

RECOGNIZING that annotations are increasingly used in the Appendices for a number of purposes;

AWARE that certain types of annotations are for reference only, whereas others are substantive and are intended to define the scope of the inclusion of a species;

CONSIDERING that the Parties have developed specific procedures for transfer, reporting and review for certain special cases of amendment of the Appendices, such as those relating to ranching, quotas, certain parts and derivatives, and trade regimes;

AWARE also that certain types of annotations are an integral part of a species listing, and that any proposal to introduce, amend or delete such an annotation must follow the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994) and amended at its 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th meetings (Santiago, 2002; Bangkok, 2004; The Hague, 2007; Doha, 2010; Bangkok, 2013; Johannesburg, 2016);

RECALLING that an annotated listing of an animal or plant species in any of the three Appendices always includes the whole live or dead animal or plant, as well as any specimen specified in the annotation;

RECALLING further that the Conference of the Parties had agreed at its second and fourth meetings that a listing of a plant species in Appendix II or Appendix III, and an animal species in Appendix III, without an annotation should be interpreted as including the whole live or dead animal or plant and all readily recognizable parts and derivatives, and that this view has not been changed by any subsequent decision of the Conference of the Parties;

CONSCIOUS that criteria for the submission of proposals to amend the Appendices that include annotations, and procedures for reviewing the implementation of such annotations, need to be clearly defined to avoid implementation and enforcement problems; and

RECOGNIZING that the Parties have adopted a number of definitions of terms and expressions in annotations, and that those definitions are included in several Resolutions and in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. AGREES that:

- a) the following are reference annotations and are for information purposes only:
 - i) annotations to indicate that one or more geographically separate populations, subspecies or species* of the annotated taxon are in another Appendix;
 - ii) the annotations 'possibly extinct'; and
 - iii) annotations relating to nomenclature;
- b) the following are substantive annotations, and are integral parts of species listings:
 - i) annotations that specify the inclusion or exclusion of designated geographically separate populations, subspecies, species, groups of species, or higher taxa, which may include export quotas; and

* Amended at the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

- ii) annotations that specify the types of specimens or export quotas;
 - c) reference annotations may be introduced, amended or deleted by the Conference of the Parties, or by the Secretariat, as required, to facilitate the understanding of the Appendices;
 - d) substantive annotations relating to species in Appendix I or II may be introduced, amended or deleted only by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Article XV of the Convention;
 - e) substantive annotations relating to species in Appendix III may be introduced, amended or deleted only by the Party or Parties that submitted the species for inclusion in Appendix III;
 - f) substantive annotations relating to geographically separate populations in Appendix I or II should be in compliance with the split-listing provisions contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) Annex 3; and
 - g) substantive annotations used in the context of transferring a species from Appendix I to Appendix II should be in compliance with the precautionary measures contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) Annex 4;
 - h) references to Decisions or Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties should not be included in annotations;
 - i) if needed, definitions of key terms and expressions used in annotations should be specified in the Interpretation section of the Appendices; and
 - j) annotations that include time limits or other references that may with time cease to apply should, on a regular basis, be considered for deletion or revision by the Standing Committee and as appropriate, by the Animals Committee or Plants Committee;
2. AGREES that no proposal for transfer of a species from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to an annotation relating to specified types of specimens shall be considered from a Party that has entered a reservation for the species in question, unless that Party has agreed to remove the reservation within 90 days of the adoption of the amendment;
 3. AGREES that a proposal to include a plant species in Appendix II, or to transfer a plant species from Appendix I to Appendix II, shall be interpreted to include the whole live or dead plant and all readily recognizable parts and derivatives if the proposal does not include an annotation specifying the types of specimens to be included;
 4. AGREES further that, for a plant species included in Appendix II or Appendix III, and an animal species included in Appendix III, the absence of an annotation relating to that species shall indicate that all readily recognizable parts and derivatives are included;
 5. ENCOURAGES Parties, when considering proposing the inclusion of a species in the Appendices with a substantive annotation, to take into account the following:
 - a) an inclusionary annotation, which specifies the types of specimens to be included under the listing, should be used in cases where only a few types of specimens need to be included under the listing;
 - b) an exclusionary annotation, which specifies the types of specimens to be excluded from the listing, should be used where only a few types of specimens need to be excluded from the listing;
 - c) an annotation that is a combination of inclusionary and exclusionary language, which specifies the types of specimens to be excluded from the listing, but also references a subset of those types of specimens that are excepted from the exclusion, or which specifies the types of specimens to be included in the listing, but also references a subset of those types of specimens to be excluded, should be used as circumstances dictate; and

- d) an annotation may not be necessary in cases where there is a risk to wild populations of the species from many types of specimens in trade or where the types of specimens in trade are easily transformed, likely to change frequently, or likely to change over time;
6. RECOMMENDS the following guidance and principles for annotations:
- a) Parties submitting proposals that contain substantive annotations:
 - i) ensure that the text is clear and unambiguous in the three working languages of the Convention;
 - ii) consider the conservation impact of excluding certain specimens from CITES provisions; and
 - iii) consider the enforceability of the annotations;
 - b) two main principles be followed as standard guidance when drafting annotations for plants:
 - i) controls should concentrate on those commodities that first appear in international trade as exports from range States; these may range from crude to processed material; and
 - ii) controls should include only those commodities that dominate the trade and the demand for the wild resource;
 - c) if a proposed annotation relates to specified types of specimens, the applicable provisions of the Convention for import, export and re-export of each type of specimen should be specified;
 - d) as a general rule, Parties avoid making proposals to adopt annotations that include live animals or trophies;
 - e) annotations that specify the types of specimens included in the Appendices should be used sparingly, as their implementation is particularly challenging, especially where there are identification problems or where the purpose of trade has been specified; and
 - f) elements of an annotation should, whenever practicable, focus on specification of parts and derivatives of the taxon intended to be included in or excluded from the Appendices.
7. URGES Parties submitting proposals that contain substantive annotations to consult with the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee, to ensure that the annotation is appropriate and can be readily implemented;
8. DIRECTS:
- a) the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, to agree on interim definitions between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in cases where significant differences in the interpretation of terms in annotations exist among trading countries and are causing implementation difficulties, and then include these definitions in its report to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;
 - b) the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties on any interim definitions of terms in annotations agreed by the Standing Committee;
 - c) the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee, for at least four years following the adoption of a proposal to transfer species from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to a substantive annotation, any credible information it receives indicating a significant increase in the illegal trade in or poaching of such species; and
 - d) the Standing Committee to investigate any such reports of illegal trade and to take appropriate action to remedy the situation, which may include calling on the Parties to suspend commercial trade in the affected species, or inviting the Depositary Government to submit a proposal to amend the annotation or to retransfer the species to Appendix I;

9. AGREES that, for species transferred from Appendix I to II with an annotation specifying that only certain types of specimens are subject to the provisions relating to species in Appendix II, specimens that are not specifically included in the annotation shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly; and
10. RECOMMENDS that the definitions of terms and expressions used in annotations in the Appendices be applied by the Parties.