

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking

Standard nomenclature

REPORT OF THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEES

1. This document has been prepared by the Animals and Plants Committees.¹

Introduction

2. At its 14th meeting (CoP14, The Hague 2007) the Conference of the Parties appointed Ms Ute Grimm of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany, as the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee and Mr Noel McGough, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee.
3. Since CoP15 nomenclature issues were considered by the 25th and 26th meetings of the Animals Committee (AC25, Geneva, 18-22 July 2010 and AC26 Geneva, 15-20 March 2012, and Dublin 22-24 March 2012) and the 19th and 20th meetings of the Plants Committee (PC19 Geneva, 18-21 April 2011 and PC20 Dublin, 22-30 March 2012). Nomenclature Working Groups were formed and met at AC25, AC26, and PC20. The documents from these meetings, together with the working group reports, are available on the CITES Website
4. In addition to a short section on the revision and publication of the CITES Appendices, this report includes an introduction and sections on both fauna and flora nomenclature. Each covers the main activities conducted since CoP15, the proposed work programme for the next period and a proposed operating budget.
5. Nomenclatural recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committee, calling for the amendment of the Annex to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15) on *Standard nomenclature* are included in Annex 6 to this document. No substantive changes for standard references for flora are proposed.
6. As in the past, the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees have continued to provide timely services to the Parties and the Secretariat These include: responding to enquiries regarding the nomenclature of taxa listed in the Appendices; designating appropriate taxonomic authorities for the nomenclature of taxa listed in the Appendices that are not included in standard references adopted by the Parties; reviewing the nomenclature of the taxa that have been listed in the Appendices, in consultation with the Secretariat; reviewing the nomenclature of species proposed for listing in the Appendices prior to their consideration at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties; and advising the Secretariat of recommended changes in the nomenclature that should be used in the Appendices.

¹ *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.*

Nomenclatural tasks referred to the Animals and Plants Committee by CoP15

7. Decision 15.63 required the Animals and Plants Committee to "conduct an analysis to identify taxa listed in the Appendices that can be included under the name of a higher taxon without altering the scope of the listing, to be consistent with the section on "Higher taxa" in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), and, where appropriate, prepare proposals for submission to the Conference of the Parties by the Depositary Government."

A review of the flora listings in the Appendices by the Plants Committee did not reveal any cases where such action may be necessary.

The Animals Committee undertook the analysis to identify species listed in the Appendices that might be included under the name of a higher taxon (document AC26 Doc. 20, Annex 5). The Committee determined that it could not, with certainty, identify changes that would not alter the scope of the original listings. The Animals Committee considered that a higher taxon listing could potentially widen the scope of the original proposal in cases where newly described species are true species.

The Animals and Plants Committee therefore recommends that the Conference of the Parties considers Decision 15.63 concluded.

8. Decision 15.68

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 15.68 which states:

The Standing Committee shall, at its 61st meeting (SC61), establish a working group, in consultation with the nomenclature experts of the Animals and Plants Committees and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, to:

- a) *investigate the usefulness and feasibility of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers as an element of CITES data sets;*
- b) *report its findings at SC62; and*
- c) *if necessary, prepare a draft resolution for submission and consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

The nomenclature experts of the Animals and Plants Committee contributed to this process and it is now considered completed.

Fauna nomenclature

General issue

9. *Homo sapiens* covered by Primates spp.

Some scientists have pointed out that according to the official taxonomic mammal references - the current listing of PRIMATES spp. technically includes *Homo sapiens*. This is formally correct and is not a new situation as both former mammal references [HONACKI & al. (1982) and WILSON & REEDER (1992)] already placed *Homo sapiens* into the order Primates.

The Animals Committee, however, recommends not to add a footnote to Primates spp. explaining that *Homo sapiens* is not covered by this higher taxon listing as the preamble of the Convention clearly indicates that human beings are not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

New or updated nomenclature checklists for CITES listed species

10. Amphibian species

A number of taxonomic changes have been recognised since CoP14 which were not adopted at CoP15. Most of these simply refer to shifts between genera, without changes in the species concept, and have

been generally accepted in the scientific world. BROWN et al. (2011)² in a major publication, transferred some Dendrobatidae species into a new genus, and described one new species. These changes were not included in the online database "Amphibian Species of the World" before the deadline for documents to be submitted for AC26.

