

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

Chair: Colmán Ó Críodáin, European Commission

Animals Committee: Asia (Nobuo Ishii (alternate), Japan), North America (Rodrigo Medellín, Mexico)

Parties: Canada (Veronique Brondex, Carolina Caceres), Japan (Yoshio Kaneko), Mexico (Hesiquio Benitez, Paola Mosig Reidl), Namibia (Christie Nghidinwa), Netherlands (Tine Griede), Slovakia (Zuna Vranková), Spain (Carlos Ibero), United Kingdom (Vin Fleming), United States of America (Roddy Gabel)

Observers: Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Calvin DuBrock), Conservation Force (John J. Jackson III), Humane Society International (Ronald Orenstein, Rapporteur), International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Don MacLauchlan), IWMC-World Conservation Trust (Jaques Berney), Safari Club International Foundation (Bob Byrne), Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Osborne Baker), UNEP-WCMC (Gerardo Fragoso), Wildlife Conservation Society (Joshua Ginsberg)

CITES Secretariat (Milena S. Schmidt)

The Working Group met during morning and afternoon sessions on May 24, 2005. The Group addressed three tasks: the process for selection of future species for review [AC21 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 1)], the status of reviews of already selected species (AC21 Doc. 11.2), and the proposed review of the Felidae (AC21 Doc. 11.3).

Selection of Species

The Working Group decided that, given the concerns raised in AC21 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 1) about the usefulness of the existing guidelines, it would not be appropriate to select further individual species for review at this stage, though future *ad hoc* reviews could still be performed by the Animals Committee or by individual Parties should the data be available. The Working Group agreed that the approach of the review should be balanced, accepting equally the possibilities of deletion, transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II or transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I as potential outcomes. The Working Group agreed that only species currently listed in Appendices I and II should be considered for review.

UNEP-WCMC proposed that it could perform an analysis on a small subset of the Appendices, with the results to be made available for consideration at AC22. A number of "filters" were agreed that could be applied to the Appendices to produce a manageable data subset. These included:

- identifying species for which no legal trade has been recorded in the past ten years (it was noted that this criterion would require modification for species on Appendix I)
- excluding species recently reviewed (there was some disagreement about whether species subject to the Review of Significant Trade should also be excluded)
- species subject to other reviews such as those targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the Parties (including African and Asian rhinoceros, elephants, leopards, markhor, cetaceans, vicuna, musk deer, Tibetan antelope, tortoises and freshwater turtles, Appendix-I Asian big cat species, sharks, sturgeons and paddlefish, great apes, saiga antelope, marine turtles, medicinal plants included in Appendix II, bigleaf mahogany and agarwood producing taxa)

It was also agreed that, having filtered the data, UNEP-WCMC should identify as far as possible species whose classification under CITES is not congruent with listings by IUCN, domestic laws (where information available) and other listings of threatened species

Mexico noted it will present a review of *Crocodylus moreletii* at AC22.

The Working Group agreed that UNEP-WCMC should prepare a report on listed species of Amphibia, and on species of another taxon with similar-sized representation in the CITES Appendices (Galliformes and Lepidoptera were suggested as possibilities), for consideration at AC22 both with respect to selection of species and for possible modification of the review guidelines.

As part of its analysis UNEP-WCMC could identify on a preliminary basis species for which no review appeared to be warranted, species for which no recent trade had been reported, etc. (taking into account the possibility of misidentifications and taxonomic confusion).

Taking into account the results of this exercise, UNEP-WCMC would present to AC22 a preliminary review of the way to proceed with the remaining higher taxonomic groupings in the Appendices.

The Working Group noted changes to the flow chart suggested by the Plants Committee, but decided not to suggest specific revisions to the guidelines pending the report to be prepared by UNEP-WCMC.

