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

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

# AMPHIBIAN NOMENCLATURE

## Identification Guide for Latin American tree frogs (*Agalychnis*)

1. This information document has been submitted by Mexico in relation to agenda item 20[*].

2. The fifteen meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15; Doha, 2010), adopted by consensus the joint proposal from Honduras and Mexico (CoP15 Prop. 13) to include the genus *Agalychnis* in Appendix II, as follows:

   – *Agalychnis callidryas* and *A. moreletii*, in compliance with Article II, paragraph 2 a) of the text of the Convention, and Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) Annex 2a, paragraph B; and,

   – *A. annae, A. saltator* and *A. spurrelli*, in compliance with Article II, paragraph 2 b) of the text of the Convention, and Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), Annex 2 b paragraph A.

3. The nomenclatural references supporting the proposal consisted of a combination of the Frost online database (Amphibian Species of the World, ver. 5.3, 2009) and the taxonomy of Faivovich *et al.* (2005). In November 2010, the Animals Committee's nomenclature specialist contacted the Mexican Scientific Authority informing that the taxonomy of the amphibians had changed in the online version of database of Frost (ver. 5.4, 2010); resulting in the addition of 9 species to the genus *Agalychnis*, which should not be subject to the provisions of CITES.

4. To address this inconsistency, following the agreements of the Working group on "Nomenclatural Matters" (AC25 WG8) the Animals Committee during its 25th meeting (AC25; Geneva, 2011), pursuant to Resolution Conf 12.11 (Rev. CoP15) on "Standard nomenclature.", agreed to add a footnote to the Appendices, specifying the 5 species of *Agalychnis* currently included in the Appendices. Accordingly, the Secretariat updated the Appendices and sent the Notification to the Parties 2011/042 ("Species of the genus *Agalychnis* in the CITES Appendices").

5. In order to improve the implementation of CITES, and in support of Parties' Law Enforcement Authorities, the Scientific Authority of Mexico, in collaboration with national experts, developed the "Identification Guide for Latin American Tree Frogs (*Agalychnis*) Protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)." (Annex 1). The guide is based on a dichotomous system that will allow differentiating between *Agalychnis* species whose trade is subject to CITES provisions, focused on the identification of morphological characters. Thus, the design of the guide allows its proper use even by non-specialists.

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[*] *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.*

6. The guide has the support of the North American region, and as part of the outreach activities of the CITES table of the Trilateral Committee Canada-Mexico-United States for the Conservation and Management of Wildlife and Ecosystems, Canada translated it to English and French (Annex 2 and 3 respectively). Currently the guide is available in three languages on the next website: http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/cites/guiaRanas.html

7. The Mexican Scientific Authority thanks the following experts and institutions that collaborated in the development of the Guide:

   Marlene García Gines, Crysia Marina Rivero Hernández and Rodrigo Medellín Legorreta (*Instituto de Ecología*, UNAM); Oscar Flores Villela and Georgina Santos Barrera (*Museo de Zoología de la Facultad de Ciencias*, UNAM); Carlos Galindo Leal, Roberto Arreola Alemón and Bernardo Terroba Arechavala (CONABIO); Ute Grimm (Nomenclature Specialist of the Animals Committee), Véronique Brondex and Gina Schalk (Environment Canada); *Dirección General de Vida Silvestre* (SEMARNAT); *Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente* (PROFEPA); U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; and, Environment Canada.

8. Additionally, in compliance with Resolution Conf 11.19 (ID Manual), the Mexican Scientific Authority is working on the development of data sheets for each of the species to be included in the online version of the CITES Identification Manual (Wiki version).

**References**

Faivovich, J., C. F. B. Haddad, P. C. d. A. Garcia, D. R. Frost, J. A. Campbell, and W. C. Wheeler . 2005. Systematic review of the frog family Hylidae, with special reference to Hylinae: a phylogenetic analysis and taxonomic revision. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. 294: 1-240

Faivovich, J., Haddad, C.F.B., Baêta, D., Jungfer, K.H., Álvares, G.F.R., Brandão, R.A., Sheil, C., Barrientos, L.S., Barrio-Amorós, C.L., Cruz, C.A.G. y W.C. Wheeler. 2010. The phylogenetic relationships of the charismatic poster frogs, Phyllomedusinae (Anura, Hylidae). Cladistics. 26(3):227-261.

Frost, Darrel R. 2011. Amphibian Species of the World: an Online Reference. Version 5.5 (31 January, 2011). Electronic Database accessible at http://research.amnh.org/vz/herpetology/amphibia/ American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA