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Switzerland, 31st October 2018

The Right Honourable Premier LI Keqiang
Beijing
People's Republic of China

Right Honourable Premier LI,

The IWMC World Conservation Trust wishes to congratulate the State Council of the People's Republic of China's for allowing, under strict control in specific circumstances, the domestic use of tiger bone and rhino horn products. As a vast country with a range of wildlife, China holds an important leadership position when it comes to setting the policy-making agenda for global conservation and wildlife trade. We welcome, unreservedly, China's global authority on such matters.

We believe in good faith that we share a common opinion with China, which is that the old order governing the trade in wildlife products, expressed in the supranational rules imposed by CITES, is in need of urgent reform. The IWMC admires how the State Council took this decision in full knowledge that it would present a challenge to a wider set of populist prohibitions and impositions on domestic and global trade in wildlife products. We fully respect the fact that this decision took courage. The "shock horror" reactions from unaccountable Western NGOs and their friends in the media made fully transparent that they, too, are fully aware of the implications of your considered announcement.

In the unavoidable disputes now looming over global trade in and use of wildlife products and species, the IWMC World Conservation Trust stands at one with China. Moreover, as a former Secretary General of CITES I have personal stake in the outcome. After many bleak years, I now note with great satisfaction that there is a growing awareness among many nations and other influential forces that a change of direction is required.

In conclusion, the IWMC wishes to assure you that we and our allies across the globe stand ready to help China win the battles to come.

With my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Lapointe". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Eugene Lapointe
IWMC President
Former Secretary General of CITES (1982-1990)