Previously Selected Species

The Working Group considered what to do about species selected by the Animals Committee in 1999 and 2000 for which reviews have not been completed. Of the outstanding species, the Group decided to eliminate *Panthera pardus*, *Boa constrictor*, *Bufo superciliaris* and *Dyscophus antongilli* (these amphibian taxa will form part of the proposed UNEP-WCMC review), and *Goniopora* spp. Spain offered to review *Ornithoptera alexandrae*, the United States of America offered to review *Agapornis fischerii* and *Caloenas nicobarica*, and both these Parties offered to review *Hirudo medicinalis*.

For the remaining species, *Callithrix jacchus*, *Cephalophus sylvicultor*, *Mirounga leonina*, *Pteropus macrotis*, *Rhea americana*, *Crocodylus lacertinus* and *Tupinambis teguixin*, the Group recommended that the Secretariat issue a Notification to the Parties asking those countries which had volunteered to conduct reviews if they were still able to do so, and asking other Parties if they would be willing to review outstanding species if the original reviewers were not available.

Annex 1 provides suggested text for the proposed Notification.

The Working Group considered the reviews prepared by Mexico for *Dermatemys mawii* and *Ambystoma mexicanum*, both currently listed on Appendix II.

For *Dermatemys mawii*, the Group agreed that the available data indicate that the species could meet the biological criteria for Appendix I. However, only data for the Mexican population were available for review, and the Working Group encourages the other range states of the species (Belize, Guatemala and Honduras) to provide information on their populations to Mexico for consideration at AC22. The Working Group also encourages others who are in a position to gather information on the status of the species in the remaining range states to provide it to Mexico.

For *Ambystoma mexicanum*, the Group agreed that the data indicates that the species meets the biological criteria for Appendix I. The Working Group suggests deferring a final recommendation by the Animals Committee on this species until AC22, so that full consideration can be given to the practical implications of the various options for reclassifying this species under CITES.

Review of Felidae

The United States outlined the procedure for the review of the Felidae in AC21 Doc. 11.3. It was agreed that the entire review does not have to be completed by CoP14, but that Phase I (on *Lynx*) should be completed by AC22 in order that Phase II, which should commence after AC22, can take into account methodological lessons learned from Phase I.

The Working Group recommended excluding all populations of *Panthera pardus* from the review of the Felidae complex, and not only the populations of Asia as recommended in document AC21 Doc. 11.3.

The Working Group made some suggestions with respect to the proposed procedure, including suggestions that the look-alike aspects of the study might be initiated at an early stage. It was further suggested that the review might be useful for the development of future analyses of the problems raised by look-alike species.

Annex 2 contains the text of proposed revisions to the procedure agreed to by the Working Group.

The Working Group agreed that the review should be conducted by an intersessional e-mail contact group of Range States and other relevant bodies, to be coordinated by the United States. Interested Parties and other organisations are encouraged to participate. Canada, Mexico and Spain already expressed interest in participating. The group noted that funding would be required to perform field studies and other aspects of the review.

PROPOSED TEXT FOR NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

Following AC21, the state of play with regard to species selected for periodic review of the Appendices at AC15 and AC16 is indicated in the attached Table. Given the lapse of time, Parties that had volunteered to conduct a review, but that have not yet been in a position to carry it out, are asked to confirm that their offer to conduct the review still stands. Other Parties that are available to share the work or contribute funds with respect to those species are also invited to come forward.

For species for which there are no volunteers at present, volunteer Parties and offers of funding or assistance are also sought.

STRATEGY FOR REVIEW OF FELIDAE (REVISED)

A. Approach in two phases:

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

Phase II, AC22-AC23 – Remaining Felidae

Phase II would take account of methodological lessons learned in Phase I and would continue after CoP14.

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) Potential 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 (taking into account the outcome of the forthcoming revision of the status of Felidae by the IUCN specialist group, as well as other information sources).

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'?

