

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 August 2003

PERIODIC REVIEW OF ANIMAL SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE APPENDICES
[RESOLUTION CONF. 11.1 (REV. COP12) AND DECISION 12.96]

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The requirement that the Animals Committee undertake a periodic review of animal species included in the Appendices is set out in paragraph h) of Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12) on the Establishment of Committees, which resolves that, within the policy agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees shall:

undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices by:
 - i) *establishing a schedule for reviewing the biological and trade status of these species;*
 - ii) *identifying problems or potential problems concerning the biological status of species being traded;*
 - iii) *consulting the Parties on the need to review specific species, working directly with the range States in the selection process, and seeking their assistance in such reviews; and*
 - iv) *preparing and submitting amendment proposals resulting from the review, through the Depositary Government, for consideration at meetings of the Conference of Parties.*
3. At its 15th meeting (AC15, Antananarivo, July 1999), the Animals Committee started reviewing the Appendices using the criteria laid down in Resolution Conf. 9.24, and by AC18 (San José, 2002), 12 taxa had been reviewed through the voluntary efforts of Parties.
4. At AC18, the Committee discussed guidelines to assist in the identification of species for review and the process for conducting the reviews (see document AC18 Doc. 8.1 and AC18 Summary Record, Annex 4 and 4.1). While agreement was reached on the sections in the guidelines regarding the objective of the process and the species selection, it was recognized that more work would be required on guidance for the process for further reviews. It is expected that an updated document on these guidelines will be made available at AC19 for discussion.
5. The agreed objective of the Animals Committee periodic review process is to determine whether species are in the correct Appendix or whether a proposal to transfer the species within the Appendixes or delete it from them should be put forward.
6. It was agreed that the following criteria were to be used for the selection of species to be subject to the review:
 - a) The following should be given higher priority in reviews:

- i) Appendix-II species with little or no recorded trade;
 - ii) higher taxon listings (e.g. genus or family listings);
 - iii) species that reflect geographic diversity and diversities of life history strategies.
 - b) The following species should not be included in reviews: species subject to review processes such as those that are or have been subject to the Review of Significant Trade or those that have already been evaluated for listing in the CITES Appendices through proposals submitted for consideration at the previous two meetings of the Conference of Parties.
7. It was decided that the Chairman of the working group on the periodic review, the representative of the United States of America and the representative of UNEP-WCMC would meet intersessionally to refine the process introduced in document AC18 Inf. 13 to undertake rapid reviews of animal taxa. The Secretariat has been informed that the working group will report on progress at AC19.
 8. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002), Decision 12.96 directed to the Standing Committee was adopted as follows:

The Standing Committee shall develop mechanisms to obtain greater involvement of the range States in the periodic review of the Appendices and provide guidance to reach a clear recommendation after the completion of the review.
 9. The Standing Committee addressed Decision 12.96 at its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003) in documents SC49 Doc. 20 and SC49 Doc. 20.1. It agreed to the recommendations presented in the Annex to the present document, requiring the Animals and Plants Committees to share experiences regarding the reviews (including on the financing, the process, the format and the outputs of the reviews) and to establish a schedule for the review, listing the species that the Committees propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of Parties.
 10. Concerning the review of crocodile ranching operations in the framework of the periodic review of animal species included in the Appendices, the Animals Committee agreed that the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) would be requested to compile an exhaustive list of crocodile ranching operations authorized under Resolution Conf. 11.16, and to review those operations under the framework of the review of the Appendices. At AC18, the representative of IUCN/SSC CSG reported on progress, but noted that finalization of the review would require funding. The Secretariat has been informed that the CSG is developing a pamphlet for reviewing crocodilian ranching listings and effectiveness, and that they will present this at AC19 for discussion.

Recommendations agreed to by the Standing Committee at its 49th meeting
regarding periodic review of the Appendices (Decision 12.96)

- a) The Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of species included in the Appendices (including the financing of reviews, the process, the format and output) and establish a schedule for the periodic review of the Appendices, listing the species they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
- b) The Secretariat should send a copy of this list to all Parties requesting that range States of the species send their comments on the need to review these species to the Secretariat, to relay to the members of the Animals or Plants Committee and of the Standing Committee.
- c) Taking these comments into account, the Animals and Plants Committees should in consultation with the Standing Committee finalize the selection of the species to be reviewed.
- d) The Animals and Plants Committees should conduct or organize the reviews, seeking information from the range States. A draft of each review (in an agreed format) should be provided by the Secretariat to the range States for comment within an agreed timeframe, and these comments should be taken into consideration before the review is considered final.
- e) Inter-governmental bodies having a function in relation to the management or conservation of, or trade in species selected for review should be provided with the relevant draft reviews for comment within an agreed timeframe, and these comments should be taken into consideration when finalizing the review.
- f) The regional representatives of the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees should seek assistance from range States within their region to support the species reviews conducted by the Animals and Plants Committees.
- g) In cases where a review indicates, and the technical Committee concerned agrees, that it would be appropriate to transfer a species from one Appendix to another, or to delete a species from Appendix II, the Animals or Plants Committee should, in consultation with the range States, prepare (or arrange the preparation of) a proposal to amend the Appendices and keep the Standing Committee informed.
- h) The Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee should provide copies of the proposal to the range States and request that one or more should submit the proposal for consideration at the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- i) If no range State is willing to submit the proposal, the Secretariat should request the Depository Government to submit it [as specified in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12)] and to include the comments of the range States in the supporting statement.
- j) Proposals resulting from the periodic review of the Appendices must be submitted for decision by the Conference of the Parties.