

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

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

NOMENCLATURAL MATTERS

1. This document has been prepared by the specialist on zoological nomenclature¹.

General nomenclatural issues identified after CoP15

2. *Homo sapiens* covered by Primates spp.

A few scientists have seriously pointed out that - according to the official taxonomic mammal references - the current listing of PRIMATES spp. technically includes *Homo sapiens* as well. This is formally correct and no new situation as both former mammal references [HONACKI & al. (1982) and WILSON & REEDER (1992)] already placed *Homo sapiens* into the order Primates. According to the opinion of the nomenclature specialist of the AC it is clear - at least by the definition of specimen in article I of the Convention - that the term "wild fauna and flora" of the Convention does not include human beings as well. Therefore she considers that there is no need to add any footnote to PRIMATES spp. or Hominidae spp. indicating that *Homo sapiens* is not covered by the higher taxon listing.

3. *Crocodylus johnsoni* / *Crocodylus johnstoni*

As outlined in the report compiled by UNEP-WCMC (Annex 1, section Reptilia/Crocodylia) a publication has been identified providing arguments for returning to the species name *Crocodylus johnstoni* instead of the spelling of *Crocodylus johnsoni*, currently valid under CITES. The AC representative for Oceania had transmitted a request to recommend this change as in Australia *Crocodylus johnstoni* is the commonly used name. This spelling change was already proposed by the US at CoP15 and not disputed by anyone. However, it was not recorded because it was not formally put to the vote. At its 25th meeting, the AC already decided to recommend this nomenclatural change to CoP16.

Since then no additional information has become available that might require a review of this decision taken.

4. *Uromastyx* spp.

A major new taxonomic publication on the whole genus *Uromastyx* has been published between AC 24 and CoP15². As it had not been available for discussion at the AC meetings proceeding CoP15 it could not be considered at the last CoP meeting. As this publication is a scientific taxonomic revision and written in English it seems much better suited as nomenclature standard reference for *Uromastyx* spp. than the

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

² WILMS, T.M., BÖHME, W., WAGNER, P., LUTZMANN, N. & SCHMITZ, A. (2009): On the phylogeny and taxonomy of the genus *Uromastyx* MERREM, 1820 (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae: Uromastycinae) – resurrection of the genus *Saara* GRAY, 1820. – Bonner zool. Beiträge, 56(1-2): 55-99.

current WILMS' reference of 2001 which is more a handbook (though containing solid taxonomic information) and written in German.

At its 25th meeting, the AC already decided to recommend Wilms & al. (2009) as new nomenclature standard reference for the genus *Uromastyx*. Since then no additional information has become available that might require a review of this decision taken.

5. Varanidae

The current basic nomenclature standard reference for the Varanidae is BÖHME (2003)³ in combination with seven further publications with 10 new species described after the publication of BÖHME (2003). Until AC 25 five more new species had been described. At its 25th meeting the AC decided to recommend BÖHME (2003) in combination with KOCH, AULIYA & ZIEGLER (2010)⁴ as new nomenclature standard reference which would cover all species adopted by the CoPs so far, and, in addition, the five new species described but not yet adopted by a CoP. Since then no additional information has become available that might require a review of this decision taken.

6. Snakes

The CITES Asian snake trade workshop that took place April 11-14 2011 in Guangzhou (China) had developed some recommendations with regard to the taxonomy of certain snake species which were reflected in AC25 Doc.22 Annex 1.

At its 25th meeting the AC decided to recommend the retention of the species name *Gongylophis conicus* instead of changing it to *Eryx conicus*. Since then no additional information has become available that might require a review of this decision taken.

The other taxa changes mentioned in the recommendations of the workshop are also part of the UNEP-WCMC compilation of new taxonomic changes identified since AC 24 (see Annex 1, section Reptilia/Serpentes). They will require a final recommendation by the AC at the current meeting.