The Animals Committee therefore recommends to adopt the extract of the online database "Amphibian Species of the World, an online reference", version 5.5 of 2011 in combination with BROWN et al. (2011)¹ as nomenclature standard reference for all listed amphibian species. Both have been combined in Annex 1.

11. Fish species

The major CITES nomenclature standard reference for fish species (except the genus *Hippocampus*) dates back to 1998 and is outdated. Since then revisions have been made in an online-database only.

The Animals Committee therefore recommends to adopt the extract of the online database "Catalog of Fishes", editors ESCHMEYER, W.N. & FRICKE, R., downloaded November 30 2011 (see Annex 2) as the new nomenclature standard reference for all fish species except for the genus *Hippocampus*.

Other taxonomic changes identified

12. The Animals Committee recommends for adoption major general nomenclature standard references for *Uromastix* spp. and Varanidae spp., significantly reducing the number of single references that would otherwise have to be added to the nomenclature standard reference list of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15).

Information on these changes is represented together with all other changes identified in AC26 Doc. 20 Annex 1. AC26 WG9 Annex 1 summarises the changes recommended by the AC in clean format and changes not recommended by the AC are marked accordingly by striking through. The impact on the CITES Appendices of all changes recommended by the AC (under point 10-12 above) is outlined in Annex 3 of this document. Valid names for new species names not recommended for adoption are summarised in Annex 4.

Nomenclature tasks referred to the Animals Committee by CoP15

13. Decision 15.62 paragraph a) required the Animals Committee, subject to funding, to "undertake a review of recent proposed changes to the taxonomy and nomenclature of CITES-listed mammals, reptiles and amphibians of Madagascar, with a view to producing checklists to be considered by the Animals Committee in preparation for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties". Identified changes with regard to the Malagasy species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians as outlined in document AC26 Doc.20 Annex 1 and email information received by a specialist for reptiles in this region have been evaluated by the Animals Committee,

The resulting nomenclature changes recommended by the Animals Committee for adoption by the Conference of the Parties are outlined in document CoP16 Doc. 43.1, Annex 3, marked by the capital letter M, those not recommended for adoption are reported in CoP16 Doc. 43.1, Annex 4, also marked by the capital letter M.

14. Decision 15.62 paragraph b) states "If nomenclature changes are identified affecting Appendix-III listings, the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee should advise the Secretariat whether these changes also result in changes in distribution affecting the countries issuing certificates of origin."

The contents of this paragraph of Decision 15.62 refer to a on-going advisory activities of the nomenclature specialist and not a single time-limited one.

The Animals Committee therefore recommends to the Conference of the Parties to insert the following clause at the end of letter f) in the recommendation section of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15):

² Brown, J. L., Twomey, E., Amézquita, A., Barbosa de Souza, M., Caldwell, L. P., Lötters, S., von May, R., Melo-Sampaio, P. R., Mejía-Vargas, D., Perez-Peña, P., Pepper, M., Poelman, E. H., Sanchez-Rodriguez, M. & Summers, K. 2011. A taxonomic revision of the Neotropical poison frog genus *Ranitomeya* (Amphibia: Dendrobatidae). – *Zootaxa* 3083: 1-120.

“If nomenclature changes are identified affecting Appendix-III listings, the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee should advise the Secretariat whether these changes also result in changes of distribution affecting the countries issuing certificates of origin”.

15. Decision 15.64 paragraph a)

This decision directed the Animals Committee to identify existing coral reference material that could be adopted as nomenclature standard reference for CITES listed corals. Intensive efforts by the Animals Committee have revealed that, at the current time, no comprehensive and consistent standard references can be identified.

