

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

Forty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 8-12 February 1999

Issues relating to the appendices

REVIEW OF THE CRITERIA FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Introduction

1. In Resolution Conf. 9.24, the Conference of the Parties recommends:
that the text and the Annexes of this Resolution be fully reviewed before the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with regard to the scientific validity of the criteria, definitions, notes and guidelines and their applicability to different groups of organisms.
2. The Standing Committee may wish to consider the preparation of a document for submission to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties proposing procedures for conducting this review in the most efficient and effective manner.
3. The purpose of this document is to provide the Standing Committee with an initial overview of the work that needs to be done. Aware of the many possible approaches, the Secretariat herewith provides only general background information.
4. The draft timetable and proposed structure is prepared to facilitate discussion of the subject.
5. The development of criteria was aimed at producing one set of criteria, applicable to fauna and flora alike. However, the review process as referred to in paragraph 1. above, clearly renders the issue more complex, because it requests analysis of the criteria with regard to various groups organisms. Yet, it might be preferable to produce, as the outcome of the review, one clearly formulated revision of Resolution Conf. 9.24.

Current activities with regard to the review of the criteria

6. The Management Authority of the Philippines has requested that the applicability of the criteria to timber species be reviewed by the Timber Working Group. See document Doc. SC.41.20.
7. The FAO has announced that it would initiate a process of review of the applicability of the CITES criteria at a meeting in Cape Town, South Africa (20 November 1998).

The review process

8. The Secretariat suggests that the review be divided into the following four parts.
- a) Fauna - general:
The Animals Committee should be requested to prepare a list of species (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates) for review before December 2000. The Animals Committee will meet in July 1999. The Standing Committee could consider and approve this list at its 42nd meeting.
 - b) Fauna - fisheries:
The Standing Committee may wish to consider creating a special working group to deal with this issue. It is important that this working group include representatives of intergovernmental organizations with competence for the management of the species concerned.
 - c) Flora - general:
The Plants Committee should be requested to provide an interim report on the results of the current review process and a list of selected species to be reviewed before December 2000. The Standing Committee could consider and approve this list at its 42nd meeting.
 - d) Flora - timber:
The Timber Working Group could be the appropriate forum to review the application of the criteria to timber species. See also document Doc. SC.41.20.
9. The Secretariat suggests that the Standing Committee create a Criteria Working Group, which should evaluate the results of the reviews referred to under paragraph 8 above and synthesize these into a final document for consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees and of special working groups should be members of the Criteria Working Group.
10. The Secretariat proposes the following timetable for the review process, assuming that the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held in the second half of 2002:

1999

SC 41:

Request the Animals and Plants Committees to initiate reviews of the species referred to in paragraph 8 above, which should be completed before December 2000, for evaluation by the Criteria Working Group.

SC 42:

The Standing Committee should agree on a document on the process of the review of the criteria, to be presented at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2000

- **April:** 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to agree on a review process. Standing Committee to convene a Criteria Working Group and other working groups, as appropriate.
- **July/August:** First meeting of the working groups.
- **September:** Consultation with the Parties and relevant international organizations, following discussions and initial conclusions of the first working groups, as appropriate.

2001

- **February/March:** Second meeting of the working groups; preparation of final report for Criteria Working Group.
- **May/June:** Meeting of the Criteria Working Group.
- **August:** Consultation of the Parties.
- **November:** Last meeting of the Criteria Working Group; draft report to the Standing Committee before the end of the year.

2002

- **February/March:** Standing Committee decides on format and contents of the report that should be presented to COP12.

11. The Secretariat seeks guidance from the Standing Committee on the process to be followed to review Resolution Conf. 9.24.
12. The Standing Committee, when reviewing the options for the review of the Criteria for Amendment of Appendices I and II should also consider the costs of such a process. It is important that the meeting of the Conference of the Parties should not only decide on the process, but also allocate sufficient funds in the Secretariat's budget.