

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



Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2017

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

Periodic Review of the Appendices

SELECTION OF SPECIES FOR THE PERIODIC REVIEW

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of Committees*, Annex 2, paragraph 1 h), the Conference of the Parties resolves that the Animal and Plants Committees shall:
 - h) *undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices by*
 - i) *establishing a schedule for conducting the reviews;*
 - ii) *identifying problems concerning the biological status of the species being traded;*
 - iii) *consulting Parties on the need to review specific species and seeking their assistance; and*
 - iv) *preparing and submitting amendment proposals resulting from the reviews, through the Depositary Government, for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendix I and II* prescribes how the reviews are to be conducted.
4. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties amended Resolution Conf. 14.8 on *Periodic Review of the Appendices* to stipulate 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 meetings of the scientific committees after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period. The Resolution was further amended at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016) *inter alia* to reorganize some of the existing operative paragraphs, and modify the process for dealing with the recommendations resulting from the Committees' Periodic Reviews (see document [CoP17 Doc. 82.1](#)).
5. If the Animals Committee were to establish a schedule or list at the present meeting in accordance with these provisions, the period to review the identified taxa would run from CoP17 (2016) to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19; 2022).

6. Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) and its Annex provide guidelines in paragraph 2 b) for the selection by the Animals Committee of a practical sub-set of CITES-listed species of fauna for the Periodic Review. In paragraph 2 b) ii), the resolution stipulates that 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 Conference of the Parties (whether or not the proposals were adopted);*
 - B. *species subject to ongoing reviews, under the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)], 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;*

Paragraph 2 b) iii) prescribes that outputs resulting from the assessment conducted in accordance with the Annex to the Resolution shall contain the following information in summary tables:

- A. *a summary of trade data since the initial inclusion of that taxon in the Appendices;*
 - B. *current conservation status, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (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);*
7. Decision 14.81, directed to the Animals Committee, states that “No periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place.”

Selection of species as candidates for Periodic Review following CoP17

8. In accordance with paragraph 2 b) i), the Secretariat appointed UNEP-WCMC as consultants to undertake the assessment outlined in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), and prepare four outputs for consideration by the Animals Committee at its first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period.
9. For this Periodic Review, data were selected for the period 2006-2015, taking account of the Protocol outlined in the Annex to the Resolution, which focuses on considerations of whether there has been legal international trade in the past 10 years. The Secretariat notes that there may be some discrepancy in this regard between the Protocol outlined in the Annex and paragraph 2 iii) A of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), which indicates that summary tables should include “a summary of trade data since the inclusion of that taxon in the Appendices.”

Outputs resulting from the assessment (see the Annex to this document)

10. The following three summary outputs were produced by the consultants with data downloaded from the CITES Trade Database (downloaded: 16 May 2017) and are presented in Annex 1:
- Output 1: **Appendix-I listed animal taxa** for which there has been commercial trade from wild-sources (W, R, U and no source reported) over the period 2006-2015
 - Output 3: **Appendix-I listed animal taxa with minimal (≤5 trade records)** or no direct trade from all sources except C and D over the period 2006-2015
 - Output 4: **Appendix-II listed animal taxa with minimal (≤5 trade records)** or no direct trade from all sources except C and D over the period 2006-2015

Regarding Output 2, the summary of trade data for **Appendix-II listed animal taxa** for which there has been commercial trade from wild-sources (W, R, U and no source reported) over the period 2010-2015 was

produced by UNEP-WCMC and is discussed in the context of the Review of Significant Trade (see agenda item 13 and information document AC29 Inf. 4).

11. In accordance with Paragraph 2 b) ii), taxa were removed for the outputs if they were the subject of recent listing proposals, or subject to on-going reviews under the Review of Significant Trade. In addition, for outputs 3 and 4, species that recently underwent a taxonomic change in nomenclature (since CoP16) and species that were listed at higher taxonomic levels were also excluded as it would not be appropriate to amend the Appendices for individual species subject to higher level listings. Based on Decision 14.81, great whales were excluded from the outputs.
12. In accordance with Paragraph 2 b) iii), the outputs each contain additional contextual information, including details on the conservation status in accordance with IUCN, the current listing (as Appendix I and Appendix II species are presented in separate tables), the date of the first listing in CITES, and the distribution of the species (according to Species+).

Observations

13. The taxa identified as not in trade or minimally traded as sources other than C and D over the period 2006-2015 (see Annex: Outputs 3 and 4) may merit further consideration, with a view to revising their inclusion in the Appendices.
14. Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) stipulates that the assessment of taxa for consideration in the Periodic Review of the Appendices and further review are subject to availability of funding. If no funding is available, the Secretariat shall inform the Parties and the Scientific Committees' Chairs.
15. In order to facilitate the Periodic Review, in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), the Conference of the Parties:

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 Species Survival Commission 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;*
16. The Appendix-I listed taxa whose populations are in international trade for commercial purposes (See Annex: Output 1), especially when 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.

Recommendations

17. The Animals Committee is invited to:
 - a) establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices, and based on outputs indicated in paragraphs 8 to 12, identify a list of animal taxa to review during the next two intersessional periods [from CoP17 (2016) to CoP19 (2022)];
 - b) consider possible funding necessary to continue with the Periodic Review;
 - c) agree on ways to facilitate the periodic reviews, as suggested in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17); and

d) consider the observation in paragraphs 9 and 16 of this document.