

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



Joint sessions of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and  
the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 12 - 13 July 2024

Species conservation and trade

Assessment of Appendix-I listed species

REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the co-chairs of the joint intersessional working group on the assessment of Appendix-I listed species.\*
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.184 and 19.185 on *Assessment of Appendix-I listed species* as follows:

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**19.184** *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *in consultation with relevant range States and relevant experts, produce detailed assessments on the conservation status, threats, impacts of legal and illegal trade, ongoing in situ and ex situ conservation strategies or recovery plans and funding/resources available or required for at least the ten Appendix-I listed species from those listed in the table in paragraph 15 of document CoP19 Doc. 11, and others; and*
- b) *submit a report, including these assessments, and recommendations on possible actions within the CITES mandate which could contribute to the implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and link to any global biodiversity monitoring framework which may be adopted as part of a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework with draft recommendations, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees.*

**Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees**

**19.185** *The Animals and Plants Committees shall:*

- a) *review the report and draft recommendations prepared by the Secretariat under paragraph a) of Decision 19.184;*
- b) *taking into account paragraph a) of this Decision, information document AC31 Inf. 6/ PC25 Inf. 8 and the suggestions in document AC31/PC25 Com. 1 (Rev. by Sec.) and its Annex, refine the methodology and its criteria for carrying out an assessment of species listed in Appendix I that might benefit from measures adopted by the Conference of the Parties; and*

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\* *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.*

c) *formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the range States and consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. At the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26; Geneva, June 2023) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32; Geneva, June 2023), the Committees considered document [PC26 Doc. 25 / AC32 Doc. 26](#).
4. The Plants and Animals Committee established a joint intersessional working group ([PC26 SR](#) and [AC32 SR](#); [link on CITES website](#)) with a mandate to:
  - a) review the results of the rapid assessment in information document AC31 Inf. 6/ PC25 Inf. 8 on Rapid assessment of Appendix-I taxa that could potentially benefit from further CITES action, the suggestions in document AC31/PC25 Com. 1 (Rev. by Sec.), the Annex to the present document, the case studies and responses from range States on the 10 species selected for detailed assessments;
  - b) refine the methodology and its criteria for carrying out an assessment of species listed in Appendix I that might benefit from measures adopted by the Conference of the Parties; and
  - c) formulate draft recommendations for consideration at the joint session of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and 27th meeting of the Plants Committee.
5. The membership of the working group was agreed as follow, however, the AC alternate representative for Oceania resigned and so the AC representative of Asia, Mr. Hamidy, was the sole chair for the AC:

Co-Chairs for AC: representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy) and alternate representative for Oceania (Ms. McIntyre);

Chair for PC: representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng);

AC Members: representative for Africa (Ms. Maha);

PC Members: representative for North America (Mr. Boles);

Parties: China, Colombia, European Union, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nation Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature, BirdLife International, Conservation Force, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, ForestBased Solutions, German Society of Herpetology, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Safari Club International, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature

6. The Secretariat shared the detailed assessments updated with information from the responses received with the joint intersessional working group to support and further inform the work of the intersessional working group.
7. The joint intersessional working group held two online meetings with the same agenda to accommodate the different members' time zones. At the meetings, the Secretariat presented a short overview of the 10 detailed assessments. Members of the working group made the following observations on the recommendations regarding the detailed assessments:
  - a) Demand reduction is recommended in several detailed assessments, but whether demand reduction is working should be assessed before it is recommended.
  - b) Demand reduction should be targeted specifically for “wild-sourced, internationally traded specimens” and not any legal specimens in trade.
  - c) The target for demand reduction should include the supplier in the range States as well as the buyers in the destination countries.

