

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Online, 31 May, 1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE SPECIALIST
ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

1. This document has been submitted by the specialist on zoological nomenclature of the Animals Committee.*

Update on progress since May 2020

2. Following the postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee meeting, scheduled to take place from 13-17 July 2020, the Committee took a number of intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/057 of 22 September 2020), including the establishment of an intersessional working group on *zoological nomenclature*, with the following mandate:

Taking into account document AC31 Doc. 37 and its Annexes:

- a) review the findings of the report presented in Annex 5 of document CoP18 Doc. 99 on *Bird Nomenclature*;
- b) provide guidance to the Secretariat as to what further actions it could undertake to implement Decision 18.309 regarding time-specific versions of online databases, having considered the results of consultations to-date;
- c) review the information to be provided concerning nomenclature and identification of corals;
- d) review the proposed standard references for species newly included in the Appendices;
- e) review and supplement the list of proposed updates to nomenclature of species listed in the Appendices;
- f) consider options to update the higher taxonomy of lizards and snakes;
- g) further consider the documents submitted separately with regard to Decision 18.313 on Nomenclature of Appendix III listings (document AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33) and Decision 18.315 on Pangolins (document AC31 Doc. 38); and

* *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.*

- h) report on the outcomes of its work at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.
3. The membership of the working group was decided as follows: the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk - Chair); the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and the PC nomenclature specialist (Ms. Klopper); Australia, China, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), United Nations Environment Programme / Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP/RAC-SPA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), BirdLife International, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International (HSI) and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).
 4. The group worked electronically and their recommendations under paragraphs a) to f) of the mandate are outlined in the section below.
 5. The deliberations of the working group in relation to item g) of the mandate are reported on in the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 38, and the addendum to document AC31 Doc.39/PC25 Doc.33.

Deliberations of the working group in relation to items a) to f) of its mandate described in paragraph 2

6. With regard to mandate item a), the selection of an updated 'overarching' nomenclatural standard reference for CITES-listed birds, the working group failed to reach consensus. Good arguments were made for the selection of either option: Howard & Moore 4th Edition, or the *Illustrated Checklist of Birds of the World* by HBW/BI.
7. Proponents of adopting the 4th edition of the *Howard & Moore Checklist* (HM4) strongly emphasized its conservative taxonomy, which is less disruptive of CITES' existing use of names. Proponents of adopting the HBW/BI Checklist acknowledged its significantly more 'split' taxonomy but argued that it may be a matter of time before these 'splits' will become globally supported and will need to be adopted by CITES anyway. Working group members noted additional aspects that, in their opinion, give the HBW/BI checklist an advantage include the widespread adoption of the HBW/BI Checklist by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, by Parties (the European Union) and the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the availability of online supplements updating its taxonomy and nomenclature, its extensive back-up documentation in the form of the *Handbook of Birds of the World* series (including synonyms, which are absent from H&M4), the inclusion of illustrations and distribution maps, and its wide popular availability.
8. Based on the number of Parties supporting the HBW/BI Checklist (and taking into account the human population and the trade volumes they represent), the balance of support is to recommend the HBW/BI checklist. Nevertheless, the absence of working group consensus leaves two options for CoP19:

Option 1 - Adopt the *Illustrated Checklist of Birds of the World* by HBW/BI, recognizing that this will not satisfy all Parties, and that a suite of additional supplementary standard references will need to be adopted or retained for various bird species; or

Option 2 - Reject both proposed checklists and continue to manage bird nomenclature through accumulating supplementary standard references, in the hope or expectation that a single consensus bird checklist will appear at some time in the future. In this context, it is noteworthy that efforts are underway to consolidate a global bird checklist, involving HBW/BI, Cornell/eBird/Clements and other bird checklist authorities, and led by one of the editors of H&M4. There is no certainty, however, that these efforts will generate a consensus bird checklist in time for consideration and possible adoption at CITES CoP20.

