

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Amendment of the Appendices

REVISION AND PUBLICATION OF CITES APPENDICES

1. This document has been submitted by Japan.

Background

2. Article XV, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention regarding "Amendments to Appendices I and II" stipulates that:

Amendments adopted at a meeting shall enter into force 90 days after that meeting for all Parties except those which make a reservation in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article.

3. In 1983 at the 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP4), with the Resolution Conf. 4.23, CoP noted that biological nomenclature was dynamic. It has repeated this ever since, including with Resolution Conf. 12.11. It also repeats that the taxonomy used in the Appendices to the Convention would be most useful to the Parties if standardized by nomenclatural references.
4. At CoP14, the Parties revised the Resolution Conf. 12.11 and adopted new standard references for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, arachnids and insects, which as a result necessitated major changes in the Appendices. The list of amendments to Appendices I and II was published on 26 July 2007. The new Appendices in accordance with the new standard references were published on 29 August 2007, which was 77 days after the meeting.

Recommendations

5. After CoP14, the complexity of the nomenclature changes put considerable pressure on the Secretariat, the Nomenclature Committee, and Parties who received the new Appendices just two weeks before the date of entry into force. Given the dynamic nature of biological nomenclature, new standard references will be adopted again in the future. Therefore, Japan suggests that the Committee explore a way to smooth and accelerate the revision of Appendices after meetings of the CoP, especially when new standard references are adopted.
6. For that purpose, the Secretariat is requested to report to SC58 in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees on:
 - a) information which should be included in proposals to amend the standard nomenclatures for species included in the Appendices; and
 - b) obstacles to accelerate the publication of revised Appendices and options for the future.