

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



Joint sessions of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and
the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 4 and 21 June 2021

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

ADDENDUM TO NOMENCLATURE OF APPENDIX-III LISTINGS

1. This document has been submitted by the specialist on zoological nomenclature of the Animals Committee and the specialist on botanical nomenclature of the Plants Committee.*

Update on progress since May 2020

2. Following the postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee, scheduled to take place in July 2020, the Animals Committee took a number of intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/057 of 22 September 2020), including the establishment of an intersessional working group on *zoological nomenclature*. This working group had the following mandate:

Taking into account document AC31 Doc. 37 and its Annexes:

- a) review the findings of the report presented in Annex 5 of document CoP18 Doc. 99 on Bird Nomenclature;
- b) provide guidance to the Secretariat as to what further actions it could undertake to implement Decision 18.309 regarding time-specific versions of online databases, having considered the results of consultations to-date;
- c) review the information to be provided concerning nomenclature and identification of corals;
- d) review the proposed standard references for species newly included in the Appendices;
- e) review and supplement the list of proposed updates to nomenclature of species listed in the Appendices;
- f) consider options to update the higher taxonomy of lizards and snakes;

* *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.*

- g) further consider the documents submitted separately with regard to Decision 18.313 on Nomenclature of Appendix III listings (document AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33) and Decision 18.315 on Pangolins (document AC31 Doc. 38); and
 - h) report on the outcomes of its work at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.
3. The membership of the working group was decided as follows: the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk - Chair); the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and the PC nomenclature specialist (Ms. Klopper); Australia, China, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), United Nations Environment Programme / Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP/RAC-SPA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), BirdLife International, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International (HSI) and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).
 4. The group worked electronically and their recommendations under paragraph g of the mandate with regard to Decision 18.313 on *Nomenclature of Appendix III listings* (document AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33) are outlined in the section below. Noting that paragraph g) of the mandate refers to Decision 18.313, which is directed to the Animals and Plants Committees, this part of the mandate was conducted in close collaboration between the nomenclature specialists from both Committees.
 5. The deliberations of the working group in relation to items a) to f) of the mandate are reported on in the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 37, while the deliberations of the working groups in relation to item g) with regard to Decision 18.313 on the listing of pangolins in the Appendices are reported on in the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 38. The deliberations of the working group in relation to item g) of the mandate with regard to Decision 18.313 on Nomenclature of Appendix III listings are reported below.

Decision 18.313 on *Nomenclature of Appendix III listings*

6. At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties adopted Decision 18.313, directed to the Animals and Plants Committees, which reads as follows:

The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into consideration the current guidance in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*, paragraph 2 g), evaluate how nomenclature changes affect Appendix-III listings and propose further guidance and recommendations as necessary, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting that address how such nomenclature changes are to be handled.

Deliberations of the working group in relation to Decision 18.313

7. The members of the Animals Committee working group on nomenclature and the members of the Plants Committee considered the Annex to Doc AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33, and concerns were raised that the document may not have captured the full extent of complexity with regard to the possible impact of synonymisations ('lumping') of species, the correspondence (or not) of nomenclatural processes for Appendix III to that for Appendices I and II, the need for the designation of standard references, and the relevance of geography. The fundamental difference between Appendix III and Appendices I and II was highlighted, noting the different possible legal interpretations that either: a) an Appendix-III listed species is only listed within the listing Party's jurisdiction, and nothing more is required from other Parties other than cooperation in the form of certifying that specimens in trade are not part of the listing Party's population; or that b) the entire species is listed throughout its geographic range, and is subject to different regulatory regimes with regard to trade by listing and non-listing Parties.
8. By the updated document submission date for AC31/PC25, it had not been possible to prepare a revised version of the Annex to Doc AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33 that adequately addressed the concerns raised, and this work will continue. The nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees will provide an oral update on progress at the joint meeting of the Committees.

Revised recommendations

9. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to:
 - a) take note of the information contained in paragraphs 7 and 8 above;
 - b) consider the update provided by the nomenclature specialists; and
 - c) make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.