

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices

SELECTION OF SPECIES FOR REVIEW FOLLOWING COP15

1. This document has been prepared by UNEP-WCMC at the request of the Secretariat*.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) on Establishment of Committees, Annex 2, paragraph h), the Conference of the Parties resolves that the Animals and Plants Committees shall undertake a periodic review of animal and plant species included in the CITES Appendices by establishing a schedule for conducting the reviews, identifying problems concerning the biological status of the species being traded, consulting Parties on the need to review specific species and seeking their assistance, and preparing and submitting amendment proposals resulting from the reviews, through the Depositary Government, for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
3. At the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee (Lima, July 2006), UNEP-WCMC presented a report on listed species of Amphibia and Galliformes for consideration by the Committee as part of the periodic review process (see document AC22 Doc. 11.1).
4. At CoP14 (The Hague, 2007), Resolution Conf. 14.8 on *Periodic review of the Appendices* was adopted, stipulating that the Plants and Animals Committees shall establish a schedule for the periodic review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The list should be established at the first meeting of the scientific committees after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period.
5. Resolution Conf. 14.8 and its Annex provide guidelines for the selection of species for the periodic review, outlining four outputs that should be produced as an initial phase of this process. The resolution stipulates that the following taxa should not be considered as part of the review and therefore should be excluded from the outputs:
 - a) *species that were the subject of listing proposals at the previous two meetings of the Conference of the Parties (whether or not the proposals were adopted);*
 - b) *species listed under the new criteria [Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)] in the last 10 years;*
 - c) *species subject to ongoing reviews, such as the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)] or periodic reviews conducted within the last 10 years; or*

* *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.*

d) *species subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties.*

6. In preparation for AC25, the Secretariat requested UNEP-WCMC to produce outputs 1 to 4, based on the guidelines provided within Resolution Conf. 14.8 and its accompanying Annex.

Selection of species as candidates for periodic review following CoP15: production of outputs 1-4

7. Using the criteria established in Resolution Conf. 14.8 for the selection of candidate species for a periodic review, UNEP-WCMC has prepared a series of three outputs (Outputs 1, 3 and 4) for consideration by the Animals Committee.
8. Output 2, described in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.8 which refers to Appendix II listed species that are in trade, was not produced, as UNEP-WCMC has just produced a preliminary assessment of all these species for the first step in the Review of Significant Trade (AC25 Doc. 9.6).
9. For this periodic review, data were selected for the period 1999-2009 (N.B. 2009 data were incomplete at the time of analysis, May 2011). As the Phylum Cnidaria has recently been subject to a non-detriment finding workshop (www.cites.org/eng/com/AC/24/E24-09.pdf), the phylum has also been excluded from review.
10. The following outputs, including the IUCN status assessments where available, were produced with data downloaded from the CITES Trade Database:
 - a) Output 1: Identification of Appendix-I listed species in which there has been commercial trade in wild-sourced specimens over the period 1999-2009 (Annex 1);
 - b) Output 3: Identification of Appendix-I listed species with no or minimal trade (<=5 trade records) in sources other than C and D over the period 1999-2009 (Annex 2); and
 - d) Output 4: Identification of Appendix-II listed species with no or minimal trade (<=5 trade records) in sources other than C and D over the period 1999-2009 (Annex 3).

Recommendations

11. The Appendix-I listed taxa whose populations are in international trade for commercial purposes, especially those traded at relatively high volumes, may merit further consideration as these transactions are potentially in contravention of the provisions of the Convention. The Committee may wish to draw this to the attention of the Secretariat and the Standing Committee.
12. The taxa identified as not in trade or minimally traded as sources other than C and D over the period 1999-2009 (Annexes 2 and 3) may merit further consideration, with a view to possibly lowering their level of protection (Appendix I) or delisting them (Appendix II).
13. The Committee is invited establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the fauna species included in the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.