

Endangered Species Advisory Committee

Proposals at the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

Purpose

This paper reports on the proposals of the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), for members' information and comment.

Introduction

2. Parties to CITES meet every two to three years to review the listing of endangered species in its Appendices and discuss matters related to the implementation of the CITES. The CoP19 will be held in Panama City, Panama from 14 to 25 November 2022.

3. CoP19 will discuss on about 90 agenda items covering a wide range of topics, including financial, strategic and administrative matters, reports and recommendations from the CITES Committees, implementation of the Convention, enforcement matters, species trade and conservation issues, and 52 proposals to amend the CITES Appendices and the associated annotations. The listing proposal will be adopted by consensus or by vote with two-thirds majority of Parties present.

4. The proposals to amend CITES Appendices and annotations are summarised at Annex 1. The paragraphs below briefly described the listing proposals.

Listing Proposals on Fauna

5. There are 39 proposals on animals. Among the species of the proposals, the following species are traded in Hong Kong: hippopotamus, African elephants, white-rumped shama, estuarine crocodile, Siamese crocodile, Chinese water dragon, horned lizards, matamata turtles, map turtles, Indochinese box turtle, musk turtles, mud turtles, sharks, guitarfishes, zebra pleco, freshwater stingrays and sea cucumber.

6. International trade of the proposed Appendix II species, if adopted, will be scrutinized under licensing control. The proposed Appendix I species such as pygmy bluetongue lizard and zebra pleco, as well as uplisting of species such as hippopotamus and Indochinese box turtles from Appendix II to Appendix I, would have their international trade prohibited for primarily

commercial purposes, but the existing stock in market is still allowed for local trade under licensing control. As the current trade volume of other newly listed animal species is insignificant, the proposals are unlikely to have a significant impact on the trade in Hong Kong.

Listing Proposals on Flora

7. There are 13 proposals on plants, including listing of trumpet trees (*Handroanthus* spp., *Roseodendron* spp., *Tabebuia* spp.), stonecrops (*Rhodiola* spp.), Cumaru (*Dipteryx* spp.), pod mahoganies (*Afzelia* spp.), Padouk (*Pterocarpus* spp.) and African mahogany (*Khaya* spp.) in Appendix II. The Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) is proposed to be uplisted from Appendix II to I. There has been little or no trade record in Hong Kong for the species proposed to be listed in Appendix II or uplisted to Appendix I, the proposals are unlikely to have a significant impact on the trade in Hong Kong.

Way forward

8. The relevant trade will be consulted on the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices in October 2022. We would keep the relevant stakeholders informed with the results of the CoP19.

Advice sought

9. Members are invited to express their views and comments on the issues stated above.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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