

Nomenclature Committee (fauna)

MINUTES OF THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE MEETING (FAUNA)
San José (Costa Rica), 8 April 2002 [20h00 – 22h30]

Present:

Marinus Hoogmoed, Member of the Nomenclature Committee
Peter Linhart, Austria
Ute Grimm, Germany
Michael Griffin, Namibia
Thea Carroll, South Africa
Thomas Althaus, Switzerland
Bruce Weissgold, United States of America
Ron Orenstein, IWC
Peter Dollinger, World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA)
Malan Lindeque, CITES Secretariat
Tom De Meulenaer, CITES Secretariat (Rapporteur)

1. Opening

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The agenda (see Annex 1) was adopted with several items added under Any Other Business.

2. Minutes of the last meeting of the Nomenclature Committee (fauna) (Hanoi, 31 July and 2 August 2001)

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee proposed several minor corrections to the draft minutes circulated by the rapporteur of the previous meeting (in Items 4, 7, 9 and 11), and these were all adopted.

The Minutes raised the following additional comments:

- a) Regarding *Naja naja* and the newly described *N. mandalayensis* (Item 3) it was clarified that it was not possible to determine whether it could have been regarded as a subspecies of *N. naja* at the time of listing of this species. This was also indicated in the draft paper on CITES potential taxonomic and nomenclature revisions prepared by Tim Inskipp for consideration by the CITES Nomenclature Committee in Costa Rica.
- b) No follow up had been undertaken concerning *Gallicolumba* (Item 7). The Secretariat offered to write to the Management Authority of the Philippines to explain that the current listing of *Gallicolumba luzonica* in Appendix II does not include *G. criniger*, *keayi*, *menagei* and *platanae*, although that given the taxonomic confusion that existed at the time, this might have been the intention when *G. luzonica* was first listed at the Plenipotentiary meeting. New listing proposals should be prepared in case the Philippines wanted to include these species in the Appendices of CITES.
- c) It was confirmed that the document on the taxonomy of *Uromastyx* (Item 11) could still be obtained from the representative of Germany.

3. Review and adoption of printout of Amphibian Species of the World by D.R. Frost (Decision 11.167)

As instructed under Decision 11.167, the Secretariat made a printout of the standard reference Amphibian Species of the World, by Dr Frost, seven months before the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee indicated that some changes to the originally downloaded version had already been incorporate in the text on page 35 and 36 concerning *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (by removing references to a South American species of toad). Tim Inskipp indicated that *Dendrobates rufulus* (p. 22) should be *Epidobates rufulus*.

After adoption of the printed version by the Nomenclature Committee, the Secretariat should send a Notification to the Parties to announce the accepted standard reference for amphibians valid as from the date of distribution of the Notification, and with the Notification provide the pertinent pages regarding CITES-listed species of amphibians. The representative of Germany proposed to include in the Notification the date that the information was downloaded from the web. The Notification will also indicate that the layout of the web site pages looks different from the Secretariat's printout. A copy of the printout and the Notification should be send to Dr Frost.

With the modifications indicated above and the suggestions regarding circulation, the Nomenclature Committee adopted the printout of Amphibian Species of the World by D.R. Frost as standard reference for amphibians.

4. Review of the checklist of *Varanidae* by W. Böhme

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee introduced the checklist of *Varanidae* by Dr Böhme. The version available to the Nomenclature Committee does not include all references. The text still needs some editing. The checklist will be published in a scientific journal in the Netherlands. Additional copies of the journal will be made available for distribution to the Parties.

The representative of the United States of America questioned the "in press" reference to *Varanus juxtindicus* (p. 21) and indicated that *V. kordensis* (p. 23) is not regarded as a full species in recent literature. The Member of the Nomenclature Committee responded that the distribution of *V. kordensis* is missing in the checklist, and that it was regarded as a sub species of *V. prasinus*. He proposed to bring the matter up with Dr Böhme, who is the worlds leading expert on the taxon. The United States of America also noted that one reference on *V. prasinus* and *V. 'kordensis'* was not included in the checklist, which appears to be an oversight as that author presents evidence contrary to Böhme's elevation of *V. 'kordensis'* to species status. [Sprackland, R.G. (1991): 'Taxonomic review of the *Varanus prasinus* group with description of two new species.' *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 30(3): 561-576.] The United States of America requested that the Member of the Nomenclature Committee inquire with Dr Böhme as to the basis for his action on this taxon and his exclusion of this reference.

Ron Orenstein noted that the correct spelling of 'Renell' Island (type locality of *Varanus juxtindicus*, p. 20) is Rennell Island. It was agreed that these and other remarks should be sent to the Member of the Nomenclature Committee for circulation to Dr Böhme.

The general taxonomy for *Varanidae* as proposed in the checklist was accepted.

