeria and relevant authorities on intelligence-driven anti-poaching and law enforcement efforts, among other interventions, at Yankari Game Reserve in Bauchi State, as well as Cross-River National Park and the broader landscape in Cross River State. We welcome the progress reported by Nigeria, and we look forward to the timely adoption of the Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill by the end of 2026.

34: National ivory action plan process

34.1: Implementation of the National ivory action plan process [(Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP20), Annex 3), step 4]

[We look forward to providing additional comments closer to SC81.](#)

34.2: [Review of the National Ivory Action Plans Process \(Decision 20.101\)](#)

We agree that the NIAP template should be amended to include means of verification, as well as a streamlined process to ensure that NIAP actions not achieved within the envisioned timeline can be extended. We look forward to SC82's consideration of these proposed changes.

We do not agree with the Secretariat's analysis cited from document CoP20 Doc. 35.2 that those aspects of "membership, time constraints and resource implications" might outweigh the potential benefits of an independent advisory body. We understand the current resource constraints but believe the effectiveness of an independent advisory body would help Parties to target and achieve the most important actions to reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in ivory – reducing long-term expenditure in the NIAP process.

We note connections between this discussion and the options presented within document 32.3 and believe that this could be integrated into consideration by an intersessional working group.

34.4: Guidance on Party-specific compliance measures informed by the ETIS report (Decision 20.102)

Broadly, we think the proposed amendments add some clarity to the scope of the SC's consideration when translating the data and analysis from ETIS into decision-making around integrating Parties into the NIAP process.

However, we have two key points regarding the proposed amendments to paragraph d) of Step 1, Annex 3 of Reso. Conf 10.10 (Rev. CoP20):

- "Inter alia" is important, noting the below:
- We welcome the "Existing national response, and measures and follow up on seizures" and "National data reporting"; however, we believe there should be a reference to reporting on stockpiles and stockpile management given both the role of ivory stockpiles documented in supplying illegal trade and also the issues around non-reporting on ivory stockpiles from document 56.
- We have some concern that "Other Party-specific considerations" may be too broad and would encourage some tightening of this language.

36: Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity [Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP20)]

36.1: Overview of the Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity

We note Cuba's export of the following species, several of which are endemic:

- *Agapornis fischeri* (Fischer's lovebird), a parrot from East Africa
- *Aratinga solstitialis* (Sun conure), a parrot that is native to northeast South America
- *Neophema splendida* (scarlet-chested parrot), which is native to Australia [endemic]
- *Neopsephotus bourkii* (Bourke's parrot), native to Australia [endemic]
- *Platycercus eximius* (Eastern rosella), native to Australia [endemic]
- *Psephotus haematonotus* (Red-rumped parrot), native to Australia [endemic]

While some of these species (or close relatives) are routinely traded in other parts of the world, suggesting that some of these species can breed in captivity, there is still a need to ensure that founder stock individuals were legally taken from the wild and their descendants legally exported to captive breeding operations in Cuba. We recommend that the SC request additional information

from Cuba on the nature of these facilities, the genetic origins of their breeding stock, the origin of founder stock, and any documentation regarding import.

36.2: [Implementation of recommendations of the Animals Committee](#)

We appreciate the detailed information from the Secretariat on the cases selected by the Animals Committee for the review of trade in animal specimens of species reported to be produced in captivity. This is an important issue, as it goes directly to compliance with the CITES treaty, particularly Article IV.

We generally support the recommendations of the Animals Committee and Secretariat, as in the document, with these additions:

- Concerning *Testudo graeca*, the recommendation is to remove *Testudo graeca* from Jordan from the review, and request that Jordan not authorize the resumption of commercial exports of the species declared as bred in captivity without first informing the Secretariat. We are concerned that specimens of questionable origin could be exported just by informing the Secretariat, and it could take too long to alert the AC and SC, and Parties. We recommend instead Jordan be asked to inform the AC and Secretariat of its intent to export the species, before any exports commence, and for the AC to review the situation.
- Concerning *Testudo kleinmanni*, we note that Egypt is “invited” to maintain the zero export quotas for all sources, but the Syrian Arab Republic is “requested” to publish zero export quotas for all sources. We recommend “request” in both cases, for consistency.