7. Amphibian species, incl. *Agalychnis* spp. and *Epipedobates machalilla*

The major nomenclature references for amphibian and fish species are outdated. With regard to an update the Secretariat had suggested at the last meeting of the AC that for online databases such as FROST, D. R. (ed.) (2004), *Amphibian Species of the World: a taxonomic and geographic reference, an online reference*, PLATNICK, N. (2006), *The World Spider Catalog* and ESCHMEYER B. & FRICKE R. (Eds) *Catalog of Fishes*, instead of just preparing a bespoke extract of those species already covered by the Convention, the whole of a particular Version of such references be adopted. That way a guide would be available for listings in future as well. The Animals Committee therefore recommend at its last meeting the Secretariat be asked to explore the possibilities of receiving snapshots from the respective online-databases. However, the time period between AC 25 and the deadline for documents for AC 26 was too short for the Secretariat to explore the complex technical and copyright conditions outlined in the recommendation. The nomenclature specialist has therefore once again produced updated extracts for the Taxonomic Checklist of CITES listed Amphibians" (see Annex 2) as well as - for the first time - an extract of the 2011 Catalogue of Fish Species as outlined under point 8 (see Annex 4).

Quite a number of taxonomical amphibian changes had been recognized since CoP14 already but had not been adopted at CoP15. Most of them simply refer to shifts between genera but without changes in the species concept. They have been generally accepted in the scientific world and are included in the current version of the "Amphibians of the World online reference"; One further major paper⁵ including the shift of some Dendrobatidae species into a new genus as well as the description of one new species has been published in 2011 but, however, has not yet been included in the online database (see Annex 1, section Amphibia; and Annex 2). An extract of the online database "Amphibian Species of the World, an online Reference", version 5.5 of 2011, has been compiled by the nomenclature specialist (Annex 2) and is

³ BÖHME, W. (2003): Checklist of the living monitor lizards of the world (family Varanidae) – Zoologische Verhandlungen. Leiden, 341: 1-43.

⁴ KOCH, A., AULIYA, M. & ZIEGLER, T. (2010): Updated checklist of the living monitor lizards of the world (Squamata: Varanidae). – Bonn zool. Bull., 57(2): 127-136.

⁵ 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.

suggested for recommendation as new nomenclatural standard reference for amphibians in combination with the publication of BROWN & al. 2011. The correlations of the current species concept recognized under CITES to the newly suggested one are reflected in Annex 3.

One of the changes to the above mentioned 2004 checklist and the current online database refers to the genus *Agalychnis*. Several species, formerly belonging to other genera, have now been placed into the genus *Agalychnis* as well (*A. aspera*, *A. buckleyi*, *A. dacnicolor*, *A. danieli*, *A. granulosa*, *A. hulli*, *A. lemur*, *A. medinae*, *A. psilopygion*). These species are not covered by the listing of *Agalychnis* spp. in Appendix II. The adoption of the 2011 extract of the "Amphibian Species of the World" would therefore automatically result in a change in the appendices from "*Agalychnis* spp." to the listing of the five single species *Agalychnis annae*, *A. callidryas*, *A. moreletii*, *A. saltator*, and *A. spurrelli*.

A single problem had been identified at AC25 with regard to the frog species *Epipedobates machalilla* which had been transferred from the genus *Colostethus* to *Epipedobates* and it was unclear whether this species was then covered or not by the listing of *Epipedobates* spp. on Appendix II. The Committee agreed that the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean would contact Ecuador to determine whether Ecuador was willing to prepare a proposal for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The response of Ecuador will be reflected in the respective Regional Report to the AC26.

8. Fish species

Apart from the nomenclature standard references for the genus *Hippocampus* the reference for all other fish species published 1998⁶ is outdated. For quite a number of years already, this catalogue has been turned into an online reference⁷. As online-databases cannot directly serve as a formal nomenclature standard reference for CITES listed species as they are continuously changed, the nomenclature specialist has compiled an extract (see Annex 4) from the ESCHMEYER & FRICKE online catalogue (updated 30 November 2011), similar to the ones for amphibian and spider species. This checklist could be placed on the CITES homepage and easily updated based on the decisions taken at the CoPs (as regularly done for amphibian and spider species). With regard to the current nomenclature for *Hippocampus* species ESCHMEYER & FRICKE (2011) differ in quite a number of species (see respective footnotes). If this is not acceptable ESCHMEYER & FRICKE (2011) could be suggested as nomenclatural standard reference for all fish species except for *Hippocampus* for which separate references will be mentioned.

New nomenclatural changes in CITES listed animal species identified since AC 24

9. Thanks to funds provided by the European Commission once again UNEP-WCMC has been able to provide a report on new species and other taxonomic changes with regard to the species listed in the EC wildlife trade regulations which include all CITES species. This report has been made available and is added to this document as Annex 1.

