

Note: This document has been prepared by the Animals and Plants Committees

Timeline for the review of the listing criteria adopted by the Plants Committee and Animals Committee at their meetings in August 2003 in Geneva [from PC13 Doc. 9.4.3 (Rev. 1)]:

11. *The following proposed timeframe would allow for completion of the tasks in Decision 12.97:*

August 2003: The PC and AC discuss the workplan and the list of species for review at their meetings in Geneva, and achieve consensus on objectives and to the extent possible on timelines.

22 August – 5 September, 2003: A contact group comprised by the United States (Robert Gabel and Javier Alvarez), United Kingdom Noel McGough and Vincent Fleming), and Spain (margarita Clemente and Carlos Ibero) finalizes edits to document CoP12 Com. I. 3 and drafts guidelines for conducting the review.

6 September – 31 October, 2003: An intersessional working group named by PC and AC, work in coordination with the Committee chairs toward completing the taxonomic reviews and simultaneously recommending specific changes to Doc. CoP12 Com. I. 3 criteria, if necessary, using the tables in Annex 2. If budget dictates it, this working group could conduct their business by email/post/telephone.

1 November – 30 November, 2003: The Chairs of AC and PC compile in a table the results of the taxonomic reviews.

5 December 2003: The Secretariat posts the results of the taxonomic reviews on the CITES web site.

5 December 2003 – February 2004: Parties submit comments on the results of taxonomic reviews to AC and PC through their regional representatives.

*February 2004: AC and PC hold a joint meeting, if possible, to analyze the results of the taxonomic reviews, discuss revisions to CoP12 Com. I. 3, and prepare a draft resolution for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13) in October 2004. **

March 2004 (SC50): The AC and PC Chairs submit the draft resolution to the Standing Committee.

May 2004: A final draft resolution is posted on the CITES web site (by the Secretariat) by the 150-day deadline prior to CoP13.

* At the end of PC13, it was announced that the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC14) would be held in Namibia in February 2004. However, Namibia informed the

Plants Committee that it would be unable to host a joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees. Consequently, during AC19, the Secretariat and Chairman of Animals Committee began conversations, still on-going, with South Africa to see if that country could host the 20th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC20) in February 2004 just prior to or immediately after PC14. A second option considered was holding AC20 in April 2004 and inviting PC members to attend a joint AC-PC session on the review of the listing criteria during AC20. The first option would be more cost-effective to those wishing to attend a joint AC-PC session on the review of the listing criteria, thus allowing a larger number of individuals to participate in the discussions on listing criteria. In addition to increasing the travel costs associated with attending disjunct PC and AC meetings and limiting the number of PC members able to attend AC20, the second option would provide the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees with only a few weeks to finalize a draft resolution on criteria to amend Appendices I and II.

Therefore, since under the present circumstances, neither a joint meeting, nor a back to back meeting at the same venue seems possible, coordination between AC and PC will have to follow another route, still to be determined (it might also be envisaged that AC would analyze the results of the taxonomic reviews, discuss revisions to CoP12 Com.I.3 and make its contribution to preparing a draft resolution for consideration at CoP 13 on the basis of and taking into consideration work previously accomplished by PC).