

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

Thirty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 19 – 23 June 2023

Appendices of the Convention

Nomenclature matters

Joint report of the specialists on botanical and zoological nomenclature

DEVELOPMENT OF A STANDARDIZED GLOBAL CHECKLIST OF SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the specialist on botanical nomenclature of the Plants Committee and the specialist on zoological nomenclature of the Animals Committee, with assistance from the Secretariat.
2. At the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 19.274, as follows:

19.274 Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

Subject to external funding, the Animals and Plants Committees shall, through their respective nomenclature specialists, participate in the initiative of the International Union of Biological Sciences to develop a standardized global checklist of species, and report on progress to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. The nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee has engaged with the Checklist Governance Working Group established under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), which is currently focused on preparing and evaluating metrics for the content and governance of taxonomic checklists, potentially integrating with the Catalogue of Life at some time in the future.
4. The nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee has engaged with the World Flora Online (WFO) Consortium, which, amongst other things, aims to create a global consensus classification for the world's plants. WFO works closely with the Catalogue of Life, which is, in turn, involved in the IUBS initiative mentioned in paragraph 3. The WFO Plant List (<https://wfoplantlist.org/plant-list/>) already provides an advanced draft of such a consensus checklist for plants, with several Taxonomic Expert Networks and other data contributors (such as the World Checklist for Vascular Plants and Plants of the World Online initiatives) providing updates to the WFO taxonomic backbone.
5. The activities and processes noted in paragraphs 3 and 4 are ongoing and have, especially for the animals, yet to show tangible results. Nevertheless, they represent valuable progress towards the compilation of broadly recognised and broadly supported checklists of species of plants, animals, and other organisms. Such checklists will potentially represent standardised checklists for adoption by CITES and its Parties.

Recommendations

6. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to take note of this document.