

# CoP18

## Documentation Center for Species Protection ( D.C.S.P. )

Recommendations on the Proposals for the  
18th Conference of the Parties in Colombo  
(Sri Lanka)

23. May - 3. June 2019

**D**OCUMENTATION **C**ENTER FOR **S**PECIES **P**ROTECTION

CENTRE DE DOCUMENTATION POUR LA PROTECTION DES ESPECES

CENTRO DE DOCUMENTATION PARA LA PROTECCION DE ESPECIES

Wielandgasse 44

A-8010 Graz

TEL.: (0316) 82 21 24

FAX: (0316) 81 21 24

MAIL: [office@dcsp.org](mailto:office@dcsp.org)

**www.dcsp.org**

MAMALIA

Artiodactyla

Boviae

**Proposal 18.2 by Mongolia and the USA**

*Saiga tatarica*



**Saiga-Antelope**

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

Saiga-Antelopes move in large herds through the open steppes of Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Russia. After inclusion in Appendix II at the CoP9 in 1994 its population recovered thanks to effective protective efforts. However, over the past ten years, the populations again declined at an alarming rate. Many individuals fell victim to hoof and mouth disease. Their high reproductive rate would have allowed them to recover in the past. However, currently they are succumbing to additional pressure associated with poaching. Since only the males bear horns they form the main target for poachers who supply horns for Asian medicine. The resulting change in the natural proportions of male to female animals leads to a population collapse. All range states have national laws which ban the hunt for Saiga-Antelopes. A transfer to Appendix I would provide urgent international support for their protection.

The IUCN lists the Saiga-Antelope as critically endangered.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

# ARTIODACTYLA

## Camelidae

### **Proposal 18.3 by Argentina**

#### Vicugna vicugna



#### *Vicuña*

Transfer the population from the province Salta (Argentina) from Appendix I to Appendix II with reference to Annotation 1

Wording of Annotation 1 according to Regulation Nr. 1320/2014 by the European commission from 1 December 2014:

For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade of wool sheared from live vicuñas of the population listed in Appendix II, cloth, cloth products and handcrafted items. The reverse side of the cloth must bear the logo adopted by the range states as well as the words "VICUÑA – ARGENTINA". The range states have agreed to the protection and conservation of the vicuñas. Other products have to bear the logo and the mark „VICUÑA-ARGENTINA-ARTESANÍA“. All other items are to be viewed as items of species from Appendix I and their trade is to be regulated accordingly.

According to the current listing, the population of the province Salta (Argentina) is listed in Appendix I. In Salta semi-wild populations may be marketed in accordance with the above annotation. In contrast, the Argentinian populations of the vicuña in the bordering provinces Jujuy and Catamarca (as well as in provinces of other countries of origin) are already listed in Appendix II. Such split-listing of individual populations within a country (which is really a single population, divided only by political administrative units) is historical but is inappropriate in the long run. This is especially true considering the success of both the protective measures of CITES and sustainable management

efforts. The population continues to grow, especially within the last five years. The vicuña population in the province Salta measures nearly 60,000 individuals. For comparison: in 1965 the entire vicuña population of the central Andes was estimated at 6,500 animals.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

### **Proposal 18.4 by Chile**

Vicugna vicugna



### *Vicuña*

Amend the name of the population of Chile from “population of the Primera Región” to “populations of the region of Tarapacá and of the region of Arica and Parinacota”

The proposal pertains solely to correcting the name of the region where sustainable use and strictly regulated trade of products from the Chilean vicuña population is permitted. The correction implies an adaptation of the original definition of a „Primera Región Tarapacá“ to currently valid political administrative regions (Tarapacá, Arica and Parinacota).

The modification has no relevant impact on the vicuña populations in Chile. It does however simplify procedures for the national administration and enforcement authorities. It is noteworthy that the vicuña populations of the central Andes recovered greatly after their drastic decline lasting until the 1970s and their recovery continues. Vicuñas represent a positive example of how sustainable use can be established under the protective cloak of CITES.

