

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-25 May 2005

Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices

REVIEW OF FELIDAE

1. This document has been prepared by the Scientific Authority of the United States of America.
2. At the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties CoP13, (Bangkok, 2004), the United States submitted a proposal (CoP13 Prop. 5) to delete *Lynx rufus* (bobcat) from Appendix II.
3. During that meeting, the United States consulted with other Parties on the proposal. Some Parties, especially the Member States of the European Union, expressed concerns about potential problems with control of trade in other *Lynx* spp. and similar small cats owing to similarity of appearance to *Lynx rufus*. Mexico also expressed the need to evaluate further the status of *Lynx rufus* on its territory its borders. However, many Parties expressed support for a review of the listing of the Felidae because they believed that the listing of some species in the family did not accurately reflect their current biological and trade status. They also agreed that the listings of species because of similarity of appearance should be reviewed to determine whether current identification techniques, trade controls, and other factors still require them to be listed because the species have not undergone a substantial review since their listing at CoP2 in 1977.
4. The United States agreed to withdraw the proposal, but with the concurrence of the Parties on Decision 13.93, which directs the Animals Committee to include the Felidae in the Review of the Appendices, as follows:

The Animals Committee shall, immediately following the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, include the Felidae in its Review of the Appendices. This review shall initially focus on the listing of the Lynx species complex, which includes species that are listed because of similarity of appearance, such as Lynx rufus. In addition to evaluating the listings of these species against the criteria for inclusion of species in Appendices I and II contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13), the Animals Committee shall assess the management and enforcement measures available to achieve effective control of trade in these species so as to resolve the continued need for look-alike listings. This assessment should also include a review of trade information to determine whether these species are actually confused in trade or whether the look-alike problem is merely hypothetical. The Animals Committee shall provide a report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress of the review of all Felidae and particularly on their review of Lynx spp. and look-alike issues.

5. Because the Felidae represent a higher-taxon listing and were listed prior to the adoption of the criteria contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13) for the amendment of Appendices I and II, Decision 13.93 is consistent with the guidelines developed jointly by the Animals and Plants Committees and completed at their 14th and 20th meetings, respectively, and reported to the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting (see SC51 Doc. 16 Annex 1). The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to select species as follows:

The following taxa should be considered for review:

- a) *taxa listed prior to the adoption of Resolution Conf. 9.24 on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II;*
 - b) *higher taxon listings (i.e. genus, family, etc.).*
6. The Animals and Plants Committees also agreed that:

Species subject to other reviews, such as those that are currently subject to the Review of Significant Trade pursuant to Resolution Conf. 12.8, or that have already been evaluated for listing in the CITES Appendices as proposals submitted for consideration at the last two meetings of the Conference of the Parties, should not be included in the periodic review.

It therefore seems that the African lion (African populations of *Panthera leo*) should not be reviewed as part of the review of the Felidae because a proposal was submitted by Kenya on this species (CoP13 Prop. 6) for consideration at CoP13. Kenya withdrew the proposal in favour of conducting a series of workshops on this species among range countries to improve its management and protection. Considering that these workshops and their outcomes are pending, any further review of the listing of this species should be deferred.

7. Similarly, the United States recommends that Appendix-I Asian large cats should be excluded from this review because they are the subject of ongoing scrutiny and concern by the Parties, as reflected in Resolution Conf. 12.5 on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species. Thus, the tiger (*Panthera tigris*), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), all subspecies of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) within its Asian range and Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) should be excluded from the current review.
8. A proposed strategy for the review of the remaining Felidae is contained in the Annex to this document.

STRATEGY FOR REVIEW OF FELIDAE

A. Approach in two phases:

Phase I, AC21-AC22 – *Lynx* complex and potential look-alikes

Phase II, AC22-AC23 – Remaining Felidae

B. Trade review of *Lynx* spp. and look-alikes

1. Species and volumes in trade – analysis of UNEP-WCMC data
 - a) Sources: wild, captive-bred, other
 - b) Specimens in trade: whole skins, parts, products, live animals
2. Survey of illegal trade – report on confiscations, interdictions, etc. by TRAFFIC, subject to availability of funds
 - a) Possibly to include an industry survey
 - b) Consider analysis of market influences, which may indicate whether substitutions of different species are likely to occur in practice, and under what conditions

C. Status review

1. Survey all range countries of *Lynx* spp. to determine:
 - a) Status (increasing, decreasing, or stable population and range)
 - b) Threats, with emphasis on impacts of trade
 - i) Is harvest allowed?
 - ii) If so, is it regulated?
 - iii) If so, for what purposes?
 - iv) What is harvest level and how is it determined?
 - v) What exports are allowed?
 - vi) Is illegal trade documented or perceived to be a significant problem?
 - vii) Are there other identified threats to the species?
2. Determine overall status of the species from range-country surveys and other sources (e.g. IUCN specialists).
3. For each species: is it being adversely impacted by trade, or is it likely to become so without continued listing in the Appendices? For Appendix-I species (i.e. those remaining in the review): are they still 'threatened with extinction'?
4. Is there evidence of this species being traded as other species, or vice versa (i.e. are there known problems with similarity of appearance)?

D. Similarity of appearance, listings under Article II. 2. (b)

1. Determine which species are true look-alikes (e.g. does *Caracal caracal* really resemble *Lynx* spp., as stated in CITES identification materials?).
2. Survey current literature and consult experts to determine, in addition to colour, whether other differences exist for comparison and identification (e.g. hair microscopy or other characteristics of integument).
3. If possible, determine how much of trade is in whole pelts versus parts, which will help focus the review on where identification is problematic and whether it is necessary to control trade beyond the country of harvest.