5. Checklist of *Cordylus* spp.

Donald Broadley and Mike Bates will publish a review of small East African species of *Cordylus* in *African Journal for Herpetology*, and Mike Bates is finishing a PhD thesis of species formerly assigned to *Pseudocordylus*. The Secretariat was encouraged to contract the two experts to produce a standard checklist for *Cordylus* for review and adoption by the Nomenclature Committee at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.

6. Color forms of commonly bred (and/or domesticated) species

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee introduced the request by Switzerland to exclude certain color mutations of captive bred Appendix-listed birds, differing substantially from wild original forms, from the provisions of the Convention.

It was agreed that this matter should best be resolved through an annotation of the Appendices, and not via the Nomenclature Committee. Switzerland, with the assistance of the Secretariat, would prepare a proposal to amend annotation °602, which reads: "specimens of the domesticated form are not subject to the provisions of the Convention", to include reference to specific color forms of certain CITES-listed species.

7. *Equus asinus* and *Equus africanus*

The problem concerns *Equus africanus*, included in Appendix I. This name is not the one used in the CITES standard reference for Mammals (Wilson and Reeder, 1993) because it was agreed that there would be an exception in this case. Rather, Wilson and Reeder use the name *Equus asinus*, but for CITES this is the name that is used for the domesticated form of the donkey. Some confusion is created by the fact that Wilson and Reeder, under the entry for *E. asinus*, specify "Status: CITES - Appendix I as *E. africanus*", leaving the reader to believe that *E. asinus* is indeed included in Appendix I under a synonym. Resolution Conf. 11.22 on standard nomenclature does not reflect the decision that was made to differ from Wilson and Reeder on this point - or on several other points that have been noted by Tim Inskipp on page 87 of the latest edition of the Checklist of CITES Species (2001). Moreover, the annotation relating to *E. africanus* in Appendix I, annotation =336, says: "Also referenced as *Equus asinus*", and therefore does not reflect the distinction (for CITES purposes) between the wild and domestic forms.

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee agreed to include recommendations concerning this matter in the report of the Nomenclature Committee to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This could take the form of a further amendment to annotation °602, or an annotation to assimilate *E. africanus* and *E. asinus* to the one that is used for *Bos gaurus* (=344), which reads: "Excludes the domesticated form of *Bos gaurus* referenced as *Bos frontalis*". It was agreed that the report should also include recommendations concerning Resolution Conf. 11.22 to ensure that, in all cases where it has been agreed to use a name different from that in the standard nomenclature, this agreement is always reflected in the Resolution on standard nomenclature.

Furthermore, it was suggested that the Nomenclature Committee should identify all the cases where a name has been deliberately used for domesticated forms that is different from the name used for wild forms and to propose, through a Party, that the annotations be appropriately amended in the Appendices to reflect this in cases where it is not already reflected.

8. The Checklist of CITES Species as reference for CITES-listed species and procedures to amend and update the checklist

The possibility of adopting the Checklist of CITES Species as the standard nomenclature was discussed. This would avoid having to regularly amend Resolution 11.22. Since the Checklist is provided free of charge to all Parties, it would also be easier to consult than the list of standard nomenclatures currently recommended.

The matter could be brought up in the report of the Nomenclature Committee to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and should include appropriate recommendations to amend Resolution Conf. 11.1 on the establishment of Committees and Resolution Conf. 11.22 on standard nomenclature

If the Checklist of CITES Species were to become the standard reference, the Nomenclature Committee would be required to update the Appendices and to provide relevant species names after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties. These names would be regarded as the standard reference. The participants expressed concerns about the possibility of increased responsibilities and workloads for the Nomenclature Committee, which is only composed of two Members and is under resourced. The Secretariat suggested contracting UNEP/WCMC more formally to assist in addressing nomenclature and taxonomic questions. The Nomenclature Committee could also consider to be

reorganized as subcommittees of the Animals and Plants Committee to increase the number of participants, but this would require amending Resolution Conf. 11.1 on the establishment of Committees.

The participants pointed out that care should be taken not to change scientific names too often and to avoid using synonyms. Switzerland, supported by Peter Dollinger, explained that every change in nomenclature may have (sometimes enormous or far-reaching) practical consequences for implementing the Convention, in particular concerning official documents and published materials (e.g. documents containing the Appendices, legislative texts, circulars to traders and the general public, forms, computer data files, internet presentations, instructions for enforcement officials, information materials, etc.). They therefore warned against a too easy acceptance of new standard references or frequent amendments in the CITES nomenclature and taxonomy, which may hamper implementation and enforcement. They advised to remain pragmatic and practical when considering amending names of taxa, to maintain stability in nomenclature, and to keep the enforcement and implementation aspects in mind when changes are decided.

The problem of the lack of standard references for corals and possibly other taxa was mentioned, but was no longer perceived as problematic if the Nomenclature Committee would be tasked with providing standard reference names for all species covered under the Convention. It was noted that the Checklist on the CITES Secretariat Web site does not yet have a search engine. Finally, the Secretariat announced that it intended to publish the future Appendices in a similar format to that of the United States of America, i.e. integrating annotations and interpretations into the Appendices.

