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(Rev. CoP17)\*

## Guidelines for the Secretariat when making recommendations in accordance with Article XV

NOTING Article XV, paragraph 2 (b) and (c), of the Convention requiring the Secretariat to make recommendations to the Parties for amendments proposed for Appendices I and II;

RECOGNIZING problems encountered by the Secretariat in always obtaining sufficient data on which to base its recommendations; and

RECOGNIZING also that data and information may be obtained from a wide variety of publications and sources;

### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ESTABLISHES the following guidelines to be followed by the Secretariat when making recommendations in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 2 (b) and (c), of the Convention:
  - a) where appropriate, references shall be cited in the text of recommendations so that specific data can be traced to a source;
  - b) citations shall be given in accordance with a recognized scientific standard for such citations;
  - c) data in unpublished form may be used and referred to provided the source is indicated. If the information is classified as confidential, the fact must be stated;
  - d) if the proposal includes an annotation, the recommendations should specifically cover:
    - i) the appropriateness of the proposed annotation with regard to those specimens that first appear in international trade as exports from range States and that dominate the trade and the demand for the wild resource;
    - ii) any potential problems in implementing the proposed annotation; and
    - iii) whether the proposed annotation is harmonized with existing annotations;
  - e) if the species has been listed previously or proposed for listing or delisting, a brief history of such listing or proposals and their treatment under CITES may be included in the recommendations;
  - f) if applicable, reference should be made to any existing Resolutions affecting the proposal or to any draft resolutions that have been tabled and await consideration by the Parties;
  - g) additional biological and/or trade data may be requested from the proposing and/or range States or from any other source to confirm or dispute other available data; and
  - h) as far as possible, the Secretariat recommendations should be based on as wide a range of information as it can obtain recognizing that such information should not be limited to scientific data; and
2. URGES the Secretariat to continue to endeavour to provide recommendations with the main objective of furthering the principles and effective implementation of the Convention.

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\* Amended at the 16th and 17th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.