

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

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

NOMENCLATURE

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Members: specialist on zoological nomenclature (Mr. van Dijk, Chair), acting representative for Asia (Mr. Diesmos), representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson);
- Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, China, Gabon, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America;
- Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, International Association for Wildlife, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Parrot Trust.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) prepare draft decisions to replace Decision 17.312 (Rev. CoP18) on Nomenclature of birds, and Decisions 18.309 to 18.312;
- b) review the cases highlighted in yellow in column K (or H) in the Annex to the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 37 and assign them to either the green (recommended for adoption at CoP19) or red (not recommended for adoption at CoP19) categories;
- c) consider options to update the higher taxonomy of lizards and snakes;
- d) prepare recommendations requesting the working group of the Standing Committee on electronic systems and information technologies to explore how Management Authorities incorporate nomenclature changes ["incorporate" nomenclature changes in what or where? "handle" / "address" nomenclature changes?];
- e) consider the listing proposal on Order PHOLIDOTA (pangolins) in document AC31 Doc. 38; and
- f) report on its deliberations to the Animals Committee.

Recommendations

**Concerning part a)** of the mandate, the working group recommends the following:

With regard to Decision 17.312 (Rev. CoP18) on *Nomenclature (Bird family and order names)*, the Animals Committee agrees to propose the following draft decisions to CoP19:

### **Directed to the Animals Committee**

19.AA The Animals Committee shall

- a) evaluate the implications of adopting the HBW/BI *Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World* as the new standard nomenclature reference for birds at the species, family and order levels, including the production of a listing of supplementary nomenclatural standard references that may be needed; and
- b) develop a recommendation for decision at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

With regard to Decisions 18.309 and 18.310 on *Use of time-specific versions of online-databases as standard nomenclature references*, it is recommended that the nomenclature specialist continue to work with the Secretariat and the managers of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) database to prepare a time-specific extract of the appropriate coral section(s) of WoRMS into a format (e.g. 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 Species+ 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. On the basis of the progress made, it is recommended that the nomenclature expert work with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee to propose decisions to CoP19 to take this work forward, as appropriate. This work will also be relevant to the implementation of Decisions 18.311 and 18.312 on *Nomenclature and identification of corals*.

**Concerning part b)** of the mandate, the working group reviewed the cases highlighted in yellow in column K (or H) in the Annex to the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 37 and decided to assign two cases (*Varanus douarrha* and *Malayemys khoratensis*) to the green (recommended for adoption at CoP19) category, and agreed to suspend further deliberation on the remaining cases in the yellow category. The cases have been re-arranged in the Annex to this document to present the cases grouped into three worksheets, with tabs named 'Recommended', 'Undecided', and 'Rejected'. The working group recommends that the Animals Committee propose the adoption of the 180 nomenclatural updates presented in the 'recommended' worksheet. The working group further recommends that the cases in the 'Undecided' and 'Rejected' worksheets be noted for further evaluation after CoP19 under Decision 19.AA and as part of regular activities under Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*.

Having been raised in plenary, the working group discussed the topic of CITES nomenclature for African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in the context of progressive scientific acceptance of the African Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) as a separate species, and mindful of the extensive work and documentation in CITES concerning African elephants, including past deferment of recognition of *L. cyclotis* when standard nomenclature for mammals was updated. The working group agreed that it would be prudent to not hastily add this case to nomenclature matters for adoption at CoP19 under Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18). Instead, it is proposed to take some time to consider the implications for CITES of such a nomenclatural change. Therefore, the working group recommends that the Animals Committee propose the following set of draft decisions for consideration at CoP19:

### **Directed to the Secretariat:**

19.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification seeking the perspectives of Parties and other stakeholders on the potential effects of recognizing African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) as a separate species to African savannah elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) for CITES purposes;
- b) develop a list of all current Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties that would be impacted by such a change of nomenclature;
- c) collate the responses to the Notification to the Parties and prepare a review of the potential impacts of recognising *L. cyclotis* as a separate species for CITES purposes, including the potential impacts on Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties; and

- d) prepare a report of its findings pursuant to a), b) and c) above and submit this report to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

**Directed to the Animals Committee**

19.CC The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the taxonomic-nomenclatural history of African elephant *Loxodonta africana* in CITES and the nomenclature that reflects accepted use in biology, at its 32nd meeting; and
- b) if appropriate, make a recommendation on adopting a new standard nomenclature reference for African elephants, for decision at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

19.DD The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the report submitted by the Secretariat under paragraph d) of Decision 19.BB; and
- b) provide advice and any recommendations on the potential impacts of recognizing *L. cyclotis* as a separate species for CITES purposes, including the potential impacts on Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**Concerning part c) of the mandate**, the working group recommends that the AC Nomenclature specialist continue to seek input and perspectives from reptile taxonomists and other sources, as part of regular activities under Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*.

Under this Resolution, the working group further recommends that concerning Annexes 1 and 2 of document AC31 Doc. 37, the Animals Committee should instruct the nomenclature specialist to prepare revised Checklists incorporating recent changes to the genera *Goniurosaurus* and *Tylototriton*, and propose those for adoption at CoP19.

The working group also recommends that Annexes 3 and 4 to document AC31 Doc. 37 be recommended to CoP19 for adoption as supplementary checklists for species of fishes and invertebrates newly included in the Appendices at CoP18.

**Concerning part d) of the mandate**, the working group recommends that the Animals Committee request its Chair to propose to the Chair of the Standing Committee that the Standing Committee's working group on *electronic systems and information technologies* be asked to consider within its existing mandate, the recording of species nomenclature changes in electronic CITES permit systems.

**Concerning part e) of the mandate**, the working group recommends that the Animals Committee, through its Chair, seek the views of the Standing Committee on the matter of benefits and impacts of higher taxon listings in the Appendices, taking into account document AC31 Doc. 38 with its Annex and its addendum, as well as the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 3, as part of its work on Guidance for Publication of the Appendices, or another process.