9. Having considered the working group contributions, the suggestion from the AC Nomenclature Specialist is to recommend adoption of the HBW/BI Checklist for CITES purposes, with accompanying recommendations for adoption or retention of a set of supplementary standard references for newly-discovered species and for species where changes in CITES nomenclature are unacceptable. This list of bird species recognitions and their supporting standard references will need to be discussed and finalized at the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee.
10. Concerning mandate items b) on time-specific versions of online databases, and item c) on nomenclature and identification of corals, the working group recommended that the Nomenclature Specialist (Fauna) work with the Secretariat and the managers of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) database to

prepare a date-fixed extract of the appropriate coral section(s) of WoRMS. This extract shall then be formatted into a format (pdf?) that is stable and easily accessible so that it can be used as a CITES Nomenclature Standard Reference. The nomenclature specialist shall then proceed with the usual consultations and analysis of how adoption of this particular reference would affect the Appendices and Checklist of CITES-listed species (including the SpeciesPlus database). The experiences of this process will inform the Committee and Parties whether further actions and deliberations will be needed, or that we have arrived at a workable process to use time-specific versions of databases for CITES standard nomenclature references. The Nomenclature Specialist (Fauna) shall give an update of progress in these matters at the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee.

11. With regard to mandate item d) concerning review of proposed standard references for species newly included in the Appendices, the working group reviewed the proposed standard references in Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 4 of document AC31 Doc.37. At the time of writing this Addendum, multiple expressions of support for the adoption of these checklists were expressed, and no concerns or objections to their adoption had been expressed.
12. Concerning mandate item e) to review and supplement the list of proposed updates to nomenclature of species listed in the Appendices (document AC31 Doc. 37 Annex 5, with some additions), the working group reviewed the species cases but was not able to conclude its deliberations. Based on the working group members' feedback received in the first round of review, compiled in the Annex to this Addendum document, proposed nomenclatural changes were categorized by colour-coding in column K (column H in the bird and coral sheets). Cases where the working group (nearly) universally supported the adoption of a nomenclatural update are coded 'green' and are recommended for adoption by the Parties at CoP19. Cases where working group members (nearly) universally recommended rejection of the change are coded in column K (H for birds & corals) in a reddish tint and are not proposed for adoption by the Parties at CoP19, but may well be considered for adoption at a later date. Finally, cases where working group members expressed diverging recommendations are coded in yellow in column K (or H); these cases warrant further consideration before and during the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee to allocate them to either the green ('adopt') or red ('reject') categories. If cases cannot be resolved by AC31 they will be carried forward for deliberation at the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee.
13. With regard to mandate item f) to consider options to update the higher taxonomy of lizards and snakes, the working group was unable to discuss this topic in sufficient detail in time for the reporting deadline, and intended to continue deliberations; the Nomenclature Specialist (Fauna) shall provide an oral report to the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee on progress, if any.

Revised recommendations

14. Concerning mandate a), the Animals Committee is invited to advise the Parties to adopt the *Illustrated Checklist of Birds of the World* by HBW/BI as the nomenclatural standard reference for birds, with a number of supplementary standard references for specific bird species or species groups to be agreed at this meeting
15. Concerning mandates b) and c), the Animals Committee is invited to review the information provided in paragraph 10 and consider any updated information provided by the Nomenclature Specialist (Fauna), if available, and make recommendations as appropriate.
16. Concerning mandate d), the Animals Committee is invited to recommend that the Parties adopt the Checklists in Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Document AC31 Doc.37 as nomenclatural standard references for the species detailed therein.
17. Concerning mandate e), the Animals committee is invited to:
 - a) review the cases highlighted in yellow in column K (or H) in the Annex to this addendum and assign them to either the green (recommended for adoption at CoP19) or red (not recommended for adoption at CoP19) categories.
 - b) recommend that the Parties adopt the nomenclature changes for CITES-listed species, and adopt the associated standard references, as highlighted in green in column K (or H) in the Annex to this addendum; and
 - c) advise Parties against adoption, at this time, of nomenclature changes as highlighted in red in column K (or H) in the Annex to this addendum;

18. Concerning mandate f), the Animals Committee is invited to review the information in paragraph 13 and consider any update provided by the Nomenclature Specialist (Fauna), if available, and make recommendations as appropriate.