- d) Demand reduction might be less likely to be effective for specimen of high cultural salience, urgent local need, or long-standing traditional use.
  - e) Consider linking recommendations with sustainable use and livelihood [Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18)]; suggested wording “if applicable, alternatives to foster sustainable, legal and traceable trade should be explored in line with Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods*”.
  - f) Consider making recommendations to Parties that are not range States but have artificially propagation/captive breeding facilities of Appendix-I species to ensure there is no wildlife laundering, appropriate marking and genetic traceability (for example, *Gonatodes daudini*; Union Island Gecko).
  - g) Draw general conclusions/recommendations from the detailed assessments that could be applied to other similar species that were not selected for the detailed assessments.
  - h) Consider linking *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation strategies to make recommendations.
  - i) Consider making recommendations on registration of captive-breeding facilities and discouraging import of specimens coming from non-registered facilities.
  - j) Consider making a list of species that are found to not be in international trade as potential candidates for Periodic review, such as *Caprolagus hispidus* (Assam rabbit).
  - k) Species facing threats outside the mandate of CITES such as habitat loss, should be referred to other mechanisms.
8. The online meetings also included a presentation by UNEP-WCMC who conducted the rapid assessment in May 2020. The details relating to the rapid assessment were presented in document [AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10](#) and considered by the joint meeting of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC31/PC25, online, 2021). UNEP-WCMC informed the working group that Criterion 2.1 on “[Threat from use](#)” used information from IUCN Red List assessment on whether the taxon was considered threatened by biological resource use (threat classifications: 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.3.2, and 5.4.2 in the IUCN Red List assessment; details in Table 2 of AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10) and how severe that threat was. The IUCN threat impact scores (including severity) are no longer displayed and are not recommended for quantitative use, the criteria / information to be used would therefore require revision. UNEP-WCMC proposed substituting Criterion 2.1 with “likelihood of threat from international trade” generated from the methodology proposed in the article published in “Identifying species likely threatened by international trade on the IUCN Red List can inform CITES trade measures” ([SC77 inf. 12](#)).
  9. In addition, previous feedback on the rapid assessment included a suggestion to consider life history traits of the species that could be relevant to recovery from harvest and trade. Data on animals available from the captive-breeding assessment / review process could also be informative, but information on plants was noted to be lacking. A suggestion could be to use information contained in Table 11A of [module 11 on perennial plants](#) of the CITES NDF guidance as a starting point.
  10. With regards to the methodology and the criteria for carrying out an assessment of species listed in Appendix I, the following observations were made:
    - a) Biological information and commercial trade information should be considered separately as recommended in AC31/PC25 Com I Annex 1 and as implemented in CoP19 Inf. 101.
    - b) Trade data for artificially propagation and captive-breeding information should be included in the rapid assessment. As international trade in wild specimens of Appendix-I species for commercial purposes is prohibited, species that are artificially propagation/captive-breeding can be laundered and may be under higher threat (WAZA and EAZA has information).
    - c) Consideration of domestic trade in the rapid assessments – domestic trade could be a useful indicator for general demand for the species but domestic trade falls outside the mandate of CITES.
  11. The working group discussions and observations resulted in the identification of the following elements that require further consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees, particularly in terms of whether and how certain criteria should be incorporated into the rapid assessment:

- a) in relation to trade data for artificial propagation and captive-breeding information, the information can be incorporated into the analysis but how it could be incorporated remains undecided. The information could be included as meta data or as a criterion within the analysis. If included as a criterion, whether the information would be a positive or negative to the overall score of a species needs to be decided.
- b) If captive breeding information is to be included, a combination of source and purpose codes should be considered to ensure that all captive-bred animals trade is accounted for.
- c) the inclusion of domestic trade information was raised, but there was concern that this is beyond the mandate of CITES. If it were to be incorporated, the information could also be included as meta data. However, credible data sources still need to be explored.

Recommendations:

12. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to:

- a) consider substituting criterion 2.1 used in the original rapid assessment that are no longer available with other criteria and information contained in the IUCN Red List assessment;
- b) consider the outstanding questions in paragraph 11 of the present document; and
- c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.