

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

Strategic matters

HARMONIZATION OF NOMENCLATURE AND TAXONOMY WITH OTHER
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee.

Background

2. Decision 14.18, directed to the Secretariat, states that:

In close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat shall, in the implementation of its memoranda of understanding or cooperation, or programmes of work with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, continue to consider ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species included in their respective provisions. The Secretariat shall report and make recommendations on this matter at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. In furtherance of this Decision, the Secretariat raised this matter at the second meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB, Bonn, May 2008). The CSAB expressed its support for the idea of moving towards harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy in lists of species used by the conventions.
4. The other major global convention whose provisions contain lists of species is the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The CITES Standing Committee already agreed at its 57th meeting (Geneva, July 2007) that the Secretariat should begin working on nomenclatural standardization with CMS. The CITES and CMS Secretariats therefore prepared a document concerning the nomenclature of fauna listed in the Appendices of the CMS and CITES for the 15th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Rome, November 2008), document UNEP/CMS/SC15/Doc. 8. This document was welcomed by the CMS Scientific Council. Subsequently, at its ninth meeting (Rome, December 2008), the Conference of the Parties to CMS adopted a recommendation (UNEP/CMS/Recommendation 9.4) that brought CMS into line with CITES with respect to the nomenclature used for terrestrial mammals, and requested the CMS Scientific Council to consider a similar action with respect to birds.
5. For marine mammals, CMS preferred to use a different standard nomenclatural reference [Perrin W.F., Würsig B. and Thewissen J.G.M. (Editors), (2009), *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals*, Second edition, Academic Press] and requested the CITES Animals Committee to consider this reference. The Animals Committee considered it at its 24th meeting (Geneva, April 2009), but felt unable to recommend adoption of the reference to the Conference of the Parties as the publication concerned is not itself a taxonomic reference work. Examination of Perrin *et al* (2009) and the existing standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the CITES Parties in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) on *Standard nomenclature* [Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005), *Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*, Third edition, Johns Hopkins University Press], shows that, for marine mammals, there are very few differences between the two sets of species names used.

6. There are just five main differences between the species names used for marine mammals in the CMS-adopted standard nomenclatural reference and that currently used by CITES. Two of these are already being proposed for harmonization by the Animals Committee in document CoP15 Doc. 35. In order to eliminate the remaining discrepancies, and with the agreement of the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat proposes the amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) contained in the Annex to the present document.
7. The consequences of these amendments for the published Appendices would be that:
 - a) The sperm whale would be referred to as *Physeter macrocephalus* rather than *Physeter catodon*.
 - b) The Ganges river dolphin and Indus river dolphin *Platanista gangetica* and *Platanista minor* would be referred to as a single species: *Platanista gangetica*.
 - c) The tucuxi *Sotalia fluviatilis* would be divided into two species: the freshwater tucuxi *Sotalia fluviatilis* and estuarine tucuxi *Sotalia guianensis*.

None of these changes would affect the original intention of the listing of these taxa in the CITES Appendices and only that in paragraph a) would require a change to the Appendices themselves. As well as harmonizing CITES' adopted nomenclature with CMS, they would bring the Convention into line with most lists, field guides and national and international agencies, including IUCN and the International Whaling Commission.

8. Working in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee and with colleagues in the CMS Secretariat, the Secretariat will continue to promote the harmonization of the nomenclature used for birds between CITES and CMS, which is due to be considered at the 16th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council in the spring of 2010. Long-term follow-up work is likely to be necessary for the harmonization process more generally and therefore the CITES Secretariat recommends that the objectives of Decision 14.18 be incorporated in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) as shown in paragraph 1 and 2 in the Annex to the present document.
9. The Conference of the Parties is requested to adopt the draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) contained in the Annex to the present document.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.11 (REV. COP14) ON STANDARD NOMENCLATURE

NB: Proposed new text is underlined.

1. Insert the following paragraph in the preamble:

ACKNOWLEDGING the desirability of harmonizing, to the extent possible, the species nomenclature used by the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and noting the endorsement of this objective by the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions;

2. Insert the following paragraph as the penultimate sentence in the operative part:

DIRECTS the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, to promote harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature used by biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements; and

3. Amend the Mammalia section in the Annex as follows:

Mammalia

Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005): *Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*. Third edition, Vol. 1-2, xxxv + 2142 pp. Baltimore (John Hopkins University Press). [for all mammals – with the exception of the recognition of the following names for wild forms of species (in preference to names for domestic forms): *Bos gaurus*, *Bos mutus*, *Bubalus arnee*, *Equus africanus*, *Equus przewalskii*, *Ovis orientalis ophion*; and with the exception of the species mentioned below]

Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (1993): *Mammal Species of the World: a Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*. Second edition. xviii + 1207 pp., Washington (Smithsonian Institution Press). [for *Loxodonta africana* and *Ovis vignei*]

Rice, D. W., 1998: *Marine Mammals of the World: Systematics and Distribution*, Society of Marine Mammalogy Special Publication Number 4, The Society for Marine Mammalogy, Lawrence, Kansas [for *Physeter macrocephalus* and *Platanista gangetica*].

Caballero, S., F. Trujillo, J. A. Vianna, H. Barrios-Garrido, M. G. Montiel, S. Beltrán-Pedrerros, M. Marmontel, M. C. Santos, M. R. Rossi-Santos, F. R. Santos, and C. S. Baker (2007). "Taxonomic status of the genus *Sotalia*: species level ranking for "tucuxi" (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) and "costero" (*Sotalia guianensis*) dolphins". *Marine Mammal Science* 23: 358-386 [for *Sotalia fluviatilis* and *Sotalia guianensis*].