37: Enforcement

37.2: [International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime](#)

WCS notes the Document prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with the ICCWC partners and welcomes the update on activities undertaken by ICCWC. WCS works with a number of ICCWC partners through its country programs and has supported efforts to implement the Indicator Framework in a number of these, including Lao PDR, where an updated IF assessment was recently completed under the EU GUARD project.

37.3: [Wildlife crime linked to the Internet \(Decision 20.62\)](#)

WCS welcomes this document and the increased focus on the role of online platforms in wildlife crime. We note that some of the annexed report's key recommendations are not reflected in the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP20), and therefore encourage the Standing Committee to strengthen paragraphs b) and h) as follows:

*b) where not yet done, review and amend national legislation to ensure that it makes provision for the effective investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime linked to the Internet, **including establishing liability for online platforms that fail to monitor and report illicit content**, as well as for the integration of financial crime investigations in relation to these crimes, where appropriate;*
(...)

h) engage online platforms to:

- i) introduce and publish policies to address and prevent the use of such platforms for illegal trade in wildlife, including measures to ensure compliance with such policies;*
- ii) ensure that such policies are presented clearly and visibly; and*
- iii) ~~encourage-require~~ them to **ensure that all CITES-listed species display a clear notice informing users that the trade in these species is regulated and may require a permit** inform their users about wildlife crime linked to the Internet, **including** by using targeted alerts and other technology to make users aware of relevant laws and website policies; and*
- iv) strengthen cooperation with national law enforcement authorities to prevent, detect and disrupt wildlife crime linked to the Internet, in accordance with relevant national legislation;*

These edits reflect the annexed report's own recommendations, on pages 56 and 57 of Doc. 37.3.

39: [Rhinoceroses \(Rhinocerotidae spp.\) \(Decision 20.84\)](#)

WCS welcomes this document and supports the recommendations therein. WCS, like the Secretariat, is concerned by the limited responses received from Parties, particularly in light of recent seizures of rhino horn and ongoing threats posed by illegal trade in rhinoceros' horn, which continue to undermine the successful conservation efforts for these species. Limited reporting means the document fails to acknowledge the ongoing issue with trade into Parties not previously noted in the document. Given the limited responses received, including from Parties acknowledged as source, transit and destination locations for rhinoceros horn we would once again encourage time bound reporting requirements for countries impacted by illegal trade in rhinoceroses.

40: Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) from Madagascar (Decision 20.91)

40.1: [Report by Madagascar](#)

We look forward to providing additional comments closer to SC81.

41: [Implementation of the recommendations from the review of the ETIS programme \(Decisions 19.96, 20.94, 20.98 & 20.103\)](#)

We look forward to providing additional comments closer to SC81.

43: Legal acquisition findings

43.1: [Report of the working group \(Decision 20.112\)](#)

We appreciate the constructive engagement by members of the intersessional WG and thank the United States as WG Chair for the summary of such complex discussions.

With respect to WCS's understanding of the term 'founder stock', we reiterate our points made during the intersessional WG discussions:

- The term **founder stock** should be defined as the original specimens that were removed from the wild by humans, where the individuals or their offspring are used to produce offspring in a captive environment.
 - We note that the term “**founder**” is generally defined as a specific entity which introduces or develops something new. In this context, we interpret the term to refer to individuals introducing new genetic material into a pool of captive-bred specimens, which are subject to different rules (or exemptions) under CITES. There is a critical transition in *regulation* of CITES-listed specimens between being either ‘of wild origin/source’ or not of wild origin/source (e.g., bred in captivity). Therefore, there is a need, which we believe is met by the term founder stock, to identify the specimens that exist at the crux of that conversion in regulatory approaches.
 - The term “founder stock” should cover specimens intentionally removed for breeding in captivity and those that were taken for other reasons, such as the pet or hobbyist trade, which eventually enter captive breeding operations. This refers to the original animal specimens, in the case of fauna, that were removed from the wild, even if the current captive populations are F1, F2, or beyond.
 - We concur with several other commenters who have noted that “these specimens require documented proof of lawful capture, collection, harvest, or other lawful acquisition from their natural range and a determination that the specimen was acquired in a manner that was not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.”
Note: Illegally obtained founder stock renders any offspring / subsequent generations also illegal in accordance with the draft guidance.
 - Our definition is consistent with the use of founder stock in Reso Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP20), which references the “*removal of founder stock from the wild.*”
- The term **parental stock** should refer to specimens which produced the offspring in question (parental stock is used in relation to a specific CITES-listed specimen or specimens). This is in theory a specimen- or cohort-specific term, though it has been used to date primarily in the context of a single controlled environment.