The Animals Committee therefore recommends to adopt the list of species currently used by WCMC for the CITES Species Database and the Checklist of CITES Species (see document CoP16 Doc. 43.1, Annex 5) as nomenclatural standard reference for coral species; and the Animals Committee also recommends, subject to external funding, that the Secretariat launches a project to revise the aforementioned standard reference, first focussing on the major taxa in trade.

Proposed work programme

16. There still is a need for the identification or development of taxonomic CITES checklists for corals and papilionid butterflies as outlined in the nomenclature report to CoP15. Adoption by CoP16 of the Coral Checklist included in Annex 5 of this document is an interim solution for this group.

17. The rate of change in the taxonomy of many taxa has increased considerably. The AC strives to be as conservative as scientifically possible and, from the perspective of species conservation, justifiable with regard to nomenclature changes recommended. However, there has been a significant increase in the number of individual references for some reptile groups (e.g. Chamaleonidae, Gekkonidae). To keep track of the increase it may be advisable to reorder the list of references in Resolution Conf. 12.11 to facilitate identification of publications that refer to higher taxa below class level. The nomenclature specialist will prepare such a draft for the next meeting of the Animals Committee.

The continuous development of taxonomic checklists – i.e. for every second or third meeting of the CoP - for taxa comprising a high number of CITES listed species or genera, might also be helpful in reducing the number of references listed in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15). It would facilitate the overview of the taxonomic background of the nomenclature used under CITES as well as keeping track of the changes adopted.

Budget

18. A budget of USD 36,000 is proposed for the period between CoP16 and CoP17 to cover expenditure related to its activities concerning the nomenclature of fauna, and particularly those referred to in paragraph 16.

Project/Year	2013	2014	2015	Total
Chamaeleonidae Gekkonidae	USD 4,000	USD 6,000		USD 10,000
Corals	USD 8,000	USD 12,000		USD 20,000
Papilionidae	USD 2,000	USD 4,000		USD 6,000

Flora nomenclature

Status of Checklists

19. One of the key issues in the selection of standard references for adoption by the Conference of the Parties for flora is the frequent need to develop references specific to the needs of the CITES Parties. This is due to the fact that adequate published references are often not available for the taxa for which the Parties seek most guidance. To date, individual Parties and national and international research institutions have been generous in both funding and allocation of support in kind, through dedicating significant staff time, to the development of new checklists prioritised by the Conference of the Parties. However, the international

economic situation has severely affected the availability of such support. This situation has resulted in delaying the updates of the outstanding checklists, in particular those for cacti and orchids. The Plants Committee discussed this matter at its twentieth meeting (Dublin, 2012) and recommended that Parties encourage their scientific institutions and taxonomic experts to work with the Plants Committee to complete outstanding revisions of key plant checklists and where possible provide funding to facilitate this process. It is hoped that this recommendation will facilitate funding and, in particular, access to support in kind from key institutions.

Proposed work plan

Cactus Checklist

20. The CITES Cactaceae Checklist 1999 was adopted as the standard reference for Cactaceae. This volume is now out of print. The New Cactus Lexicon was published in 2006 (Hunt, D. Ed.), compiled and edited by members of the International Cactaceae Systematics Group. Preparation of an updated checklist based on the The New Cactus Lexicon will be completed when funding has been secured.

Cycad Checklist

21. Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) states that the CITES standard reference is "A World List of Cycads (D.W. Stevenson, R. Osborne and K.D. Hill, 1995; In: P. Vorster (Ed.), Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Cycad Biology, pp. 55-64, Cycad Society of South Africa, Stellenbosch) and its updates accepted by the Plants Committee, as a guideline when making reference to names of species of Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae." This now requires updating based on more recent revisions.

The CITES Authorities of Italy have funded the production of a training manual on CITES and Cycads. At the time of writing, it is expected that this training guide will be circulated at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. If agreeable to the Checklist authors, an amended version of the new list will be included in that publication. This would make the list available, in the standard CITES format, in a publication which would be widely distributed to CITES Parties. In addition, enforcement officials would benefit from the additional information available in the training manual. The amended list can then be put for adoption to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Orchid Checklists

22. Volume 1 of the Checklist, which includes the widely-traded genera Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium, was published in 1995 and is currently being updated. Lack of resources has delayed the finalisation of this checklist but it is hoped that it will be available for review by the Parties in 2014.

