

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Amendment of the Appendices

PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE APPENDICES

1. This document has been prepared by Animals and Plants Committees.
2. Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13) on establishment of committees resolves that the Animals and Plants Committees shall:
  - undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices by:*
    - i) establishing a schedule for reviewing the biological and trade status of these species;*
    - ii) identifying problems or potential problems concerning the biological status of species being traded;*
    - iii) consulting the Parties on the need to review specific species, working directly with the range States in the selection process, and seeking their assistance in such reviews; and*
    - iv) preparing and submitting amendment proposals resulting from the review, through the Depositary Government, for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. Between the 12th and the 13th meetings of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002, and Bangkok, 2004 respectively), the Standing Committee developed and adopted comprehensive recommendations on the periodic reviews of the Appendices, and specifically on mechanisms to obtain greater involvement from range States and on the steps to be taken to implement the conclusions of the Animals and Plants Committees once those reviews are finalized [see document SC51 Doc. 16 and Annex A to document AC21 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 1) and Annex 1 of PC16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1)]. The recommendations include practical guidelines to assist the Animals and Plants Committees in the selection of species to be reviewed and in conducting those reviews. These guidelines were developed by a joint working group of the scientific committees, through which the Animals and Plants Committees shared their experiences regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of species included in the Appendices (including the financing of reviews, the process, the format and output) [cf. Recommendation a) to the Standing Committee in Annex A of document AC21 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 1) and Annex 1 of document PC16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1)].
4. At the 21st meeting of the Animals Committee and 15th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, May 2005) the Secretariat explained that the guidelines to select species had turned out to be too vague to produce a workable result, since their strict application by UNEP-WCMC still resulted in millions of records. It sought the opinion of the Committees in order to find a way forward. At the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee and 16th meeting of the Plants Committee (Lima, July 2006) the Committees agreed that the guidelines for selecting taxa for the periodic review were too complex and consequently agreed that an amended and simplified procedure be proposed to the

Conference of the Parties in the form of a draft resolution. The substance of this proposal is contained in the Annex to this document.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat concurs with the Animals and Plants Committees that the procedure established by the Standing Committee for the conduct of a periodic review of the appendices is complex and impractical. The Secretariat also believes that if a periodic review of the appendices is to be undertaken, it is more appropriate that the procedure for it should be agreed by the Conference of the Parties in the form of a resolution.
- B. The Secretariat considers that the proposal by the Animals and Plants Committees is a good start but that more work is required on the text, in particular on the selection of the taxa to be reviewed and the responsibility for the actions at each stage. The Secretariat believes that these details could be examined in a working group at the present meeting and would be pleased to participate in such a working group.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Proposal for the operative part of a resolution on the procedure for  
conducting a periodic review of the Appendices

- a) The Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience during joined 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 establish a schedule for the periodic review of the Appendices, and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The list should be established at their first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period.
- c) The Animals and Plants Committees are encouraged to follow the guidelines and rapid assessment technique in Annexes 1 and 2 of document SC51 Doc. 16 and their updates when selecting taxa and conducting the periodic review.
- d) The Secretariat shall send a copy of the list of taxa to all Parties, and request range States of the taxa to comment on the need to review the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses should be relayed by the Secretariat to the Animals or Plants Committee.
- e) 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 Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees should keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices.
- g) The Animals and Plants Committees should conduct or organize the reviews, seeking information, participation and support from the range States. The regional representatives of the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees should seek assistance from range States within their region to support the taxon reviews.
- h) A draft of each review (in an agreed format) is to be submitted as a working document to the Animals or Plants Committee for their review. The Secretariat shall draw attention of the relevant range States to these working documents.
- i) In cases where a review indicates, and the technical committee concerned agrees, that it would be appropriate to transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from Appendix II, the Animals or Plants Committee should, in consultation with the range States, prepare (or arrange the preparation of), in consultation with the range States, a proposal to amend the Appendices.
- j) 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.
- k) If no range State is willing to submit the proposal, the Secretariat shall request the Depository Government to submit it [as specified in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13)] and to include the comments of the range States in the supporting statement.
- l) Proposals resulting from the periodic review of the Appendices must be submitted for decision by the Conference of the Parties.