WCS looks forward to joining the in-session WG, that is proposed to take place during SC81, and to working towards a common understanding of ‘founder stock.’

43.2: [Report of the Secretariat \(Decision 20.110\)](#)

We appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat to maintain the Legal Acquisition Findings (LAF) page on the CITES website, which can become a crucial node for information sharing.

We encourage Parties to continue submitting additional information on the existence, adoption, or amendment of stricter domestic measures regarding the management of CITES-listed species native to their jurisdiction, and particularly endemic species (which should then be uploaded on country profile pages).

There may be value in amending the CITES guidance on making legal acquisition findings annexed to Reso. Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP20) to specifically address the evidentiary requirements when considering stricter domestic measures.

45: [Introduction from the sea \(IFS\) \(Decision 20.118\)](#)

WCS appreciates the attention of the Parties to the implementation of their obligations relevant to specimens taken in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with Parties and the Secretariat to help ensure effective implementation of CITES for specimens taken in ABNJ.

We appreciate all the hard work and consensus-building that went into the adoption of Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16). We recognize that more progress is needed in the implementation of this Resolution and associated CITES requirements, for specimens taken in ABNJ. We are not convinced that there has been sufficient analysis to warrant revision of Reso. Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16), beyond clarifications, updates, and improved guidance. We strongly urge the SC and Parties not to amend the core elements of the resolution, the product of years of debate, on when an IFS certificate should be issued versus when an export permit should be issued, for specimens taken in ABNJ.

WCS appreciates the opportunity to have been able to comment on Notification to the Parties No. 2026/054, and the inclusion of our comments in the summary in the Annex to Document 45. We look forward to the posting of the Information document containing all comments received. We appreciate the input from Parties and the other observers who commented, but we are disappointed that only 18 Parties submitted comments. Through our national and regional work on the conservation and management of marine species subject to international trade, WCS is very aware that many Parties face challenges in the effective implementation of IFS provisions and additional support may be needed.

We appreciate the Secretariat, in its summary, including our observation that in some Parties, national legislation is insufficient to effectively implement IFS, and particularly the provisions of Reso. Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16). The CITES National Legislation project does not address this gap, and thus Parties can be identified as having sufficient legislation, when they do not have legislation that effectively addresses the taking of CITES-listed species in ABNJ. We recommend that the National Legislation project more specifically address compliance for trade in specimens taken in ABNJ and in the implementation of CITES IFS obligations.

WCS believes that the issues relate to not only understanding by Parties of their obligations relevant to specimens taken in ABNJ, but compliance with those obligations, and enforcement by flag and port States, exporting and importing countries. Rather than focusing on amending Reso. Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16), we recommend an enhanced focus on implementation of the Convention for specimens taken in ABNJ and ensuring compliance—including issuance of appropriate CITES permits or certificates and required findings by Parties whose vessels operate in ABNJ, and enforcement of CITES requirements by Parties.

WCS is pleased to be a member of the Intersessional Working Group (WG) of the Standing Committee on this vital issue. We support the recommendations of the Secretariat in this

document, and the ongoing work of the WG. We look forward to being able to share our expertise with the proposed technical workshop. We note however that we do not agree that Secretariat support to the WG (organizing meetings, etc.) should take place only subject to external funding. Whilst we always encourage increased funding, with the growing numbers of marine species included in the Appendices, the desire of Parties for clear guidance, and ongoing compliance challenges, we see that work as a core function of the Secretariat.

46: [Guidance related to periods of transition \(Decision 20.119\)](#)

We agree that this is a complicated issue, and more discussion is needed. We consider the draft guidance to be acceptable, and that it should be retained on the CITES website. It is critical that requirements for CITES documents at the time of both export and import are met in accordance with the Convention. We are concerned that some Parties may allow imports after the effective date of a listing of a species on the Appendices, without the required CITES documents. That contravenes the text of the Convention. We urge Parties to provide clear instructions to their customs and law enforcement personnel in this regard. We urge Parties not to adopt or support any options that would allow for trade in CITES specimens without the required CITES permits or certificates, from the date of entry into force of a listing on the Appendices.

