

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

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Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

CITES Appendices

Periodic review of the Appendices

REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 14.8

1. This document has been submitted by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees on behalf of the Committees .

Background

2. During the Joint sessions of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC26/PC20) held in Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012, the Secretariat introduced document AC26/PC20 Doc. 10, inviting the Committees to identify necessary amendments to improve Resolution Conf. 14.8, so that these can be submitted for the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62).
3. The Committees adopted the suggestions included in paragraph 2 of document AC26/PC20 Doc. 10 to improve the performance of the Periodic Review of the Appendices, and agreed that they should be considered in revising Resolution Conf. 14.8 on Periodic Review of the Appendices.
4. Additionally, the Committees requested the AC26/PC20 participants to provide to the Secretariat (in writing) comments on —or proposed amendments to— Resolution Conf. 14.8; and requested the Secretariat to prepare a document (in English only) on the basis of these contributions and the discussion in plenary for consideration by the Committees later in the meeting.
5. Further to discussions and comments received at the joint session, the Secretariat introduced a “non-paper” outlining two options to revise Resolution Conf. 14.8 on Periodic Review of the Appendices, as follows:
  - Option 1: with amendments to the existing text of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (based on the inputs provided by AC26/PC20 participants); and,
  - Option 2: replacing the detailed instructions of the current Resolution with a general mandate for the Animals and Plants Committees to develop and use any procedure they deemed appropriate.
6. The Committees decided that only option 1 would be considered, given that option 2 resembled the proposal of document CoP15 Doc. 62 which had been previously rejected by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting (CoP15; Doha, 2010).

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\* *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.*

7. After hearing various suggestions to amend the current text of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (specifically concerning paragraphs *f*), *g*) and *h*) under 'AGREES'), the Committees concurred that it would not be feasible to revise in detail Resolution Conf. 14.8 during the joint sessions AC26/PC20, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a document during the lunch recess that listed the recommendations and issues concerning the Periodic Review of the Appendices that had emanated from recent meetings of the Committees (including the joint sessions AC26/PC20). They also agreed to establish a process for the revision of Resolution Conf. 14.8 that would involve the Standing Committee, and making proposals to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting (CoP16).
8. Later in the meeting, the Secretariat introduced document AC26/PC20 Com. 2, outlining ways to improve the performance of the Periodic Review of the Appendices, as identified at AC25 (Geneva, 2011), AC26 (Geneva, 2012) and AC26/PC20, and that could be considered when amending Resolution Conf. 14.8.
9. However, the Committees considered that document AC26/PC20 Com. 2 did not reflect in detail what was discussed in Plenary during the joint sessions, and agreed instead that the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC20; 26-30 March 2012, Dublin) would prepare a document for submission to the Standing Committee at its 62nd meeting (SC62) concerning: proposed amendments to improve the Periodic Review of the Appendices, incorporating the elements of document AC26/PC20 Com. 2; and, a draft decision for submission at CoP16, instructing the Animals and Plants Committees to revise Resolution Conf. 14.8 in collaboration with the Secretariat. It was further decided by the Committees that the document derived from the work of the PC20 would be circulated to the Animals and Plants Committees prior to the deadline for submission of documents for SC62 (24 May 2012) to seek their concurrence.
10. As a result, the PC20 established a working group (PC20 WG3), chaired by the representative of North America (Mr Benítez Díaz) with the mandate, *inter alia*: "Contribute to the work on the revision of Resolution 14.8 on Periodic Review of the Appendices (item 10) commenced during the joint session of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and 20th meeting of the Plants Committee".
11. Later during the meeting, the Plants Committee discussed the working group's revision proposal (included in Annex 2 of document PC20 WG3 Doc. 1) and adopted it with amendments.
12. The amendments agreed by the Plants Committee on the revision of Resolution Conf. 14.8 are reflected in the Annex of the present document. These revisions were built upon the recommendations derived from the 26th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee, the joint session of AC26/PC20, and the 20th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee.
13. Furthermore, the Plants Committee agreed that its Chair (Ms Clemente) would—in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee—inform the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee of these proposed amendments, which address the Standing Committee's concerns to improve the efficiency of the process.
14. In order to improve the ability of the Periodic Review Process to meet its goals and to accelerate the process, the Standing Committee is invited to:
  - a) consider the proposal to revise Resolution Conf. 14.8 contained in the Annex, and the pertinence of presenting it for consideration of the CoP16;
  - b) consider a draft decision for submission to the 16th CoP instructing the Animals and Plants Committee to review Resolution Conf. 14.8 in collaboration with the Secretariat, and make recommendations, which may include revisions of Resolution Conf. 14.8.
  - c) consider recommending to CoP16 that funds are allocated for the periodic review in the budget and that the Secretariat is requested to seek external funding to support the periodic review process.

**Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16)**

Periodic Review of Species Included in the Appendices I and II

RECOGNIZING the fundamental principles of Article II of the Convention and that there is a need to conduct periodic reviews of species listed in Appendices I and II to ensure that species are appropriately listed, based on current biological and trade information;

REAFFIRMING that Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) on *Establishment of the Committees*, in Annex 2, h), directs the Animals and Plants Committees to undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*, established criteria to ensure that decisions to amend the Convention's Appendices are founded on sound and relevant scientific information; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that a completed periodic review of a species may result in a recommendation to amend Appendices I or II, or result in a recommendation that the species be retained as listed.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

AGREES to the following:

- a) The Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience, especially during ~~joined~~ joint meetings, regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices (including financing of reviews, processes, format and outputs).
- b) The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two inter-sessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The list should be established at their ~~first~~ first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period.
- c) The Animals and Plants Committees are strongly encouraged to follow the following guidelines:
  - i) the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, shall select a practical taxonomic entity or entities ~~and specimens traded~~ for analysis;
  - ii) the following taxa should not be considered for review:
    - A. species that were the subject of listing proposals at the previous ~~two~~ three meetings of the Conference of the Parties (whether or not the proposals were adopted);
    - ~~B. species listed under the new criteria [Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)] in the last 10 years;~~
    - ~~C. species subject to ongoing reviews, such as under the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)], or periodic reviews conducted within the last 10 years; or~~
    - ~~D. species subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties;~~
  - iii) the selected taxonomic entity or entities shall be assessed using the process outlined in the Annex to the present Resolution; and
  - iv) outputs resulting from the assessment conducted in accordance with the Annex shall contain the following information in ~~a summary tables~~ a summary table that includes:
    - A. a summary of trade data since the initial inclusion of that taxon in the Appendices;

- B. current conservation status, including the IUCN category of the species, if assessed; and
  - C. current listing in the CITES Appendices, date of first listing, ~~number of trade records, commercial trade, and remarks~~; and
  - D. the distribution of the species (range States).
- d) From the ~~resulting~~ summary tables, and list generated in Output 2 from the assessment, the Animals and Plants Committees will identify the list of taxa to be reviewed.
- e) The Secretariat shall send a copy of the proposed list of taxa to be reviewed to all Parties, and request range States of the taxa to comment within ~~90~~ 60 days on the need to review the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses shall be relayed by the Secretariat to the Animals or Plants Committee. If no volunteer offers to undertake a review within two inter-sessional periods between CoPs, those taxa shall be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed.
- ~~f) Taking these comments into account, the Animals and Plants Committees will inform the Standing Committee about the finalized selection of taxa to be reviewed.~~
- f) The Animals and Plants Committees and Parties are encouraged to undertake the following in order to facilitate periodic reviews:
- i) collaborate with university graduate students, including those from the CITES Masters Programme at the International University of Andalucia;
  - ii) collaborate with other non-Party reviewers including species experts such as IUCN-SSC Specialist Groups;
  - iii) utilize readily available information on species' conservation status from organizations (e.g., IUCN, BirdLife, etc.) and Parties;
  - iv) seek financial support for reviews, including from importing countries, as appropriate; and
  - v) increase communication between the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and suggest coordination with Parties when animal and plant species' ranges overlap;
- g) The Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees shall keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews, noting that Standing Committee approval is not required to initiate the process of taxa included in the Appendices. A list of species previously reviewed, including dates of the review and links to the appropriate documents, shall be maintained by the Secretariat.
- h) The Animals and Plants Committees shall conduct or organize the reviews, seeking information, participation and support from the range States. The regional representatives of the Animals and, Plants and Standing Committees shall seek assistance from range States within their region to support the taxon reviews.
- i) Each review (in the format of a proposal used to amend the Appendices) is to be submitted as a working document to the Animals or Plants Committee for review, clearly specifying the recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15). The Secretariat shall notify the relevant range States of these working documents in advance of the meeting of the Committee.
- j) In cases where a review indicates, and the Animals or Plants Committee agrees, that it would be appropriate to transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices,:
- i) the Animals or Plants Committee shall, in consultation with the range States, prepare or arrange the preparation of a proposal to amend the Appendices.
  - ii) ~~k)~~ The Secretariat, on behalf of the Standing Committee and the Animals or Plants Committee, shall provide copies of the proposal to the range States and request that one or more should submit the proposal for consideration at the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- iii )~~l~~)—If no range State is willing to submit the proposal, the Secretariat shall request the Depositary Government to submit it [as specified in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15)] and to include the comments of the range States in the supporting statement.
- iv) ~~iii~~) Proposals resulting from the periodic review of the Appendices must be submitted for decision to the Conference of the Parties.

k) In cases where the Animals or Plants Committee decides that it would not be appropriate to transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices, it shall draft its decision with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15).

DIRECTS the Secretariat to maintain a record of the species selected for periodic review, including species previously and currently reviewed; dates of relevant Committee documents; recommendations from the reviews; and any reports and associated documents.

INVITES Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other interested entities to support the work of the Animals and Plants Committees in the undertaking of the periodic review of the Appendices.

Annex

Protocol for the assessment of taxa for consideration in the Periodic Review of the Appendices

