

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

Nomenclatural matters

HARMONIZATION OF NOMENCLATURE AND TAXONOMY
WITH OTHER MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee.
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 (CSA, Bonn, 25 May 2008). The group 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 dealing with species of wild fauna 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 taxonomy and nomenclature of fauna listed in the Appendices of the CMS and CITES for the 15th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Rome, 27-28 November 2008), document [UNEP/CMS/ScC15/Doc. 8](#). This document was welcomed by the CMS Scientific Council. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to CMS adopted a recommendation at its ninth meeting (Rome, 1-5 December 2008), a "pre-final draft" of which is attached as Annex 1 to the present document. The CMS CoP requested that this recommendation be transmitted to the CITES Animals Committee for its consideration.
5. Concerning mammal species, CMS has adopted "Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005), *Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*, Third edition, Johns Hopkins University Press", although they did not follow the CITES decision to retain the use of the second edition of this publication for the treatment of *Loxodonta africana* and *Ovis vignei*. However, for marine mammals, CMS has adopted "Perrin W.F., Würsig B. and Thewissen J.G.M. (Editors), (2009), *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals*, Second edition, Academic Press". In this context,

marine mammals means the orders Cetacea (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and Sirenia (sea cows) and from the order Carnivora, the families Otariidae (fur seals and sea lions), Odobenidae (walrus) and Phocidae (true seals), and the species *Ursus maritimus* (polar bear), *Enhydra lutris* (sea otter) and *Lontra felina* (marine otter). There are no nomenclatural differences between the references Wilson and Reeder (2005) and Perrin, Würsig and Thewissen (2009) with respect to the orders Sirenia and Carnivora. Annex 2 to the present document shows the differences between the two references for the Order Cetacea. Adoption of Perrin, Würsig and Thewissen (2009) would also bring CITES into line with the nomenclature used by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) (<http://www.iwcoffice.org/conservation/cetacea.htm>). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species also recognizes the splitting of the taxa *Balaenoptera edeni* and *Orcaella brevirostris* and observes that the evidence for splitting *Sotalia fluviatilis* into two species appears convincing and is likely to gain wide acceptance.

6. Concerning bird species, the CMS Scientific Council is going to consider the implications of proposing adoption of the CITES-adopted reference "Dickinson, E.C. (ed.) (2003): *The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*. Revised and enlarged 3rd Edition, Christopher Helm", together with the author's "Corrigenda 4 (02.06.2005)" at its next meeting.
7. For other species listed in the Appendices of both conventions (marine turtles, crocodiles and fish), there do not appear to be any practical problems caused by differences in nomenclature at present.
8. The CMS CoP also requested the CMS Secretariat to raise, at the next meeting of the CSAB, the feasibility of establishing a nomenclature and taxonomy panel that could be convened periodically to review the relevant technical literature in order to work towards the harmonization of species nomenclature used by the biodiversity-related conventions.
9. The Animals Committee is requested to:
 - a) consider proposing at CoP15, the adoption of "Perrin W.F., Würsig B. and Thewissen J.G.M. (Editors), (2009), *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals*, Second edition, Academic Press", as the standard nomenclatural reference for marine mammals (Orders Cetacea and Sirenia and, from the order Carnivora, the families Otariidae, Odobenidae and Phocidae and the species *Ursus maritimus*, *Enhydra lutris* and *Lontra feliae*) in order to bring CITES into line with CMS and IWC; and;
 - b) comment on the suggestion in paragraph 8 above in order to allow the Chair to convey the opinion of the Committee on the subject to the CSAB.



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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STANDARDIZED NOMENCLATURE FOR THE CMS APPENDICES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Ninth Meeting (Rome 1-5 December 2008)

Recalling that with Recommendation 6.1 (Cape Town, 1999) the Conference of the Parties to CMS adopted standard references to be recognized and used as the bases on which the CMS Appendices and amendments thereto, should be prepared;

Noting that biological nomenclature is dynamic;

Acknowledging that the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (The Hague, June 2007) noted that in order to strengthen the global effort to meet the World Summit on Sustainable Development target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, it would be sensible to try to ensure greater harmonization between biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in the field of taxonomy and nomenclature, considering that biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements operate on the basis of some stability in the use of names, notably because implementing legislation which uses these names is often not easily changed;

Further noting that the case for such harmonization is made more compelling by the fact that of the 110 CMS Parties, only 4 are not also members of CITES;

