

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

SNAKE TRADE AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AND
TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES

The attached information document has been submitted by the People's Republic of China in relation to agenda items 19 and 20^{*}.

^{*} *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.*

THE PROGRESS OF THE NEW CHINA'S REPTILE REDLIST

This document is prepared by the CITES Scientific Authority of China (The Endangered Species Scientific Commission of the People's Republic of China) and submitted by the CITES Management Authority of China.

The compiling of the new version of *China's Endangered Vertebrate Species Redlists*, including volumes of Fishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals, was launched in the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Beijing on May 16, 2013. The work is coordinated by Prof. Zhigang Jiang, the Executive Director of Endangered Species Scientific Commission of the People's Republic of China (ESSC), the CITES Scientific Authority of China and the project was sponsored by Chinese government. The volume of Reptile Redlist of China is coordinated by Professor Yuezhao Wang, a herpetologist of the Chengdu Institute of Biology, CAS and a Commissioner of ESSC. The project is organized in such a hierarchy: Project Coordinator-Advisory Committee - Redlist Working Groups- Consulting Specialists. The Advisory Committee is chaired by ichthyologist, Academician Yiyu Chen, the Director of ESSC and with Academicians Jianming Jin, conservation biologist, Ma Jianzhang, mammalogist, Guangmei Zheng, ornithologist and Yaping Zhang, molecular conservation biologist as members. Project coordinator selected ichthyologists, herpetologists, ornithologists and mammalogists to form the Redlist Working Groups of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. The Working Groups is consisted of about 10 experts from the field. After studying and calibrating the methodology of reevaluating the endangered species Redlist status in China, the Working Groups evaluate preliminarily the status of the species with IUCN Redlist Criteria for Endangered Species, with the guidance of the Advisory Committee and IUCN/SSC. The Redlist working groups are also responsible for distributing the draft Redlist of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals for review by corresponds or evacuation panel meetings of various sizes which may be held during academic conferences or the meetings of ESSC. Each Working Group re-evaluate the Redlist with the feedback of expert consultation.

Why do we compile a new version of Vertebrate Redlist in China? The China's Red Data Books of Fishes, Amphibians and Reptiles, Birds and Mammals were completed and published in 1998, which were edited by Professors Yiqi Le, Yiyu Chen, Ermi Zhao, Guangmei Zheng and Sung Wang. China's Species Redlist was edited and published by Prof. Sung Wang and Dr. Yan Xie in 2003. Now, the needs for a new version of China's Redlist of Endangered Species is pressed by the discovery of new species, new records of vertebrate species in the country, and the changing of status of species in many taxa as the understanding of people on evolutionary background of those species improved when more studies in molecular and traditional systematics were conducted, as well as the status of some species are threatened by growing demanding on natural resource and living space by human being as the ecological footprints grew whereas status of many others are improved by establishing new nature reserve to protect their population and habitats. We need to update status of endangered species, compile the China's Redlist of Vertebrate for the purposes of building conservation data base and analytic tool of biodiversity, determining national species conservation priority, as well as providing new reference for national conservation policy and tools for biodiversity conservation education. Therefore, the research and compiling of a new version of China's Endangered Species Redlist was launched.

Reptiles are important components of biodiversity and are of economic and traditional medicine values in many countries. There are about 400-410 reptilian species in China, which are widely distributed and are keynote species in some ecosystems. Take the snakes as example, CITES Secretariat and national CITES authorities of China stress on the importance of snake conservation, some reptiles are listed in CITES Appendices. Periodic review of the status of Appendix II species like Rat Snake was conducted by national CITES authorities of China. CITES Asian Snake Trade Workshop was held in Guangzhou, China, from 11th to 14th April, 2010. At the meeting, international trade status and field status of those snakes in trade were reviewed. The China Reptile Redlist Working Group uses the IUCN Endangered Species Redlist Criteria to systematically evaluate the status of 400-410 reptile species in China. Firstly, the working group conducted evaluation of Redlist status of the reptile species in China with the information of field survey in recent year in complimentary with thorough search of the specimens in museums and literature, reviews all reptiles in China listed in IUCN Redlist and consults as many reptilian experts as possible for advice on the Redlist listing of reptiles in China. The new Endangered Reptilian Species Redlist of China is well under the way. Chinese national CITES authorities seek and appreciate further collaboration with the Secretariat, national CITES authorities of other countries, IUCN/SSC and herpetologists for compiling of the new China's Reptile Redlist. Furthermore, we are happy to share our information and experience in compiling the China's Reptile Redlist with our colleagues in the CITES community and conservation scientists worldwide.