We would support amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP20) on Permits and Certificates to incorporate some aspects of the guidance regarding periods of transition, as long as the options provided are consistent with the Convention. We recommend the SC support the recommendations of the Secretariat in paragraph 10 of the document.

48: [Electronic systems and information technology \(Decision 20.128\)](#)

WCS notes the progress made on this issue through the Working Group and by the Secretariat. WCS is a member of the WG and stands ready to provide support and information to the group and the consultant contracted by the Secretariat. WCS has recently received the questions from the consultant and is providing inputs and encourages all Parties to engage with this work, as electronic CITES permitting systems are a core aspect of reducing opportunities for fraud and misuse of permits and we encourage all Parties to work towards the adoption of the systems available.

51: [Specimens produced through biotechnology \[Decision 19.161 \(Rev. CoP20\)\]](#)

WCS appreciates the Secretariat's review of the use of CITES to regulate trade in specimens produced through biotechnology, and to Parties and others for providing the relevant information. WCS supports the preparation of draft guidance on the implementation and enforcement of the Convention as it pertains to specimens produced by biotechnology. In particular, guidance is needed to make it unambiguously clear that all specimens produced through biotechnology that are in any way linked to a CITES listed species, even if not directly derived from one, must fall under the jurisdiction of CITES. This is to eliminate the risk of natural specimens of illegal origin being passed as synthetic (paras 14 and 15). In particular, specimens produced using only the genetic information of a CITES-listed species must be considered as within the scope of CITES regulations.

The reason is that any product (e.g., rhino horn) could be produced using only genetic information and, if outside the remit of CITES, widely sold. It would be genetically identical to items derived from the wild species, hence it would be impossible for enforcement officers to distinguish between illegally laundered wild-derived products and the bioengineered product.

WCS would be happy to contribute to the drafting of any such guidelines if needed.

52: [Disposal of confiscated specimens \(Decision 19.173\)](#)

WCS supports the continued forward motion of this discussion and endorses the recommendations presented by the Secretariat in Document SC81 Doc. 52.

53. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes [Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP20)]

[53.2. Registration of the operation Special Turtles \(Italy\) breeding *Astrochelys radiata*, *Geochelone elegans*, *Malacochersus tornieri* and *Testudo kleinmanni*](#)

We note with concern the objections raised to the registration of this facility by Israel and Madagascar as two of the Range States for these Appendix I, endangered or critically endangered species, as well as by other Parties.

Astrochelys radiata (radiated tortoise) is a protected endemic species in Madagascar. *Malacochersus tornieri* (pancake tortoise) is native only to specific habitats in Kenya and Tanzania. *Testudo kleinmanni* is native to Israel, Egypt, and Libya, and has been extirpated in Egypt west of the Nile River. All 3 species are Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, with decreasing populations; illegal capture for the pet trade is a dominant threat to these species. We stress that for a specimen bred in captivity to be traded legally, there must be evidence that the founder stock for its genetic material was removed legally from the wild. The evidence provided by the applicant does not demonstrate a plausible connection between legal, documented exports of from the wild of the founder stock, to where the breeding stock that produced the specimens in this facility can be traced to.

The documentation included in Italy's registration is limited to EU-internal CITES paperwork and CITES Trade Database entries but fails to provide evidence for the source or pathway by which the founder specimens entered the European Union. This is particularly the case for *A. radiata* and *T. kleinmanni*, which were included in Appendix I in 1975 and 1995, respectively. We note that since CITES entered into force, there has never been legal international commercial trade in *A. radiata* from the wild, and there has been no legal international commercial trade in *T. kleinmanni* since 1995, i.e. for the last 31 years.

Additional evidence is needed to clearly demonstrate that the founder stock and parental stock were obtained in accordance with relevant national measures and the provisions of the Convention. In the absence of such information, we cannot see how the facility meets the requirements of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), including provision of the information required in Annex 1 of the Resolution.

