FOUR PAWS
Recommendations

01 Strengthening role of Parties in the global fight against wildlife trafficking

- It is imperative for all Parties to recognize the link between illegal trade and legal trade and to address the adverse effects of the legal trade which can serve as a cover for illegal trade activities, provides ample laundering opportunities and complicates enforcement.
- Call for the closure of tiger farms in territories which have been acknowledged as having facilities of concern as per Decision 18.108 and for an end of all commercial trade in captive-bred tigers and their parts at the CITES CoP19.
- Parties that have clear commercial entities that breed big cats transition away from commercial exploitation models and only breed and/or trade for strict conservation purposes.
- Urge all Parties to consider converging existing international trade agreements (Decisions and Resolutions) and to develop new international trade agreements that include all big cats (i.e., the five species under the Panthera genus) with no separation of the species. With all big cat species in decline and trade being a cause of the decline, new Decisions are needed from Parties to protect the five big cat species.

02 Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade

- Call on all Parties to adhere to the precautionary principle and incorporate the One Health principle into the CITES; Urges all Parties to pay particular attention to species that are elevated risk of zoonotic diseases.

03 Enforcement

- Urge all Parties to implement effective national legislation to implement the Decisions and Resolutions adopted through the Convention itself.
- Call for better record-keeping for Appendix I (including captive bred) specimens bred and kept in captivity. Including the development of risk indicators in relation to environment, security and husbandry practices including, for example greater detail on how records are kept, data management and reporting done; greater detail in terms of how the stock/inventory system is run and how it is audited; security in terms of transport, storage, and disposal.
- Call upon all Parties to implement dissuasive sanctions in case of non-compliance.

04 Transparency and reporting

- Urge all Parties to submit annual reports to the CITES Secretariat on illegal trade, permits and certificates granted, quantities and types of specimens, names of species as included in Appendix I, II, III, in a timely manner.
- Urge all Parties to ensure that data is uploaded to the CITES Trade Database in a timely manner and that greater efforts are made to ensure discrepancies in export and import permits are minimised.
- Call for greater transparency in making annual reports from Parties available for civil society.
- Consider greater transparency in the commercial trade of Appendix I species (including captive-bred) in efforts to fight corruption, illegal trade, trafficking and laundering of specimens.