

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 LISTING OF PANGOLINS IN THE APPENDICES

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
- h) report on the outcomes of its work at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.

* *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.*

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 paragraph g of the mandate with regard to Decision 18.315 on pangolins and document AC31 Doc. 38 are outlined in the section below.
5. The deliberations of the working group in relation to paragraphs a) to f) of the mandate are reported on in the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 37, while the deliberations of the working groups in relation to paragraph g) with regard to Decision 18.313 on *Nomenclature of Appendix III listings* are reported on in the addendum to document AC31 Doc.39/PC25 Doc.33.

Decision 18.315 on *Pangolins*

6. At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties adopted Decision 18.313, directed to the Animals Committee, which reads as follows:

The Animals Committee shall examine the taxonomy and nomenclature of pangolins (*Manidae* spp.) and will propose a way forward to clarify a listing of pangolins on the Appendices.

Deliberations of the working group in relation to paragraphs a) to f) of the mandate

7. The working group was broadly supportive of requesting the Animals Committee to work with the Depositary Government to submit a pangolin proposal as drafted in the Annex to AC31 Doc. 38. It was noted that the adoption by the Parties of a formal proposal placing the higher taxon *Pholidota* spp. in Appendix I would assert the will of the Parties to retain the listed species in Appendix I, as well as the Parties' intent to place any future newly-discovered pangolin species also in Appendix I, superseding the original intent of past proposals. Such a higher-taxon listing would also be compliant with Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) Annex 3, section 'Higher Taxa'.
8. One Party raised substantive concerns that a replacement of the 8 listed species in Appendix I with a higher taxon listing in Appendix I could represent an expansion of the scope of the listing beyond the original intent of the proposals that placed the 8 species in Appendix I and advised against the replacement. In that case, without a higher taxon listing in Appendix I, the suggested deletion of the genus listing from Appendix II represents the possibility that a new Pangolin species discovered at a future date would not be included in either Appendix, and thus the deletion from Appendix II of the currently 'empty' genus listing also represents a potentially substantive change to the Appendices.
9. No consensus was achieved regarding these concerns within the working group's term, and further deliberations between the Animals Committee, the CITES Secretariat and the Depositary Government appear desirable, taking note of the concerns raised. The Nomenclature Specialist (Fauna) shall provide an update at AC31 on any further deliberations.

Revised recommendations

10. The Animals Committee is invited to review the information provided in paragraphs 7-9 and consider any update, provided by the nomenclature specialist if available, and make recommendations on a way forward, as appropriate.