While we acknowledge that these species can reproduce in captivity, we also note that all four of these species are also subject to illegal trade (including into Europe, where this facility is located).

With all of this uncertainty, in the context of the endangered status of these species, and to support the conservation of the species and efforts by the Range States, we strongly recommend that the SC reject the application to register this commercial breeding operation.

53.3: [Registration of the operation Grayson Tighe \(Canada\) breeding *Brachylophus bulabula* and *Brachylophus fasciatus*](#)

We note with concern the objections raised to the registration of this facility by Fiji as the Range State for these nationally endemic species, as well as by other Parties. *Brachylophus bulabula* (the Fiji banded iguana) and *Brachylophus fasciatus* (the Lau banded iguana) are both endemic to Fiji and are listed as Endangered and decreasing on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. For a specimen bred in captivity to be traded legally, there must be evidence that the founder stock for its genetic material was removed legally from the wild. The evidence provided does not demonstrate a plausible connection between legal, documented exports from Fiji – or Tonga, or Vanuatu – to Switzerland where the breeding stock that produced the specimens in this facility can be traced to.

While we acknowledge that this species can reproduce in captivity, we also note that these species are also subject to illegal trade (including into Europe).

With this uncertainty in mind, in the context of the endangered status of the species, and to support the conservation of the species and efforts by the Range State, we strongly recommend that the SC reject the application to register this commercial breeding operation.

55: [Trade in threatened endemic species \(Decision 20.151\)](#)

We welcome the advancements made thus far in the development of case studies in accordance with Decision 20.151. With regards to potential additional case studies for Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America, we are liaising with Parties and Standing Committee members to identify potential case studies from the currently under-represented regions.

We urge all Parties to exercise enhanced due diligence in the import, export, or re-export of any live specimens of animals that are protected endemics in their country of origin.

56: [Elephants \(Elephantidae spp.\): Report of the Secretariat](#)

We appreciate the updated data from MIKE and ETIS; however, we urge continued vigilance.

For example, despite a potential decline at continental scales, even stabilizing trends in sub-regions such as Eastern Africa may still be connected to recent seizures within Kenya, Tanzania, and elsewhere. Continental trends in the detection of illegally killed elephant carcasses should not reduce attention to the continued challenges of combatting elephant poaching in Central Africa.

It may seem that separate PIKE scores for forest elephants and savanna elephants could allow for greater scrutiny, but we believe that the sub-regional PIKE scores for Central Africa essentially accomplish this task. Further, the high volume of worked ivory in trade should remind us that it is challenging to differentiate the ivory from different elephant species once worked, and that any divergence in trends should not result in highly diverse management strategies for African elephant species.

A key concern is the under-reporting of trade routes when Parties report into ETIS, which significantly undermines responses through CITES including the National Ivory Action Plan process. A separate but related concern would be weak reporting on domestic ivory markets from Parties where significant domestic markets are associated with seizures of worked ivory.

57: [Jaguars \(*Panthera onca*\) \(Decision 20.188\)](#)

The jaguar is an emblematic species of the Americas, due to both its importance in maintaining natural landscapes and ecosystem functionality, and as an important cultural element throughout its distribution for centuries, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and Nations. We encourage Parties to support all necessary actions to benefit the conservation of this emblematic and ecologically important species. WCS has an extensive conservation program on the jaguar, working with governments and other partners on the conservation of jaguars and their habitats in eight countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil). WCS is very concerned about the emerging threat of trafficking in jaguar parts.

WCS is pleased to be a member of the Intersessional WG on the Jaguar, and we thank Brazil and Mexico for this document, and for their leadership as co-Chairs of this WG; we thank all of the members of the WG for the collaborative dialogue on threats facing the jaguar and the role that CITES implementation and enforcement can play. We have submitted comments through the WG, and we look forward to ongoing dialogue on the draft Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee of the Intergovernmental Platform, and the Modalities for the operationalization of the Intergovernmental Platform for Jaguar Conservation (including the draft guiding questions), as presented in the document.

