

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

STATEMENT ON INCORRECT DESCRIPTIONS OF TAIWAN PROVINCE OF CHINA,
HONG KONG SAR OF CHINA, MACAO SAR OF CHINA AND CHINA'S DIAOYU ISLANDS
IN RELATION TO CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
IN DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO CITES COP19

1. This document has been submitted by China in relation to proposals CoP19 Prop. 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 37, 40, and 44 as well as document CoP19 Doc. 62.2.*
2. We have noticed some geographical designations employed in the documents of CoP19 Prop. 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 37, 40, and 44 as well as CoP19 Doc. 62.2 regarding Taiwan Province of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China and Macao SAR of China are inaccurate. The following statement is made on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, regarding the descriptions of Diaoyu Island and its affiliated islands, Taiwan Province, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR in relation to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the above-mentioned documents:
3. The Diaoyu Island and its affiliated islands have been Chinese territory since ancient times. China has indisputable sovereignty over the Diaoyu Island and its affiliated islands. This fact has been confirmed by a number of international law documents.
4. There is only one China in the world. The Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory. The "one China" principle is one of the fundamental norms governing international relations. Any act that creates "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" violates international law.
5. The Chinese government resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR in 1997 and 1999 respectively. The Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR are two special administrative regions of the People's Republic of China and inseparable parts of the Chinese territory.
6. The CoP19 Prop. 10 submitted by the US using the Senkaku Island to label the Diaoyu Island and its affiliated islands and describing Senkaku Island and its affiliated islands as Japan's territory is a gross violation of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and an intentional violation of international law.
7. In particular documents submitted by the US have a large number of incorrect descriptions that list Taiwan Province as a country and fail to correctly indicate that Taiwan Province is part of China. What the US has repeatedly done violates the US government's repeatedly declared position of adhering to the "One China" principle, and constitutes a gross violation of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
8. In particular documents submitted by the US contain incorrect descriptions that equate Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR with China and fail to correctly indicate that Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR are special administrative regions of China.
9. The correct descriptions acceptable to China are "Taiwan Province of China", "Hongkong SAR of China" or

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

"Hongkong SAR, China", "Macao SAR of China" or "Macao SAR, China". When the descriptions are paralleled with China, "Taiwan Province of China and Mainland China", "Taiwan Province of China and China's Mainland", "Hongkong SAR and Mainland China", "Hongkong SAR and China's Mainland", "Macao SAR and Mainland China", "Macao SAR and China's Mainland", "Taiwan Province of China, Hongkong SAR, Macao SAR and Mainland China" or "Taiwan Province of China, Hongkong SAR, Macao SAR and China's Mainland" can be accepted.

10. The Chinese side firmly opposes the above wrong expressions in the US proposals regarding Taiwan province of China, Hong Kong SAR of China and Macao SAR of China, and Diaoyu Island and its affiliated islands. China's competent authorities and institutions have raised solemn protests against the US administration directly and through the Secretariat of the Convention, and reserve our rights to make further actions against the US.