9. Any Other Business

a) *Poicephalus robustus fuscicollis*

Upon a request from South Africa, it was noted that *P. robustus robustus* and *P. robustus fuscicollis* can be distinguished and could be the subject of different listings under the Appendices, provided that proposals would be submitted to that effect. Tim Inskipp explained that the current view is to regard *P. robustus fuscicollis* as a separate species, *P. fuscicollis*.

b) *Pyrhura* spp.

The representative of South Africa referred to the proposed revisions of the taxonomy for *Pyrhura leucotis griseipectus* (= *P. griseipectus*), *P. leucotis pfrimeri* (= *P. pfrimeri*), *P. perlata* (= *P. lepida*) and *P. rhodogaster* (= *P. perlata*) in the draft paper on CITES potential taxonomic and nomenclature revisions prepared by Tim Inskipp, and stated to endorse the proposed new names (as indicated in brackets).

c) *Damaliscus lunatus*

The representative of South Africa requested clarification regarding the scope of the Appendix III listing of *Damaliscus lunatus* by Ghana, noting that the intention of the original proposal may have been to include the *topi*, the subspecies occurring in Ghana. She clarified that only *D. lunatus lunatus* (the tsessebe) occurs in Southern Africa, and not *D. l. topi* and *D. l. jimela* (the *topi*), *D. l. korrigum* (the *korrigum*) or *D. l. tiang* (the *tiang*). Peter Dollinger commented that since Ghana had used the full species name, the entire species was listed in Appendix III, but that this may indeed not have been Ghana's intent. The Secretariat suggested that the matter could be brought up in the report of the Nomenclature Committee.

d) *Loxodonta africana*

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee mentioned that the subspecies *L. africana cyclotis* may be recognized as a full species, *L. cyclotis*, but that there is no agreement on this taxonomic approach and that the standard reference for the species will be maintained until the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties or beyond. The geographical range of the (sub) species is not known, and further DNA sampling and analysis seems to be required.

e) *Pandinus imperator*

The representative from Germany indicated that original proposal to include *Pandinus imperator* in the Appendix II of CITES, presented to the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, provided information on the distribution of *Pandinus imperator* "on the assumption that *P. imperator* is confined to the countries listed in Vachon (1967), with the exception of Senegal where it probably does not occur, and Nigeria where it may". It gives the following range States for the species: Benin, Chan, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Togo. However, the CITES Secretariat database includes Eastern African range (?) States. In addition, a new publication "Catalog of the Scorpions of the World" (2000), is available that might be used as standard reference in the future. She promised to provide relevant information to the Member of the Nomenclature Committee for further review.

f) *Ovis vignei*

The representative of Germany circulated information on a research project of the German Scientific Authority concerning the development of morphological and DNA-based standard methods for identifying individuals and tissues for different Urial subspecies. Dr G. Luikart at the University of Grenoble shall undertake the research project from November 2002 to October 2003.

g) Orders of birds and mammals

In response to a request from the CITES Secretariat about the arrangement of Orders of mammals in the Appendices, which does not follow the arrangement in Wilson and Reeder but rather the one of Simpson, the representative from Switzerland explained that the sequence of Simpson was believed to be more logical for laymen involved in identification. The same concern explained why Morony, Bock and Farrand were used for Orders and Families of birds, and not Sibley and Monroe. It was suggested to bring this matter up in the report of the Nomenclature Committee to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and to consider suggesting that the arrangement of orders should follow the main standard references. A new version of Wilson and Reeder may become available before the end of 2002.

h) Potential taxonomic and nomenclature revisions

A comprehensive draft paper on potential taxonomic and nomenclature revisions of CITES listed species, prepared by Tim Inskipp for consideration by the Nomenclature Committee, was briefly introduced by the author, who commented that in view of time constraints, it would not be possible to discuss the document at this meeting. Furthermore, some taxon reviews, particularly of reptiles, were not complete.

The Member of the Nomenclature Committee praised Tim Inskipp for his effort in providing guidance to the Committee. He suggested including an introductory text in a further version of the paper to explain its purpose and to propose a process for reviewing the recommended revisions. Dr Hoogmoed, in consultation with Dr Böhme, was requested to provide information concerning reptile species for inclusion in the revision paper. Tim Inskipp noted that for *Uromastyx*, *Phelsuma*, *Varanus* and some other taxa, no standard reference existed, which made it difficult to review the need for potential revisions, but that the upcoming checklists for *Varanidae* and *Cordylus* could partially address this concern.

10. Questions

11. Closure

No further questions were brought up, and the meeting closed at 22h30.

Agenda Nomenclature Committee (fauna)

8 April 2002, 20h00

Hotel Best Western Iraza

San Jose (Costa Rica)

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 7. *Equus asinus* and *Equus africanus*
 8. The Checklist of CITES Species as reference for CITES-listed species and procedures to amend and update the checklist
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