

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
Online, 4 and 21 June 2021

APPENDIX-I LISTED SPECIES

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Members:** representative for Africa of the Plants Committee (Mr. Mahamane), representative for Asia of the Plants Committee (Ms. Atikah), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean of the Plants Committee (Ms. Núñez Neyra), representatives for Europe of the Animals Committee [Mr. Loertscher (**co-Chair**) and Ms. Zikova], alternate representative for Asia of the Plants Committee (Ms. Zeng) (**co-Chair**), alternate representative for Asia of the Animals Committee (Ms. Terada), nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee (Mr. van Dijk);
- Parties:** Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and
- Observers:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Center for Biological Diversity, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Conservation Analytics, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Safari Club International, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Parrot Trust, and World Wide Fund for Nature

Mandate:

The in-session working group shall:

- a) review the criteria and methodology used for the rapid assessment presented in information document AC31 Inf. 6/PC25 Inf. 8 and its Annexes 1 and 2, together with the additional criterion mentioned in paragraph 9 to the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10; and
- b) provide guidance to the Secretariat on its further implementation of Decision 18.28, as outlined in paragraphs 7 to 9 of document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10 and its addendum.

Outcomes of the in-session working group meeting

In advance of the virtual meeting, the working group (WG) was asked to specify whether in their view the rapid assessment satisfied the provisions of Decision 18.28 and if yes, whether the methodology and criteria used in the rapid assessment were complete or needed amendments. Several members of the WG sent written input to the co-chairs of the working group that are summarised in the attached excel file.

Based on the variety and disparity of opinions expressed in the feedback, the co-chairs of the WG found it useful to first have a thorough discussion on the expectations of the members and the outcomes that they would like to see as a result of this process. The main points can be summarized as follows:

- The WG was in general agreement that it would be useful to have a process that assesses the conservation status of species listed in Appendix I and determine what measures CITES Parties could take to improve the status of species, including species that may be overlooked by current CITES measures, and which are still threatened with extinction despite their being included in Appendix I (whilst recognizing that there are other threats to species that are not related to exploitation or trade).
- The recommended actions should be largely in line with the mandate of CITES; will likely vary across species; and could include measures on management, legal and illegal trade, captive breeding or artificial propagation, as well as compliance issues.
- It was noted that the rapid assessment is a useful tool to get a first overview but may not detect all Appendix-I species that most urgently require further measures under CITES. Therefore, the rapid assessment should be considered as a first step, noting that subsequent in-depth review of certain taxa is needed in order to identify those species of highest conservation priority.
- The WG was also of the view that lessons learned from successful recoveries of Appendix-I species should be highlighted and where possible be used to help define measures that could be applied for species selected under the process mentioned above.
- Some members considered that the outcome might be used to develop a process to assess and monitor the effectiveness of Appendix I listings, similar to that of the Review of Significant Trade for Appendix-II species.
- It was also the general view of the WG that in order to advance the work on the above-mentioned general objectives, two workstreams should be followed that run in parallel and the results of each must feed into the other in the future.
 - The first process involves an academic, desktop exercise in which students at the University of Applied Sciences Van Hall Larenstein (Netherlands) would look at a selected number of species for further consideration under Decision 18.28 that a) scored highly under the rapid assessment outlined in information document AC31 Inf.6/ PC25 Inf.8 and b) those assigned to different categories based on the proposed approach by Mexico, which assigns Appendix-I species into one of four quadrants depending on the average score for trade and biological criteria provided in the rapid assessment. The aim will be to analyse species from all the four quadrants; to document the effects of any past or ongoing CITES measures; and to propose possible additional measures CITES could take. This process is to be undertaken with the recognition that some working group members had concerns with some of the criteria, and there are likely to be other Appendix-I species that would benefit from measures to be adopted by the CITES Parties
 - The second process will instruct the Secretariat, in consultation with the Plants and Animals Committees through their chairs, and invited experts, to continue to refine the methodology and its criteria for a future detailed assessment of Appendix-I listed species based on the feedback from this working group (which is summarised in the excel table in Annex 1), as well as the original written inputs which will be provided to the Secretariat.
- In relation to the additional criterion mentioned in paragraph 9 to the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10, the WG discussed the different issues around applying a metric of captive breeding to the analysis and invited the Secretariat to further refine the criteria based on the input provided by the WG. The Secretariat recalled Decisions 18.172 and 18.173 on *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source* and noted that the Standing Committee had established a working group on captive breeding and encouraged members to bring the concerns raised to the attention of the Standing Committee's working group.

Recommendations:

The working group recommends that the Animals and Plants Committee agree to ~~request~~ invite the Secretariat to undertake the following:

- a) to continue the collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences Van Hall Larenstein (Netherlands) in carrying out the analysis of a selection of Appendix-I species and use these case studies to compile possible measures that ~~the Conference of the Parties~~ CITES could adopt within its mandate to improve the conservation status of potential species of concern; and
- b) in consultation with the Plants and Animals Committees, through their chairs, and invited experts to:
 - i) further 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, taking into account the suggestions from the working group; and
 - ii) draft decisions for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure the further advancement of this work, including the possible development of an ongoing ~~Appendix-I assessment process to validate efficacy of listings~~ for Appendix-I listings under the CITES provisions.