

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



Twenty-eight meeting of the Animals Committee
Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II
[Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev.CoP16)]

REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP*
(Agenda item 20.2)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: Chair of the Animals Committee (Ms Caceres);

Parties: Austria, Australia, Canada, China, India, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique; Namibia, Netherlands, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Born Free Foundation, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC International.

Mandate

1. Review document AC28 Doc. 20.2 and the conclusions presented therein.
2. Draft guidance on the questions regarding the format of the Periodic Review (paragraph 11 in document AC28 Doc. 20.2) and the selection of species for Periodic Review (paragraph 15 in the same document).
3. Review the amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16) proposed in the Annex to document AC28 Doc. 20.2, and draft recommendations for the Animals Committee to consider, bearing in mind the consultation with the Plants Committee.

Recommendations

The working group had a productive discussion and identified four further modifications to the proposed revised Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16) specifically:

- Deletion of “particularly for challenging species” in the final operative paragraph of the preamble

* This agenda item is addressed to the Animals and Plants Committees.

- Replacing “request that UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre” with “undertake or appoint consultants to” in operative paragraph b) i)
- Replacing “the need to” with whether they support a in operative paragraph d)
- Addition of “ideally” in operative paragraph e); and
- Introduction of new operative paragraph h) and the new language in paragraph h) ii)

The working group recommends the Animals Committee adopt the following recommendations:

1. The Animals Committee noted that the current Periodic Review process does not currently allow for Animals or Plants Committee consideration of reviews undertaken voluntarily and independently by a Party. The Animals Committee recommends the Plants Committee give further thought to whether voluntary reviews should be considered within the Periodic Review process.
2. The Animals Committee agrees to the following modifications to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (*Periodic review of species included in Appendices I and II*), recommends its transmission to the Plants Committee and submission to the 17th Conference of Parties for adoption.

Proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. Cop16)

Proposed new language is in underline font, moved language is in double underline font, and deleted language is in ~~strikeout font~~.

RECOGNIZING the fundamental principles of Article II of the Convention and that there is a need to conduct periodic reviews of species listed in Appendices I and II to ensure that species are appropriately listed, based on current biological and trade information;

REAFFIRMING that Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on *Establishment of Committees*, in Annex 2, paragraph h) under ‘RESOLVES’, directs the Animals and Plants Committees to undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices;

ACKNOWLEDGING that, in undertaking a periodic review, the Scientific Committees are mandated to provide advice and recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and it is the responsibility of the Conference of the Parties to take decisions as they deem appropriate.

ACKNOWLEDGING that Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*, establishes criteria to ensure that decisions to amend the Convention’s Appendices are founded on sound and relevant scientific information and that, to monitor the effectiveness of protection offered by the Convention, the status of species included in Appendices I and II should be regularly reviewed;

ACKNOWLEDGING that a ~~successful completed~~ periodic review of a species consists of an objective evaluation by the Animals and Plants Committees of a species listed on Appendix I or II and may result in a recommendation to amend Appendix I or II, or equally may result in advice a recommendation that the Appendix under which the species is currently listed properly reflects its conservation needs and the species should be retained as listed;

RECOGNIZING that the periodic review process provides advice to Parties on the scientific basis underlying the Convention, can guide Parties in the implementation of the Convention and can provide valuable information to support range States’ conservation and management actions for the species evaluated.

FURTHER recognizing that the periodic review process also facilitates open and constructive dialogue amongst range States and importing countries, and at meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees, particularly for challenging species.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

AGREES that the Animals and Plants Committees shall conduct a periodic review of species listed in Appendix I and II, seeking information, participation and support from the range States. The regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees shall seek assistance from range States within their region to support the taxon reviews;

FURTHER AGREES to the following: that the review will be conducted in accordance to the following process:

~~a) The Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience, especially during joint meetings, regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices (including financing of reviews, processes, format and outputs);~~

a) Normally, after every second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants 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 (CoP)~~. The list should be established at the first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period;

~~e) The Animals and Plants Committees are strongly encouraged to follow the following guidelines:~~

~~i) It is strongly encouraged that the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, shall select a practical subset of CITES flora or fauna taxonomic entity or entities for analysis using the process outlined in the Annex to the present Resolution;~~

i) the Secretariat shall, subject to availability of funding, undertake or appoint consultants to request that UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre undertake the assessment outlined in the Annex and prepare the resulting outputs for consideration by the Scientific Committees at their first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period (Note: if no funding is available, the Secretariat shall inform the Parties and the Scientific Committee Chairs);

ii) the following taxa should not be considered for review;

A. species that were the subject of listing proposals at the previous three meetings of the CoP (whether or not the proposals were adopted);

B. species subject to ongoing reviews, under the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)], or periodic reviews conducted within the last 10 years; or

C. species subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the CoP; and

D. species for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices;

~~iii) the selected taxonomic entity or entities shall be assessed using the process outlined in the Annex to the present Resolution; and~~

