

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-8 February 2025

Draft amendments to SC78 Doc. 63

1. This document has been submitted by the North American region* in relation to Document SC78 Doc.63 on Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade.
2. The North American region hereby submits for the consideration of the Standing Committee (SC) amendments to Document SC78 Doc. 63, as set out in the present document.

* *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.*

The North American Region thanks the two intersessional working groups who considered these capacity building issues. We largely support the approach taken by the recommendations in this document. The North American Region has a number of suggestions for Decision 20BB.

- For subparagraph a) we point out that this text will stand alone eventually and be read without benefit of the discussions that led to this text. We propose the following amendment to explain its purpose and expected outcomes.

20.BB a) The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources:

update and expand the materials in the Virtual College relating to the preparation and submission of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices as a capacity building measure with the goal of providing more comprehensive and useful advice to Parties who may wish to prepare such proposals.

- In subparagraph b) i), the North American Region does not think the word “selecting” is necessary and could be deleted. We note also that this word was not used in the CoP19 decisions.
- In subparagraphs i) through iii), we note that some of the elements from the CoP19 decisions got lost, namely, that information submitted for posting on the dedicated site may not only be for species that are not listed on a CITES Appendix, but could also be for already-listed species that may receive insufficient regulation.

To address these issues, Decision 20BB subparagraph b) could thus be amended as follows:

- i. methodologies used for identifying ~~and / or selecting~~ species at risk of extinction that ~~might merit consideration to be included in the CITES Appendices~~ are or may be threatened by international trade and are either not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation;
- ii. information or analyses on the status of species (or other taxonomic groups) at risk of extinction that are or may be threatened by international trade and are not yet included in the Appendices ~~which might merit such an inclusion~~ either not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation; and
- iii. information in regards to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), specifically in Annex 2.b, on species (or other taxonomic groups) that may be considered as look-alikes of taxa referenced in paragraph b)ii.

The North American Region also has some comments regarding Decision 20.DD. We consider it premature to include subparagraph b), which directs SC to consider **other** actions or mechanisms when we have not yet had an opportunity to test out the approaches that were developed in the current intersessional period and recommended in this document. We should let that happen first.

Decision 20.DD could therefore focus more on updates on the progress of the recommended approach and could be worded as a single paragraph as follows:

20.DD The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committee as appropriate, will review the progress on the implementation of Decisions 20.AA to 20.CC as reported by the Secretariat.

A new subparagraph e) to Decision 20.BB directed to the Secretariat would complement this approach:

20.BB e) report on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) to d) above to the Standing Committee when appropriate

A new subparagraph c) for Decision 20.AA could also invite Parties to provide feedback on their experiences with the Virtual College and the dedicated website.

20.AA c) provide feedback to the Secretariat on their experiences with the approaches in Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB, once implemented.

Finally, the North American Region considers it premature to amend Resolution Conf. 19.2 on Capacity

Building at this time. We recommend that the proposed measures in the current document first be tested by Parties during the next intersessional period.