Briefing on SC70
Geneva, 21 September 2018
Tom De Meulenaer, CITES Secretariat

- Good morning. First day of the fall!
- Of the 75-odd agenda items for SC70 in Sochi, some 30 are grouped under the title “Species specific matters”.
- The Convention covers trade in some 35,000 wild animal and plant species, include many you may never have heard about.
- But not all species of CITES-listed fauna and flora are equal in the eyes of the Standing Committee. There are species that require its particular attention because of specific CITES implementation challenges; because immediate conservation threats posed by unsustainable or illegal trade; because of the complexity or economic importance of regulating trade in particular taxa; or because the conservation status is so precarious that the Standing Committee wants to be briefed regularly on progress.
- You have already heard several examples of this – Rhinoceros, Asian big cats, Tigers, pangolins, ...are all species that will feature prominently on the SC70 agenda.
- A selection of a few others that will be discussed at SC70 follows.

Elephants

- Updates on status and on 2018 MIKE and ETIS data
- Asian elephants: Trade in live animals in Southeast Asia
- Ivory stockpile management issues
- NIAPS and other compliance measures

Rosewood timber species

- The Standing Committee will discuss three different priority aspects regarding these valuable pantropical trees:
  - A way forward to strengthen knowledge on wild populations, and contribute to ensuring their responsible trade (sustainable/legal/traceable).
  - Options to ensure that CITES regulations cover the right specimens and focus on commodities that first appear in international trade (through Annotations).
  - Providing guidance and assistance to Madagascar regarding a plan to manage their rosewood stockpiles.
- The outcomes and agreements of these discussions will be conveyed to CoP18

Marine turtles

- The CITES Secretariat is currently undertaking a study on the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles to provide a global overview of: its status, scope and trends; conservation impacts; management options; and collaboration priorities
• The main regions being assessed in this work include countries in the Inter-American region, East Africa and Southeast Asia/ Coral Triangle region.
• The final findings of this study (available in December) shall contribute to enhanced regional and global conservation, management and sustainable use of marine turtles.
• An important outcome of this work is also a stronger coordination between CITES relevant intergovernmental instruments dealing with marine turtles (e.g. CMS, IAC).
• Importantly, the findings of this work will form the basis for the development of recommendations directed to relevant bodies (e.g. Parties, other intergovernmental mechanisms, RFMOs, NGOs) to address the take and (international) trade in marine turtles.

**European eel**

• The European eel (Anguilla anguilla) is one of the most illegally-traded CITES-listed species, particularly since the European Union introduced a suspension of all imports and exports in this species in December 2010.
• The Standing Committee will consider measures to address this illegal trade including:
  o Better trade data
  o Improving traceability of the trade
  o Addressing enforcement challenges
  o Enhanced international cooperation

**Sharks & Rays**

• 29 marine shark & ray species are currently listed under CITES. For most of them commercial trade is allowed when it is legal, sustainable and traceable.
• The Standing Committee will review progress towards these goals and develop guidance on specific challenges identified, based on:
  o The Secretariat’s report on its capacity building activities, which are generously funded by the EU, to assist member states in fulfilling these requirements
  o The report by a working group that looked at the relationship with other international instruments, identification and traceability and legislative matters.

& more...

Saiga antelope, Snakes, freshwater turtles, African lions, sturgeons and caviar, queen conch, leopards, helmeted hornbill,...

**Thank you**