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

1. Is there evidence of this species being traded as other species, or vice versa (i.e. are there known problems with similarity of appearance)
2. Determine which species are true look-alikes (e.g. does *Caracal caracal* really resemble *Lynx* spp., as stated in CITES identification materials?).
3. 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).
4. 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. To summarise, in the form that “species A” and “species B” are traded, what are the difficulties in distinguishing specimens and what are the possible solutions?

SPECIES SELECTED BY THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE IN 1999 AND 2000 IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PERIODIC REVIEWS OF SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE CITES APPENDICES (PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH V) UNDER RESOLVES IN ANNEX 2 OF RESOLUTION CONF. 9.1 (REV.) ON ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES SUBSEQUENTLY REPLACED BY RESOLUTION CONF. 11.1

Species (Appendix in 1999 and 2000)	Party volunteering to conduct the periodic review	Completion of the reviews	Final AC recommendation
<u>Mammals</u>			
<i>Callithrix jacchus</i> (I)	Brazil		
<i>Cephalophus sylvicultor</i> (II)	no volunteers		
<i>Macaca fascicularis</i> (II)	Indonesia	AC16 (2000)	Retain
<i>Mirounga leonine</i> (II)	Australia		
<i>Panthera pardus</i> (I)	Kenya	Exclude because the status of this species was considered implicitly at CoP12&13 in the context of quota proposals	
<i>Pteropus macrotis</i> (II)	Australia		
<i>Saiga tatarica</i> (II)	United States of America	AC16 (2000)	Retain
<u>Birds</u>			
<i>Anas aucklandica</i> (I)	Australia; New Zealand	AC18 (2002)	Retain
<i>Agapornis fischerii</i> (II)	Switzerland; United Republic of Tanzania		
<i>Ara macao</i> (I)	Guatemala; Mexico	AC17 (2001)	Retain
<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i> (I)	USA		
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (I)	United States of America	AC17 (2001)	Retain
<i>Macrocephalon maleo</i> (I)	Indonesia	AC16 (2000)	Retain
<i>Rhea americana</i> (II)	Argentina		
<u>Reptiles</u>			
<i>Boa constrictor</i> (II)	no volunteers	Exclude because of at this stage lookalike considerations	
<i>Cnemidophorus hyperythrus</i> (II)	United States of America	AC18 (2002)	Delete from Appendix II
<i>Crocodilurus lacertinus</i> (II)	Netherlands		
<i>Dermatemys mawii</i> (II)	Guatemala; Mexico	AC21 (2005)	Final recommendation deferred until AC22
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (I)	United States of America	AC16 (2000)	Retain
<i>Python anchietae</i> (II)	Namibia	AC16 (2000)	Retain
<i>Tupinambis teguixin</i> (II)	Argentina		
<u>Amphibians</u>			
<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i> (II)	Mexico; United States of America	AC21 (2005)	Final recommendation deferred until AC22
<i>Bufo superciliaris</i> (I)	Netherlands	Postponed pending UNEP-WCMC analysis of Amphibia	
<i>Dyscophus antongilli</i> (I)	Netherlands	Postponed pending UNEP-WCMC analysis	

		of Amphibia	
<i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i> (II)	Netherlands	Removed from list at AC17	
<u>Fishes</u>			
<i>Cynoscion macdonaldi</i> (I)	Mexico	AC17 (2001)	Retain
<i>Probarbus jullieni</i> (I)	United Kingdom	AC16 (2000)	Retain
<i>Scleropages formosus</i> (I)	Indonesia	AC16 (2000)	Retain
<u>Invertebrates</u>			
<i>Antipatharia</i> (II)	United States of America	AC16 (2000)	Retain
<i>Goniopora</i> spp. (II)	<i>no volunteers</i>		Removed from the list at AC21
<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i> (II)	Spain and the United States of America		
<i>Ornithoptera alexandrae</i> (I)	<i>Spain</i>		
<i>Parnassius apollo</i> (II)	Spain	AC18 (2002)	Retain