

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

Appendices of the Convention

Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II

SELECTION OF SPECIES FOR THE PERIODIC REVIEW

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 18.2 on the *Establishment of the committees*, Annex 2, paragraph 2 b) ii) the Conference of the Parties instructs the Animals and Plants Committees to conduct periodic reviews of species included in Appendix I and II in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*.
3. In Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) the Conference of the Parties agrees that the review should be conducted in accordance with the process as set out in the Resolution. Normally, after every second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees establish a schedule for the periodic review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
4. The schedule for the periodic review was supposed to be established at the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26; Geneva, June 2023) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32; Geneva, June 2023), but the Secretariat was not able to provide the Committees with the outputs described in paragraph b) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) due to lack of resources to undertake the assessment outlined in the paragraph and the Annex to the Resolution.
5. Subsequently, the United States of America provided the financial resources required to undertake the assessment. The Secretariat appreciates the support provided in this regard.
6. The Secretariat proposes that the Animals and Plants Committees establish a schedule or list at the present meeting, and the period to review the identified taxa run for the remainder of the current intersessional period to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP21; 2028).
7. Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) sets out the process to be followed to conduct the periodic review. According to paragraph 3 b), the Animals and Plants Committees shall select a practical subset of CITES listed species of flora or fauna for analysis pursuant to the following methods and guidance:
 - i) *the Secretariat shall, subject to availability of funding, undertake or appoint consultants to undertake the assessment outlined in the Annex and prepare the resulting outputs for consideration by the Scientific Committees at their first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period (Note: if no funding is available, the Secretariat shall inform the Parties and the Scientific Committees' Chairs);*
 - ii) *the following taxa should not be considered for review:*

- A. *species that were the subject of listing proposals at the previous three meetings of the Conference of the Parties (whether or not the proposals were adopted);*
 - B. *species subject to ongoing reviews, under the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)], or periodic reviews conducted within the last 10 years; or*
 - C. *species subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the CoP; and*
 - D. *species for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices; and*
- iii) *outputs resulting from the assessment conducted in accordance with the Annex to this Resolution shall contain the following information in summary tables that include:*
- A. *a summary of trade data since the initial inclusion of that taxon in the Appendices;*
 - B. *current conservation status, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category of the species, if assessed;*
 - C. *current listing in the CITES Appendices, criteria under which it was listed (if known), date of first listing; and*
 - D. *the distribution of the species (range States);*

Outputs resulting from the assessment

8. As provided for in paragraph 3 b) i), the Secretariat appointed the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to undertake the assessment outlined in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19). The outputs are included in Annex 1 to the present document for animals and in Annex 2 to the present document for plants. The following should be noted in this context:
- a) Annexes 1 and 2 include:
 - i) **Output 1:** Appendix-I listed animal or plant taxa for which there has been commercial and unreported¹ international trade in wild sources (W, R, U, X, Y and unreported) over the period 2013 – 2022. (It should be noted that some taxa may be included in Output 1 on the basis of purpose and/or source not being reported by the country/territory of import, and not due to reporting on the part of the country/territory of export).
 - ii) **Output 3:** Appendix-I listed animal or plant taxa for which there has been no or minimal reported international trade over the period 2013 – 2022.
 - iii) **Output 4:** Appendix-II listed animal or plant taxa for which there has been no or minimal reported international trade over the period 2013 – 2022.
 - b) **Output 2** is covered by the Review of Significant Trade (RST) post-CoP19 summary output contained in document [AC32 Doc. 14.2](#) for animals and in document [PC26 Doc. 16.5](#) for plants.
 - c) The trade data components used to generate Outputs 1, 3 and 4 are reflected in Table 1 in Annexes 1 and 2 and the contextual information included in each output are contained in Table 2 in Annexes 1 and 2.
 - d) The following taxa were excluded from all Outputs, as outlined in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) paragraphs 2 and 3 b) ii) A-C:

¹ Taking a precautionary approach, trade in Appendix I taxa reported without a purpose was also included in Output 1 since this may have included commercial purposes.

- i) Taxa subject to listing proposals at CoP17, CoP18 or CoP19, independent of whether the proposals were adopted²;
 - ii) Taxa subject to ongoing reviews, under the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)], or periodic review process conducted within the last 10 years (post-CoP15 onwards);
 - iii) Taxa subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of CoP19³; and
 - iv) All 'great whales' [here identified as species in the families Balaenopteridae, Balaenidae, Eschrichtiidae and Neobalaenidae, along with the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)] in accordance with paragraph 2 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19).
- e) No species were excluded on the basis of paragraph 3 b) ii) D of the Resolution ('*species for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices*'), since this exclusion requires further refinement of a methodology to calculate and define 'no change'.

Observations

9. Paragraphs 2 and 3 b) ii) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) detail taxa that should not be considered for review within the periodic review process. Whilst paragraphs 2 and 3 b) ii) A-C establish clear criteria for exclusion of taxa, paragraph 3 b) ii) D (referred to here as 'criterion D'), which proposes the exclusion of species "*for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices*" is less clearly defined. Looking at past practice, clarification and guidance from the Animals and Plants Committee would be helpful in order to 1) refine the various elements of criterion D (i.e., what is meant by a change in status, change in range (distribution) or change in trade), and 2) determine whether criterion D can be assessed to a useful extent considering availability of the required data. The Secretariat proposes that the Animals and Plants Committee consider the submission of the following draft decision for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to address this matter during the next intersessional period:

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

20.AA *With the support of the Secretariat, the Animals and Plants Committees shall consider the application of criterion D in paragraph 3 b) ii) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II, including past practice; provide any advice to the Secretariat; and make recommendations for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

10. The Appendix-I listed taxa whose populations are in international trade for commercial purposes (Output 1), may merit further engagement with Parties to verify the correct use of purpose codes and the Committee may wish to draw any concerns to the attention of the Secretariat and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Facilitation of periodic reviews

11. In order to facilitate the Periodic Review, the Conference of Parties (CoP) recommends in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 4, that the Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience, especially during joint meetings, regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices (including financing of reviews, processes, format and outputs). In paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties furthermore encourages the Committees and Parties to facilitate periodic reviews by:
- a) *collaborating with university graduate students, including those from the CITES Master's Programme at the International University of Andalusia;*

² This did not include taxa subject to proposals to amend annotations.

³ Understood as all valid Decisions and Resolutions where the scientific name of the species or higher taxon was named in the title, except for Decisions relating to nomenclature that did not relate to the trade or conservation status of the taxon.

- b) *collaborating with other non-Party reviewers including species experts such as IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups;*
 - c) *using readily available information on species' conservation status from organizations (e.g. IUCN, BirdLife, etc.) and Parties;*
 - d) *seeking financial support for reviews, including from importing countries, as appropriate; and*
 - e) *increasing communication between the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and suggest coordination with Parties when animal and plant species' ranges overlap;*
12. In paragraph 8 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19), the Conference of the Parties also invites Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other interested entities to support the work of the Animals and Plants Committees in the undertaking of the periodic review of the Appendices.

Recommendations

13. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to:
- a) during their joint sessions, consider the draft decision in paragraph 9 and agree to submit the draft decision for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
 - b) during their separate sessions, establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices, and based on outputs indicated in paragraph 8, identify a list of animal or plant taxa to review during the next intersessional period until CoP21(2028).