

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

Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Lausanne (Switzerland), 9 to 20 October 1989

Committee Reports and Recommendations

NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

The CITES Nomenclature Committee has two principal responsibilities: 1) preparation of checklists as standard references for the Parties, and 2) providing rulings on the nomenclatorial status of listed species at the request of Parties and the Secretariat.

This report is presented in three parts: 1) review of status of the checklists; 2) review of activities with nomenclatorial rulings; and 3) proposed budget for 1989 and the period 1990-91.

1. STATUS OF CHECKLISTS

The Association of Systematics Collections (ASC) co-ordinated preparation of checklists through late 1987 at which time their Board decided to stop further work on the checklists. The checklist programme has been in disarray since because of lack of financial support. Without a minimum financial commitment from CITES it is impossible to proceed with development of any checklists.

Status of the checklists is as follows:

- 1.1. Mammals - The first edition is out of print. The data were transferred to Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) where Duane Schlitter, Chairman of the American Society of Mammalogists Checklist Committee, is revising the list. The Society expects to complete the revisions and have a manuscript ready for publication in late 1990. Following review by the CITES Nomenclature Committee the manuscript shall be submitted to the Parties for endorsement.
- 1.2. Amphibians - The first edition is nearly out of print. Data files are located at the ASC office (Washington, D.C.). No changes or updates have been made to the checklist in the past 24 months. William Duellman (University of Kansas, Chairman of Amphibian Checklist Committee of the International Congress for Herpetology) has compiled a list of changes to the original list published in 1986.
- 1.3. Turtles and Crocodiles - A checklist has been completed by Dr. F. Wayne King at University of Florida (Gainesville). A copy was delivered to ASC in late 1988. It has been under review. No copy has

been delivered to the Nomenclature Committee. When received, the Nomenclature Committee will review the manuscript and submit it to the Parties for their endorsement.

- 1.4. Snakes - A checklist of snake species of the world is being developed by Dr. Jonathan Campbell (University of Texas at Arlington). His work was interrupted in late 1987 because no funding was available. With funds provided by the US Scientific Authority in late 1988 Dr. Campbell was able to complete a draft checklist which is available for inspection by the Parties. Publication is expected in 1990.
- 1.5. Cacti - This checklist was initiated in early 1989 under an agreement with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, using funds provided by the US Scientific Authority in late 1988. The checklist is being developed by Dr. David Hunt with the endorsement of the Plants Committee.
- 1.6. Future Checklist Development - Without a co-ordinator and minimal commitment of funding for three years it is not possible to prepare the checklists requested by the Parties. The proposed budget (see below) will allow initial development of checklists of lizard and bird species of the world. Publication costs will have to be raised separately.

2. STATUS OF ENQUIRIES

- 2.1. Lack of funding has prevented the Committee from responding effectively to enquiries regarding the status of scientific names from the Secretariat or Parties.
- 2.2. Taxa, particularly subspecies, are often defined on the basis of their geographic distribution. If a listed taxon has been synonymized with a non-listed taxon the intent of the Parties is critical to recommending changes in the name that is listed on the appendices. Taxa listed at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Washington D.C., 1973) lack any documentation which can be used to substantiate the Parties' intent in adopting the proposal. It is therefore recommended that the Nomenclature Committee review those taxa listed at the Plenipotentiary Conference and provide the Parties with opinions concerning their nomenclatorial status.
- 2.3. A report responding to an enquiry from the US Scientific Authority was withdrawn at the request of the Chairman when it was learned that it had been submitted as evidence in a legal proceeding. The Nomenclature Committee is not empowered to change the intent of the Parties when the listing was adopted. Therefore, it was felt that the legal decisions reached in the case could substantially misrepresent the intent of the Parties without the benefit of the Parties' approval. The report will be reviewed by the Nomenclature Committee at its scheduled meeting, and if it is determined necessary the Committee shall submit a formal proposal to the Parties for consideration.
- 2.4. To further clarify the role of the Nomenclature Committee in responding to enquiries from Parties, it shall develop recommended procedures for consideration by the Parties.
- 2.5. A provisional agenda for the Nomenclature Committee meeting is attached as Annex.

3. COSTS 1989-1991

3.1. Budget

	1989	1990	1991
Checklist development*	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Consultancy and operational costs	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Total	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000

* Development of lizard and bird checklists; funding for Cactacea dependent upon contributions from Parties.

3.2. In the absence of adequate support the Nomenclature Committee can not fulfill the Parties' requirements. Not wishing to mislead the Parties as to the capacity of the Committee, the Chair will be obliged to resign if the minimal funding requested is not assured.

Dr. Stephen Edwards
Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee

:

Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Lausanne (Switzerland), 9 to 20 October 1989

Nomenclature Committee Meeting

(time and place to be announced)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Review of status checklists
3. Review of checklist of snake species of the world
4. Procedures to respond to enquiries from Secretariat and Parties
5. Review of Nomenclature Committee report to U.S. Scientific Authority
6. Other business