Noting also that this objective was endorsed at the 2nd meeting of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB, Bonn, May 2008) and noted by the 6th meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (Bonn, May 2008), and was thereby included in the CITES/CMS List of Joint Activities adopted by the 34th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee;

Taking note of the recommendations of the 15th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Rome, 27-28 November 2008) concerning revision of the reference nomenclature for terrestrial and aquatic mammalian species listed in CMS Appendices; and

Noting that Schedule 1 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) takes account of the most recent taxonomic information on species of albatrosses and large petrels;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* Perrin W.F., Wursig B. and Thewissen J.G.M. (Editors), (2009), Encyclopaedia of Marine Mammals, Second edition. Academic Press as the standard nomenclatural reference for Marine Mammals as recommended by the 15th meeting of the Scientific Council;
2. *Adopts* Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005): Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference. Third edition, John Hopkins University Press as the standard nomenclatural reference for terrestrial mammals, as recommended by the 14th meeting of the Scientific Council;
3. *Requests* the Scientific Council to consider the implications of adopting Dickinson, E.C. (ed.) (2003): The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. Revised and enlarged 3rd Edition. London (Christopher Helm) together with the author's Corrigenda 4 (02.06.2005) to Howard & Moore Edition 3 (2003), as the Convention's standard nomenclatural reference for birds at its 16th meeting and report to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
4. *Further requests* the Scientific Council to consider the implications of adopting the taxonomic list approved for inclusion on Annex I of ACAP as the Convention's standard nomenclatural reference for albatrosses and large petrels, and consider other relevant CMS Agreements in the process of harmonization of taxonomic and nomenclatural references;
5. *Requests also* the Secretariat to raise, at the next meeting of the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB), the feasibility of establishing a nomenclature and taxonomy panel that could be convened periodically to review the relevant technical literature in order to work towards the harmonization of species nomenclature used by the biodiversity-related convention; and
6. *Instructs* the Secretariat to transmit this Resolution to the CITES Secretariat in order for it to be considered by the scientific bodies of that Convention.

Differences between “Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005): *Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*, Third edition, Johns Hopkins University Press” and “Perrin W.F., Würsig B. and Thewissen J.G.M. (Editors), (2009), *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals*, Second edition, Academic Press” for species in the order Cetacea.

Treatment in Wilson and Reeder (2005)	Treatment in Perrin, Würsig and Thewissen (2009)
<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i> and <i>Balaenoptera omurai</i> ¹
<i>Physeter catodon</i>	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>
<i>Kogia breviceps</i> and <i>Kogia sima</i> in the family Physeteridae	<i>Kogia breviceps</i> and <i>Kogia sima</i> in the family Kogiidae
<i>Platanista gangetica</i> and <i>Platanista minor</i>	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>
<i>Lipotes vexillifer</i> and <i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i> in the family Iniidae	<i>Lipotes vexillifer</i> and <i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i> in the families Lipotidae and Pontoporiidae respectively
<i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i>	<i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i> and <i>Sotalia guianensis</i> ²
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>	<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> and <i>Orcaella heinsohni</i> ³

If Perrin, Würsig and Thewissen (2009) were to be adopted by CITES, the differences shown in bold would require a change in the presentation of the Appendices themselves.

¹ See Wada, S., Oishi, M and Yamada, T.K., 2003, A newly discovered species of living baleen whale. *Nature*, 426, no. 6964: 278- 281 and Sasaki, T., Nikaido, M., Wada, S., Yamada, T.K., Cao, Y., Hasegawa, M., and Okada, N. 2006. *Balaenoptera omurai* is a newly discovered baleen whale that represents an ancient evolutionary lineage. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 41(1): 40–52.

² See Monteiro-Filho, E. L. D. A., Rabello-Monteiro, L., and REIS, S.F.D., 2002. Skull shape and size divergence in dolphins of the genus *Sotalia*: A morphometric tridimensional analysis. *Journal of Mammalogy* 83:125–134, Cunha, H. A., Da Silva, V.M.F., Lailson-Brito, J.J., Santos, M.C.O., Flores, P. A. C., Martin A.C., A. F. Azevedo A.F., Fragoso A.B. L., Zanelatto R.C. and Solé-Cava E.M., 2005. Riverine and marine ecotypes of *Sotalia fluviatilis* are different species. *Marine Biology* 148:449–457 and 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.

³ See Beasley, I., Robertson, K. M., and Arnold, P. W., 2005. Description of a new dolphin, the Australian Snubfin Dolphin *Orcaella heinsohni* sp. n. (Cetacea, Delphinidae). *Marine Mammal Science* 21(3): 365-400.