

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

Proposals to amend the Appendices for possible consideration at CoP15

PROPOSAL TO RECONCILE THE CITES APPENDICES FOR *PUMA CONCOLOR*
WITH THE STANDARD NOMENCLATURE REFERENCE FOR MAMMALS
AGREED TO IN RESOLUTION CONF. 12.11 (REV. COP14)

1. This document has been submitted by Canada*.
2. *Puma concolor* is widely distributed throughout North, Central and South America. The standard nomenclature reference for mammals agreed to in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev CoP14), Mammals of the World, 3rd Edition (Wilson and Reeder 2005) considers the 16 formerly recognized subspecies of cougar in North America as *P. concolor cougar*.
3. The subspecies *Puma concolor coryi*, *Puma concolor costaricensis*, and *Puma concolor cougar* are included in Appendix I. All other *P. concolor* subspecies are included in Appendix II.
4. *Puma concolor costaricensis* is still considered a distinct subspecies and thus the new nomenclature has no impact on its CITES listing. However, the new nomenclature does not recognize *Puma concolor cougar* (Eastern cougar) and *Puma concolor coryi* (Florida Panther) as distinct subspecies, nor are they genetically distinct from other North American cougar subspecies (Culver et al, 2000).
5. In accordance with the standard nomenclature reference for mammals agreed to in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev CoP14), synonyms of *Puma concolor* (Linnaeus, 1771) include: *P. c. concolor* (Linnaeus, 1771) (includes the previous subspecies and synonyms *bangsi*; *incarum*; *osgoodi*; *soasoaranna*; *soderstromii*; *sucuacuara*; *wavula*); *P. c. anthonyi* (includes the previous subspecies and synonyms *acrocodia*; *borbensis*; *capricornensis*; *concolor* (Pelzeln, 1883); *greeni*; *nigra*); *P. c. cabreræ* (includes the previous subspecies and synonyms *hudsoni*; *puma* (Marcelli, 1922); *P. c. costaricensis*; *P. c. cougar* (includes the previous subspecies and synonyms *arundivaga*; *aztecus*; *browni*; *californica*; *coryi*; *floridana*; *hippolestes*; *improcera*; *kaibabensis*; *mayensis*; *missoulensis*; *olympus*; *oregonensis*; *schorgeri*; *stanleyana*; *vancouverensis*; *youngi*); *P. c. puma* (Molina, 1792) (includes the previous subspecies and synonyms *araucanus*; *concolor* (Gay, 1847); *patagonia*; *pearsoni*; *puma* (Touessart, 1904). Note that *Puma concolor costaricensis* is the only currently recognized subspecies that is listed in Appendix I.

* 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.

6. Adoption of the new standard nomenclature reference for mammals at CoP14 has resulted in the following technical issue:
7. All cougar in North America are now recognized as the subspecies *Puma concolor cougar* (common name the North American cougar) as the eastern cougar was the first subspecies in North America to be described in the literature. The use of the same scientific name to refer to the Appendix I and II listings is creating confusion with permit applications and potentially with enforcement.
8. At its 23rd meeting (Geneva, April 2008), the Animals Committee discussed this matter and in Notification 2008/051 expressed the intention to submit a proposal at CoP15 to recommend that *Puma concolor* be added to the list of species that are still treated according to the former mammal reference of 1993. However, amending the Appendices to reflect the new nomenclature is considered preferable.
9. A change in the CITES Appendix listings will not alter the level of protection currently afforded the formerly understood subspecies, the Eastern cougar and Florida Panther, as neither of these cougar populations are harvested or in trade in North America and both populations are protected through legislation in Canada and the United States.
10. The General Status of Species in Canada classifies cougar as Secure in Canada. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) considers the formerly recognized subspecies, *Puma concolor cougar* as Data Deficient: despite many sightings in the past two decades from Eastern Canada, there is insufficient data to evaluate the taxonomy or assign a status to this cougar. There may not be a distinct "eastern" subspecies. Other Canadian cougar subspecies have not been considered candidates for assessment by COSEWIC due to low conservation concern.
11. Cougar populations in eastern North America needing particular conservation attention receive it through domestic action (jurisdictions have regulations in place to avoid harvest of the formerly recognized subspecies *P. c. cougar*). *P. concolor cougar* and *P. concolor coryi* are listed in the Endangered Species Act of the United States (listed in 1973 and 1967, respectively). The look-a-like issue should not be a problem because cougar will remain a listed species on CITES Appendix II.
12. The 2008 IUCN Red list is also in accordance with the standard nomenclature reference for mammals agreed to in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev CoP14). The Florida Panther (*P. concolor coryi*) and Eastern cougar (*P. concolor cougar*) are no longer listed separately as critically endangered and the species *Puma concolor* has been down-listed from Near Threatened (2002) to Least Concern (2008).
13. Reconciling the CITES Appendix listings for cougar with the newly adopted nomenclature reference for mammals would involve removing the names *P. concolor cougar* and *P. concolor coryi* from Appendix I. *P. concolor cougar* (North American cougar) would remain listed on CITES, under Felidae spp. in Appendix II. Canada seeks the advice of the Animals Committee on how to proceed with a proposal for consideration at CoP15 since the proposal concerns a technical matter rather than an actual species proposal involving a "down-listing".

References

14. Culver, M., W.E. Johnson, W.E., Pecon-Slattey, J., and S. J. O'Brien. (2000). Genomic Ancestry of the American Puma (*Puma concolor*). The American Genetic Association 91:186-197.
15. Wilson, D.E. & D. M. Reeder. 2005. Mammal Species of the World: a Taxonomic and Geographic Reference. Third Edition, Vol. 1-2. xxxv + 2142 pp. (John Hopkins University Press).