

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee  
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade controls and marking

IDENTIFICATION OF CITES-LISTED CORALS IN TRADE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (San José, April 2002), the Animals Committee adopted a list of coral genera that could be identified to the species level and of those that could be identified to the genus level only. These lists were accepted by the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002) and disseminated by the Secretariat through Notification to the Parties No. 2003/020 of 4 April 2003.
3. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties instructed the Secretariat to re-issue Notification to the Parties No. 2003/020 without the list of stony coral taxa identifiable to species level. The Secretariat therefore issued Notification to the Parties No. 2010/014 of 17 June 2010, providing the list of stony coral genera for which identification to genus level only is acceptable.
4. In addition, the Conference adopted Decisions 15.64 and 15.65 on *Identification of CITES-listed corals in trade* at CoP15, which were maintained after the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok 2013) as follows:

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

15.64 *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) *identify existing coral reference materials that could be adopted as standard nomenclatural references for CITES-listed corals; and*
- b) *update its list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible, and provide the updated list to the Secretariat for dissemination.*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

15.65 *The Secretariat shall, upon receiving the updated list from the Animals Committee, transmit this information to the Parties through a Notification to the Parties, and by publishing the list on the CITES website.*

5. At CoP16, the Chair of the Animals Committee reported on progress with the implementation of Decisions 15.54, paragraph b), and 15.65. The Animals Committee adopted an updated list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible, which was communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat in Notification to the Parties No. 2012/047 of 19 July 2012 [see document CoP16 Doc. 10.2.1 (Rev. 1)]. However, the Chair clarified that the list would require revision if a new nomenclature for CITES-listed corals was adopted at CoP16.

6. Arising from work done under Decision 15.64, paragraph a), a proposal from the Animals Committee for a new standard nomenclature reference for CITES-listed corals was adopted at CoP16 [see documents CoP16 Doc. 43.1 (Rev. 1) and CoP16 Com. I Rec. 1 (Rev. 1)]. The new reference for the classes Anthozoa and Hydrozoa can be found in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16) on *Standard nomenclature*. The adoption of this new standard nomenclature necessitated an update of the Animals Committee's list of stony coral genera mentioned in paragraph 5 above in order to take account of the genera recognized and changes in the number of recognized species in each genus. The updated list, prepared by the Secretariat, was disseminated with Notification to the Parties No. 2013/035, and can be found in the Annex to this document.
7. However, as reported to the Conference, the Animals Committee considered that the new taxonomic checklist of CITES-listed corals which was adopted at CoP16 was an interim solution that would require further review because no comprehensive, consistent standard references for corals had been identified by the Animals Committee. For this reason, Decision 15.64, paragraph a) had to be retained. [see document AC27 Doc. 25.1].

#### Recommendations

8. The Animals Committee is invited to update the list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible as found in Notification to the Parties No. 2013/035, and provide the updated list to the Secretariat for dissemination. The Animals Committee is also invited to identify existing coral reference materials that could be adopted as standard nomenclatural references for CITES-listed corals.

CORAL TAXA WHERE IDENTIFICATION TO GENUS LEVEL IS ACCEPTABLE,  
BUT WHICH SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED TO SPECIES LEVEL WHERE FEASIBLE

Taxa	Number of species in the genus
<i>Acanthastrea</i>	10
<i>Acropora</i>	185
<i>Agaricia</i>	7
<i>Alveopora</i>	14
<i>Anacropora</i>	7
<i>Astreopora</i>	14
<i>Balanophyllia</i>	57
<i>Barabattoia</i>	3
<i>Blastomussa</i>	2
<i>Caulastraea</i>	4
<i>Coscinaraea</i>	9
<i>Ctenactis</i>	3
<i>Cyphastrea</i>	8
<i>Dendrophyllia</i>	25
<i>Distichopora</i>	25
<i>Echinophyllia</i>	11
<i>Echinopora</i>	12
<i>Euphyllia</i> (dead)	9
<i>Favia</i>	25
<i>Favites</i>	15
<i>Fungia</i>	31
<i>Galaxea</i>	7
<i>Goniastrea</i>	12
<i>Goniopora</i>	24
<i>Heterocyathus</i>	5
<i>Heteropsammia</i>	3
<i>Hydnophora</i>	6
<i>Leptastrea</i>	7
<i>Leptoseris</i>	16
<i>Lithophyllon</i>	4
<i>Lobophyllia</i>	10
<i>Madracis</i>	17
<i>Millepora</i>	14
<i>Montastrea</i>	12
<i>Montipora</i>	76
<i>Mussismilia</i>	3
<i>Mycetophyllia</i>	5
<i>Oculina</i>	9
<i>Oxypora</i>	5
<i>Pachyseris</i>	5
<i>Pavona</i>	18
<i>Pectinia</i>	8
<i>Physogyra</i> (dead)	2
<i>Platygyra</i>	11
<i>Plerogyra</i> (dead)	8
<i>Pocillopora</i>	17
<i>Porites</i>	60
<i>Psammocora</i>	13
<i>Seriatopora</i>	6
<i>Scolymia</i>	4

<b>Taxa</b>	<b>Number of species in the genus</b>
<i>Siderastrea</i>	5
<i>Stylaster</i>	77
<i>Stylocoeniella</i>	4
<i>Stylophora</i>	8
<i>Symphyllia</i>	7
<i>Tubastraea</i>	6
<i>Turbinaria</i>	12