~~iv) iii) outputs resulting from the assessment conducted in accordance with the Annex shall contain the following information in summary tables that include:~~

A. a summary of trade data since the initial inclusion of that taxon in the Appendices;

B. current conservation status, including the IUCN category of the species, if assessed;

C. current listing in the CITES Appendices, criteria under which it was listed (if known), date of first listing; and

D. the distribution of the species (range States);

~~d)c) From the resulting summary tables, At the first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period and based on the outputs prepared in paragraph b) above, the Animals and Plants Committees will identify the list of taxa to be reviewed considered for periodic review;~~

~~e)d) The Secretariat shall send a copy of the proposed list of taxa to be reviewed to all Parties, and request Range States of the taxa to comment within 60 days on whether they support a the need to review the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses shall be relayed by the Secretariat to the Animals or Plants Committee. If no volunteer offers to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between CoPs, those taxa shall be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed;~~

~~f) The Animals and Plants Committees shall conduct or organize the reviews responsibly, seeking information, participation and support from the range States. The regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees shall seek assistance from range States within their region to support the taxon reviews;~~

~~g) The Animals and Plants Committees and Parties are encouraged to undertake the following in order to facilitate periodic reviews:~~

~~i) collaborate with university graduate students, including those from the CITES Master's Programme at the International University of Andalusia;~~

~~ii) collaborate with other non-Party reviewers including species experts such as IUCN-SSC Specialist Groups;~~

~~iii) utilize readily available information on species' conservation status from organizations (e.g. IUCN, BirdLife, etc.) and Parties;~~

~~iv) seek financial support for reviews, including from importing countries, as appropriate; and~~

~~v) increase communication between the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and suggest coordination with Parties when animal and plant species' ranges overlap;~~

~~h) The Chair of the Animals and Plants Committees shall keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews, noting that Standing Committee approval is not required to initiate the process;~~

~~i)e) Each review (ideally in the format of a proposal used to amend the Appendices) is to be submitted as a working document to the Animals or Plants Committee for review, clearly specifying the recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16). The Secretariat shall notify the relevant range States of these working documents in advance of the meeting of the Committee;~~

~~f) Based on the information as per e) above, the Animals or Plants Committee is to make a recommendation on whether it would be appropriate to retain a taxon in the Appendix in which it is currently listed, transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices; and~~

~~g) The Animals or Plants Committee shall draft its recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16). The Committee shall report its conclusions to the Conference of the Parties and to the Secretariat for provision to the range State(s) for the species reviewed.~~

~~h) In the event that the Committee recommends a change in the CITES listing status for the species reviewed:~~

~~i) the Secretariat shall invite the range State(s) of the species reviewed to submit a proposal to the next Conference of the Parties;~~

ii) if no range State expresses a willingness to submit the proposal, the Secretariat may request the Depository Government to submit it as specified in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) and to include the comments of the range States in the supporting statement, if so requested by the Animals or Plants Committee;

~~j) In cases where a review indicates, and the Animals or Plants Committee agrees, that it would be appropriate to transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices:~~

~~i) the Animals or Plants Committee shall, in consultation with the range States, prepare or arrange the preparation of a proposal to amend the Appendices;~~

~~ii) the Secretariat, on behalf of the Animals or Plants Committee, shall 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 CoP;~~

~~iii) if no range State is willing to submit the proposal, the Secretariat shall request the Depository Government to submit it as specified in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) and to include the comments of the range States in the supporting statement; and~~

~~iv) proposals resulting from the periodic review of the Appendices must be submitted for decision to the CoP; and~~

~~k) In cases where the Animals or Plants Committee decides that it would not be appropriate to transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices, it shall draft its decision with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16);~~

RECOMMENDS the Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience, especially during joint meetings, regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices (including financing of reviews, processes, format and outputs);

ENCOURAGES the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties to facilitate periodic reviews by:

a) collaborating with university graduate students, including those from the CITES Master's Programme at the International University of Andalusia;

b) collaborating with other non-Party reviewers including species experts such as IUCN-SSC Specialist Groups;

c) using readily available information on species' conservation status from organizations (e.g. IUCN, BirdLife, etc.) and Parties;

d) seeking financial support for reviews, including from importing countries, as appropriate; and

e) increasing communication between the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and suggest coordination with Parties when animal and plant species' ranges overlap;

DIRECTS the Chair of the Animals and Plants Committees to keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews, noting that Standing Committee approval is not required to initiate the process;

DIRECTS the Secretariat to maintain a record of the species selected for periodic review, including: species previously and currently reviewed; dates of relevant Committee documents; recommendations from the reviews; and any reports and associated documents; and

INVITES Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other interested entities to support the work of the Animals and Plants Committees in the undertaking of the periodic review of the Appendices.

Annex

Protocol for the assessment of taxa for consideration in the Period Review of the Appendices

Remains as found in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP 16)