58: [Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 \(Rev. CoP20\): Tigers \(*Panthera tigris*\) in captivity \(Decision 20.189\)](#)

WCS welcomes the information provided by the Parties that responded to the Notifications but is concerned that several Parties, acknowledged as having large numbers of facilities breeding or housing tigers, failed to respond to the request, notably Lao PDR and South Africa. We note with further concern some of the Country-specific responses, notably information around specimens referable to the mainland Southeast Asian lineage, when DNA analysis of captive specimens in private facilities is incomplete for many countries and information referenced is often out of date.

WCS supports the recommendations from the Secretariat and agrees that a document outlining methodological approaches for Parties in whose territories there are facilities breeding or housing tigers for purposes other than conservation breeding programmes would be useful. There are a

number of documents developed to support countries with such facilities available already that could be adapted for such purposes.

WCS continues to be concerned that for many of the countries identified in Decision 20.189, limited progress has been made, and no report was submitted from South Africa. We support the recommendations in the document and in particular recommendation e), noting the large number of tigers exported from South Africa over recent years and inclusion of ongoing reporting on implementation as required in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP20) ahead of SC82.

59: [Saiga antelopes \(Saiga spp.\)](#) [Decision 19.216 (Rev. CoP20)]

WCS appreciates efforts by those range and consumer Parties that are working hard to both combat illegal trade in Saiga parts and products and implement the current listing and associated annotation. We welcome the efforts of the Secretariat and Parties to implement Decisions 19.213 (Rev. CoP20) to 19.217 (Rev. CoP20) and Decisions 20.195 to 20.197 on Saiga antelopes.

We are concerned by substantial Saiga mortality recorded in Kazakhstan in 2026. While the causes of these mortalities remain unclear, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has been raised as one possible factor requiring further investigation. FMD is an important disease of livestock and has also been responsible for substantial morbidity and mortality in Saiga. Saigas are highly mobile migratory ungulates, and large-scale epidemics affecting them therefore have consequences for their conservation, in an environment they share with livestock. In implementation of CITES trade regulations and decisions, it is vital that Parties and the Secretariat are fully informed on this issue.

We are also concerned about the reported exports of Saiga specimens using source code O; based on available information on stockpiles, it is reasonable to question whether specimens that are more than 30 years old are now entering trade. This highlights the serious gaps in stockpile management in many Range and Consumer States.

The current Decisions and Secretariat's report highlight the need for international cooperation to address the illegal and pending legal Saiga horn trade. WCS notes the critical role of national legislation in supporting confiscations, accurate stockpile reporting, monitoring, and management. The lack of a unified system for data collection and management further complicates this issue, potentially leading to inaccurate stockpile estimates. We recommend a Decision encouraging legislative reform to ensure accurate stockpile estimates, reporting, and management across all Range and Consumer States.

We encourage Range States, Parties, the AC, SC, and Secretariat to monitor current trends in Saiga populations. We urge all range States, and Kazakhstan in particular, to:

- Establish the true magnitude, timing and geographic distribution of recent Saiga mortality;
- Obtain and analyze representative diagnostic samples from fresh Saiga carcasses and sympatric livestock;
- Determine whether FMDV is present and, if so, identify the serotype and characterize the virus through appropriate molecular and genomic analyses;
- Compare viruses detected in Kazakhstan with those circulating elsewhere in the region;

- And take significant FMD mortalities into consideration in the management of Saiga.

60: Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) (Decisions 20.211 and 20.212)

We look forward to providing additional comments closer to SC81.

Annex: List of Acronyms

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
AC	CITES Animals Committee
AC34	34 th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (July 2024)
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CoP	meeting of the Conference of the Parties
CBD CoP16	16 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (October 2024)
CoP19	19 th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (November 2022)
CoP20	20 th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (November/December 2025)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IFS	Introduction from the Sea
IGO	Intergovernmental organization
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
LAF	Legal Acquisition Findings
LCs	Local communities
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MA	CITES Management Authority
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDF	CITES non-detriment finding
NIAP	National Ivory Action Plan
NIRAP	National Ivory and Rhinoceros Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PC	CITES Plants Committee
RST	CITES Review of Significant Trade
SC	CITES Standing Committee
SC77	The 77 th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (November 2023)
SC78	The 78 th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (February 2025)
SC81	The 81 st meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (November 2026)
UN	United Nations
UNCAC	UN Convention against Corruption
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTOC	UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health