

Endangered Species Advisory Committee

Proposals at the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

Purpose

This paper reports on the proposals from the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) 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 CITES. The CoP20 will be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 24 November to 5 December 2025.

3. CoP20 will discuss about 110 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 51 proposals to amend the CITES Appendices and the associated annotations. The listing proposal will be adopted by consensus or by a two-thirds majority vote of Parties present.

4. The proposals to amend CITES Appendices and annotations are summarised in the Annex. The paragraphs below briefly describe the listing proposals.

Listing Proposals on Fauna

5. There are 39 proposals on animals. Among the species covered by these proposals, the following species are traded in Hong Kong: saiga (*Saiga tatarica*), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), manta rays and devil rays (Mobulidae spp.), guitarfishes (*Glaucostegus* spp.), eels (*Anguilla* spp.), sea cucumbers (various *Actinopyga* spp. and *Holothuria lessoni*) and South African abalone (*Haliotis midae*) (dried specimen only).

6. International trade of the proposed Appendix II species such as eels and South African abalone, if adopted, will be subject to licensing control. The uplisting of species such as oceanic whitetip shark, manta rays and devil rays from Appendix II to Appendix I would prohibit their international trade for primarily commercial purposes, but existing stock in the market will still be allowed for local trade under licensing control. As regards other newly listed animal species, there have been little or no trade records in Hong Kong. The proposals are unlikely to have a significant impact on the trade in Hong Kong.

Listing Proposals on Flora

7. There are 12 proposals on plants, including listing Chilean palm (*Jubaea chilensis*) in Appendix I and Indian bdellium (*Commiphora wightii*) in Appendix II. Cycad spurge (*Euphorbia bupleurifolia*), Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) and *Avonia quinaria* are proposed to be uplisted from Appendix II to I, while Parlatores' podocarp (*Podocarpus parlatoresii*) is proposed to be downlisted from Appendix I to II. As there have been little or no trade records in Hong Kong for the species proposed to be listed or transferred to Appendix I or II, the proposals are unlikely to have a significant impact on the trade in Hong Kong. Also, the listing proposals include a relaxation of the existing control on American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) to facilitate the corresponding trade.

Way forward

8. The relevant trade sectors will be consulted on the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices in November 2025. We will keep the relevant stakeholders informed with the results of CoP20.

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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