

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Amendment of the Appendices

REVISION AND PUBLICATION OF THE CITES APPENDICES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC57, Geneva, July 2008), Japan expressed concern about the length of time taken to publish the revised Appendices after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report at the 58th meeting, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, on:
 - a) information that should be included in proposals to amend the standard nomenclatures for species included in the Appendices; and
 - b) obstacles to accelerate the publication of revised Appendices and options for the future.

Factors influencing the time taken to revise the Appendices

3. There are two main factors that influence the time it takes to produce a revised version of the Appendices in the three working languages after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - a) the number of amendments to the Appendices that are adopted at the meeting (additions, deletions and transfers) and the complexity of any annotations that are adopted; and
 - b) the number of amendments required as a result of the adoption of new standard nomenclatures, and the complexity of the changes required.
4. The second of these factors is by far the most important in determining the time it takes to revise the Appendices after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. It should be noted that, when the Conference of the Parties adopts changes to the standard nomenclature, these have to be reflected not only in the CITES Appendices but also in the official list of reservations, the list of export quotas and the Checklist of CITES Species (all in three language versions), as well as in the CITES species database maintained by UNEP-WCMC, national legislation, and the practices of national authorities. It is therefore preferable to minimize the changes to the extent possible.

Consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees

6. In document AC24 Doc. 13.1, presented at the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC24, Geneva, April 2009) and document PC18 Doc. 18.1, presented at the 18th meeting of the Plants

Committee (PC18, Buenos Aires, March 2009), the Secretariat explained the problem that had been discussed by the Standing Committee at SC57 and that the long delay in publishing the revised Appendices after the 14th meeting the Conference of the Parties (The Hague, 2007) resulted mainly from the adoption at that meeting of new standard references for the nomenclature of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, arachnids and plants, necessitating many changes to the names used in the Appendices.

7. At PC18 and AC24, the Secretariat:
 - a) suggested to the Committees that any proposal to the Conference of the Parties to change a standard nomenclatural reference for CITES species should contain a list of the amendments that would have to be made to the Appendices if the proposal were adopted; and
 - b) welcomed their views regarding other possible ways to accelerate the revision of the Appendices after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
8. The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to the suggestion in paragraph 7 a) above. The Animals Committee noted that funding may be required to support this work.
9. The Committees also agreed to the following:
 - a) the Plants Committee agreed that its nomenclature specialist should review possible changes to the Appendices that may result from proposals submitted to the Conference of the Parties;
 - b) the Animals Committee agreed that:
 - i) Parties should be encouraged to submit queries regarding nomenclature to the Chair of the Animals Committee Nomenclature Working Group as early as possible in advance of submitting any amendment proposal; and
 - ii) an analysis should be undertaken to identify monospecific taxa listed in the Appendices and, where appropriate, to prepare proposals to simplify the listing of these taxa to cover the highest taxon possible, without altering the scope of the listing. This would accelerate the revision of the Appendices after each CoP in future.
10. With regard to the suggestion in paragraph 9 a) above, the Secretariat believes that a mechanism for requesting a review, where necessary, has already been adopted by the Conference of the Parties in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14), where it recommends [in paragraph e) under 'RECOMMENDS'] that:

upon receiving proposals to amend the Appendices to the Convention, the Secretariat seek, where appropriate, the advice of the Animals and Plants Committees on the correct names to use for the species or other taxa in question.

11. With regard to the suggestions in paragraph 9 b) above, the Secretariat believes that it would be most useful if the actions called for were implemented by both of the scientific committees.

Recommendations

12. On the basis of the foregoing, the Secretariat proposes that the Standing Committee should:
 - a) urge Parties that are considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices, in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, to consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee as early as possible in advance of submitting the proposal; and

- b) request that the Animals and Plants Committees:
 - i) when submitting any proposal to the Conference of the Parties to change a standard nomenclatural reference, include a list of the amendments that would have to be made to the Appendices if the proposal were adopted; and
 - ii) conduct an analysis to identify monospecific taxa listed in the Appendices at the level of genus or above, and where appropriate to prepare proposals to simplify the listing of these taxa to cover the highest taxon possible, without altering the scope of the listing, for submission to the Conference of the Parties by the Depositary Government.

13. If the Standing Committee agrees to the proposals in paragraph 12 above, the Secretariat will prepare, for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

- a) a draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) to reflect the recommendation in subparagraph a);
- b) a draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) to reflect the recommendation in subparagraph b) i); and
- c) a draft decision to reflect the recommendation in subparagraph b) ii).