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Guidelines for the Secretariat when making recommendations in accordance with Article XV

NOTING Article XV, paragraph 2 (b) and (c), of the Convention requiring the Secretariat to make recommendations to the Parties for amendments proposed for Appendices I and II;

RECOGNIZING problems encountered by the Secretariat in always obtaining sufficient data on which to base its recommendations;

RECOGNIZING also that data and information may be obtained from a wide variety of publications and sources;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

ESTABLISHES the following guidelines to be followed by the Secretariat when making recommendations in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 2 (b) and (c), of the Convention:

- a) where appropriate, references shall be cited in the text of recommendations so that specific data can be traced to a source;
- b) citations shall be given in accordance with a recognized scientific standard for such citations;
- c) data in unpublished form may be used and referred to provided the source is indicated. If the information is classified as confidential, the fact must be stated;
- d) if the proposal includes an annotation, the recommendations should specifically cover:
 - i) the appropriateness of the proposed annotation with regard to those specimens that dominate the trade and the demand for the wild resource;
 - ii) any potential problems in implementing the proposed annotation; and
 - iii) whether the proposed annotation is harmonized with existing annotations;
- e) if the species has been listed previously or proposed for listing or delisting, a brief history of such listing or proposals and their treatment under CITES may be included in the recommendations;
- f) if applicable, reference should be made to any existing Resolutions affecting the proposal or to any draft resolutions that have been tabled and await consideration by the Parties;
- g) additional biological and/or trade data may be requested from the proposing and/or range States or from any other source to confirm or dispute other available data; and
- h) as far as possible, the Secretariat recommendations should be based on as wide a range of information as it can obtain recognizing that such information should not be limited to scientific data; and

URGES the Secretariat to continue to endeavour to provide recommendations with the main objective of furthering the principles and effective implementation of the Convention.

* Amended at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.