

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17-21 March 2009

Nomenclatural matters

REVISION AND PUBLICATION OF THE CITES APPENDICES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. Article XV, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention, regarding 'Amendments to Appendices I and II', stipulates that:

*Amendments adopted at a meeting [of the Conference of the Parties] shall enter into force 90 days after that meeting for all Parties except those which make a reservation in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article.*

3. At its 14th meeting (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted new standard references for the nomenclature of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, arachnids and plants, thus necessitating many changes to the names used in the Appendices. In identifying the changes that had to be made, the Secretariat used the adopted references as well as documents from meetings of the Nomenclature Committee (whose work has now been taken over by the Animals and Plants Committees). In order to try to ensure accuracy, it also consulted the members of the Nomenclature Committee and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).
4. Because of the large number of changes, the process of revising the Appendices was longer than usual. Although the list of amendments to Appendices I and II was published on 26 July 2007, the new Appendices could be published only on 29 August 2007, two weeks before the date of their entry into force.
5. At the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, July 2008), Japan expressed concern about the length of time taken to publish the revised Appendices after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report at the 58th meeting, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, on:
  - a) information that should be included in proposals to amend the standard nomenclatures for species included in the Appendices; and
  - b) obstacles to accelerate the publication of revised Appendices and options for the future.

## Discussion

6. The Secretariat is aware that the late availability of revised versions of the Appendices creates implementation problems for the Parties. Obviously, it is desirable to provide revised versions of the Appendices as soon as possible after the meeting at which the amendments are adopted.
7. There are two main factors that influence the time it takes to produce a revised version of the Appendices after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
  - a) the number of amendments to the Appendices that are adopted at the meeting (additions, deletions and transfers) and the complexity of any annotations that are adopted; and
  - b) the number of amendments required as a result of the adoption of new standard nomenclatures, and the complexity of the changes required.
8. The length of time required to edit and re-format the Appendices (which is done in the three working languages of the Convention) is usually dependent on these two factors. After CoP14, there was one additional factor, namely that the Parties agreed that the Secretariat should revise the Appendices to arrange alphabetically the names of the orders, families and genera of fauna.
9. The first factor [paragraph 7. a) above] has relatively little impact on the time required to prepare a revision of the Appendices. The Secretariat is planning to prepare, before CoP15, subject to available resources, a draft revision of the Appendices incorporating all of the proposed amendments that are to be considered at that meeting. It will then be able to revise the draft at the end of the meeting to take account of which proposals were rejected and which were adopted in an amended form. In this way, it would expect to be able to publish the revised Appendices within a few weeks after the end of CoP15, if there are no changes to the standard nomenclatures.
10. The second factor [paragraph 7. b) above] is by far the most important in determining the time it takes to revise the Appendices after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The changes in standard nomenclatures adopted at CoP14 (especially those for animal species) required many changes to the names used in the Appendices. Moreover, in spite of the consultations undertaken to ensure that the revised Appendices accurately reflected the newly adopted references, a number of problems have come to light subsequently. These have necessitated the publication of two further revisions of the Appendices, with corrections announced in Notifications to the Parties Nos. 2008/007 of 4 February 2008 and 2008/038 of 13 June 2008. Since then, a number of further corrections needed have emerged and the Secretariat will have to issue a third revision.
11. It should be noted that, when the Conference of the Parties adopts changes to the standard nomenclature, these have to be reflected not only in the CITES Appendices but also in the official list of reservations, the list of export quotas and the Checklist of CITES Species (all in three language versions), as well as in the CITES species database maintained by UNEP-WCMC, national legislation, and the practices of national authorities. It is therefore preferable to minimize the changes to the extent possible.

## Recommendations

12. In view of the above, the Secretariat suggests that any proposal to the Conference of the Parties to change a standard nomenclatural reference for CITES species should contain a list of the amendments that would have to be made to the Appendices if the proposal were adopted.
13. The Secretariat would welcome the reactions of the Committee on this suggestion as well as its views regarding other possible ways to accelerate the revision of the Appendices after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.