Other issues

Carnivorous Plants

23. The CITES Carnivorous Plant Checklist (B. von Arx et al.) was published in 2001. The Plants Committee considered at its nineteenth meeting (Geneva, 2011) whether an update or supplement was required to the checklist to update the Parties on the range of new names which had been published. The Plants Committee decided no such supplement was required at this time.

Dalbergia and Diospyros

24. The Appendix III listing by Madagascar of species from these genera has resulted in Parties seeking guidance on such issues as synonymy. PC20 reviewed this issue and recommended that a working list of names of those taxa from Madagascar be prepared. Initial communications with national and international experts has indicated that the Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Madagascar (<http://www.mobot.org/phillipson/catalogue/catalogue.htm>) might best form the basis of a standard reference for the Parties.

"Aloe capensis"

25. PC20 was asked to consider the status of the name "Aloe capensis". The Plants Committee decided that this was a vernacular name applied to the dried leaf exudates of Aloe ferox that may sometimes be applied to other aloe species. It is not a valid taxonomic name.

List of Standard References for Flora

26. No substantive changes are proposed to the list of standard references for flora. However, within the list the term “and its updates accepted by the Plants Committee” is used throughout the citations. This term is redundant as all references recommended by the Plants Committee are subsequently approved by the Conference of the Parties. This term should therefore be removed from each reference text.

Budget

27. A budget of USD 27,000 is proposed for the period between CoP16 and CoP17 to cover expenditure related to its activities concerning the nomenclature of flora, and particularly those referred to in paragraphs 20 to 24.

Project/Year	2013	2014	2015	Total
Orchids	USD 5,000			USD 5,000
Cacti	USD 2,000	USD 6000		USD 8,000
Dalbergia and Diospyros		USD 2,000		USD 2,000
Publication	USD 4,000	USD 4000	USD 8000	USD 12,000
Total	USD 11,000	USD 14,000	USD 8000	USD 27,000

28. The Animals and Plants Committee proposes that the Conference of the Parties notes the contents of the present document and adopts the recommendations in its paragraph 7 and 14 and the revision of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15) on *Standard nomenclature* contained in Annex 6.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat believes that the delineation and nomenclature of species included in the Appendices is likely to grow in importance as knowledge of the relationship between taxa is improving rapidly, especially because of advances in genetic studies. The Secretariat appreciates the progressive but conservative approach to this matter being advocated by the Animals and Plants Committees.
- B. The Secretariat recommends that the proposal in paragraph 7 of the present document be adopted, as Decision 15.63 has been implemented.
- C. The Secretariat agrees that the activity referred to in paragraph 14 of the present document represents an ongoing task and therefore should be in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15) and not in a Decision. However, it proposes a small change to the text to make it applicable to plants and animals as follows (text to be deleted is ~~erased out~~; proposed new text is underlined):

Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15) paragraph f) bis

- f) bis If the Animals or Plants Committee proposes nomenclature changes relating to ~~are proposed identified affecting taxa included in Appendix-III listings, the nomenclature specialist of the Animals and Plants Committees they should advise the Secretariat whether these changes would also result in changes in~~ of distribution that would affect the determination of which countries would be required to issue ~~issuing~~ certificates of origin.

If this is agreed, then the Secretariat recommends that Decision 15.62 be repealed.

- D. The Secretariat recommends that the revised Annex to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15) included in Annex 6 of the present document be adopted. The Secretariat notes that the Annex to this Resolution has been changes many times in recent years, but has not been subject to editorial corrections to make it coherent internally. These do not affect the substance of the Annex. After this subject has been discussed in Committee I, and if the Conference of the Parties agrees, the Secretariat will consult the nomenclature specialists and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees to prepare a Committee I (Com.) document for adoption, including these proposed editorial corrections.