Nomenclatural tasks referred to the Animals Committee by CoP15

10. Nomenclatural tasks submitted to the AC by CoP15

Decision 15.62b)

"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." refers to continuous advisory activities of the nomenclature specialist and not a single time-limited one that will be finished with the next CoP.

At its 25th meeting the AC therefore already decided to recommend a respective amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.11 at the occasion of the next CoP. This task could easily be added after letter f) in the Recommendation section of Resolution Conf. 12.11.

⁶ Eschmeier, W.N. (1998): *Catalog of Fishes*. 3 vols. California Academy of Sciences.

⁷ Eschmeyer, W. N. & Fricke, R. (eds.) *Catalog of Fishes, electronic version (30 November 2011)*. <http://research.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>

Decision 15.63

requests the Animals and Plants Committee in a first step 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). This task been carried out by the nomenclature specialist with the help of ERIK VAN DER STRAETEN (Belgium) and PETER PAUL VAN DIJK (IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group), both of whom she is very grateful to for their assistance. The result is presented as Annex 5 to this document.

Decision 15.64 a)

requests the AC to identify existing coral reference materials that could be adopted as nomenclature standard references for CITES-listed corals. At its 25th meeting the AC agreed that the nomenclature specialist should take the lead in establishing an intersessional working group on corals to identify potential standard coral references and/or suggest ways on how such standard references could be developed. The nomenclature specialist had asked then for nominations of coral specialists. A small working group could be formed then consisting of Daphne FAUTIN from Canada, Bert HOEKSEMA from the Netherlands and the nomenclature specialist. It has turned out that due to the short time period between AC25 and AC 26 it has neither been possible to identify one or a set of publications that could serve as a basis for the nomenclature of the CITES listed corals nor to produce a new taxonomic checklist for these species. The latter would require more time than currently available as well as additional funds. Bert HOEKSEMA is currently trying to complete a new list of all scleractinian corals and hydrocorals (with synonyms) together with Steve CAIRNS which may be an option for future considerations. However, funds are lacking for publication in an open access journal.

It is therefore suggested to the Animals Committee at its 26th meeting to consider the following recommendation for CoP16:

to adopt the publications currently used by WCMC as reference for the CITES Species Database and the Checklist of CITES Species (see Annex 6) as interim nomenclature reference for CITES listed corals, and to ask the CITES Secretariat to publish a notification to seek funds to support either already ongoing or new activities to compile a taxonomic checklist for CITES listed coral species.

Harmonization of nomenclature with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements

This section has been prepared by the CITES Secretariat.

11. Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) on *Standard nomenclature* acknowledges the desirability of harmonizing, to the extent possible, the species nomenclature used by the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and directs the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees to promote such harmonization. This objective was supported by the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) at its 2nd meeting (Bonn, May 2008).
12. The Chairs of the CITES Animals Committee and the Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) jointly presented a [progress report](#) on this subject to the 4th meeting of the CSAB (Gland, February 2008).
13. The 17th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Bergen, November, 2011) reviewed [a report](#) of an intersessional working group the Council had established to consider the taxonomy and nomenclature of birds used by CMS. The intersessional working group proposed that CMS move to use Dickinson, E. C. (ed.) *The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World* as its principal reference for bird nomenclature. Such an approach would have aligned the two Conventions over this matter. Unfortunately, differences of view with some of the daughter agreements of CMS prevented this recommendation being carried forward by the CMS Scientific Council to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Bergen, November 2011). Instead, the Conference requested the Chair of the CMS Scientific Council to liaise with CSAB and others with the aim of evaluating the possible adoption of a single nomenclature and taxonomy for birds for adoption at CMS CoP11 in late 2014. The Secretariat expressed its disappointment at this delay.

14. Some of the daughter agreements of CMS advocated the use of BirdLife International's taxonomic checklist. The Secretariat commented at the CMS meetings that notwithstanding the excellent technical merits of this checklist, BirdLife's aim of updating it annually was likely to prove incompatible with the operational needs of CITES and CMS, where obligations under the Conventions need to be implemented through national legislation which cannot be changed with this regularity. Assigning responsibility for deciding nomenclature questions to a non-government organization may also raise governance questions from Parties.

Recommendations for work of the Nomenclature Working Group at AC 26

15. It is suggested

- to develop recommendations on all nomenclatural changes identified in this paper which the AC has not decided upon yet (see points 2, 7 to 9).

In addition specific recommendations need to be developed for:

- Decision 15.63
- Decision 15.64, paragraph a)