## DCSP recommends: Support

---

MAMMALIA

Cetartiodactyla

Giraffidae

### **Proposal 18.5 by Chad, Senegal, Niger, Mali and Kenia**

*Giraffa Camelopardalis*



## Giraffe

Inclusion in Appendix II

The intent of this proposal is to include all known subspecies of giraffes in Appendix II. The main threat certainly lies in habitat loss and bush meat poaching. But trade in products derived from the skin, tail and bones adds further strain to the tallest extant terrestrial mammal. Inclusion in Appendix II would provide a control mechanism and enable data gathering on international trade. According to the IUCN the nine subspecies vary in their level of endangerment. *G. c. camelopardalis* and *G. c. antiquorum* are listed as critically endangered. Three further subspecies are listed as endangered. Because of low reproductive rates the population numbers can decrease dramatically within a short period of time.

## DCSP recommends: Support

---

PERISSODACTYLA

Rhinocerotidae

### **Proposal 18.8 by Eswatini**

*Ceratotherium simum simum*



### Southern white rhinoceros

Delete the annotation for Eswatini (Swaziland)

The entire family Rhinocerotidae, except for the populations in South Africa and Swaziland, is currently listed in Appendix I of CITES. (Exemptions for trade with live animals and hunting trophies for South Africa and Swaziland exist, the latter having a zero export quota). Now Eswatini wants to export its 330 kg stock of confiscated horn. The corresponding proposal was submitted at the CoP17.

In the 20th century, the southern white rhinoceros was brought to extinction in Eswatini. However, a subsequent reintroduction program starting in 1965 was successful. After intermittent setbacks through poaching, presently 66 (!) animals again exist in three protected areas in Eswatini. The proposal submitted at the last conference was based on an actual population of 73 (2015). Therefore further decline continues. For more than 5 years the legal and illegal removal of animals from the wild exceeds the natural growth rate of this subspecies. These animals had been able to recover over the preceding ten years regionally in southern Africa because of its listing in Appendix I. Poaching occurs primarily through internationally coordinated, mafia-like Southeast Asian organizations. Thus, the total population of the southern white rhinoceros is once again in decline. Numerous proposals in favor of ivory trade at previous CoPs showed that easing of trade restrictions directly led to a considerable increase in poaching and smuggling. One can only urgently advise

Eswatini not to finance preservation of its 66 animals through the sale of confiscated horns. Otherwise, soon there will not be any rhinos to preserve.

## **DCSP recommends: Oppose**

---

### **Proposal 18.9 by Namibia**

#### *Ceratotherium simum simum*



### **Southern White Rhinoceros**

Transfer Namibia's population from Appendix I to Appendix II with the following annotation:

"For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in:

- a. live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations; and
- b. hunting trophies.

All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly."

With the exception of populations from South Africa and Eswatini (Swaziland), the subspecies is listed in Appendix I. In recent years the populations of the Southern White Rhinoceros in these two countries is once again declining due to the continued increase in professionally organized poaching. Apparently Namibia wants to continue this undesirable development, because although Namibia's successful conservation efforts are to be applauded, a downgrade in the conservation status would lead to further population decline through poaching and illegal trade. Over the last decades, southern African countries were able to bring about a positive trend reversal in their rhinoceros populations. Nevertheless, they lack control over the increasing poaching and the illegal export. As a result, the rhinoceros populations in these countries are declining once again.

## DCSP recommends: Oppose

---

### **Proposal 18.10 by Zambia**

#### *Loxodonta africana*



### African Elephant

Transfer the populations from Zambia from Appendix I to Appendix II with the following annotations:

- a. Trade in registered raw ivory (tusks and pieces) for commercial purposes only to CITES approved trading partners who will not re-export.
- b. Trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes;
- c. Trade in hides and leather goods.
- d. All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly

Detailed information regarding the situation of the African elephant and trade relevance can be taken from the proposals above. Over the past decades experience has taught that merely proposing to downgrade the protective status of the African elephant leads to increased poaching, expanded smuggling and a reduction in worldwide populations. Additionally, a transfer to Appendix II contradicts several criteria of CITES.

Supporting this proposal would be proof that CITES and its member states have not learned from experience and are not interested in the African elephants' survival.

## DCSP recommends: Oppose

---

### **Proposal 18.11 by Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe**

#### *Loxodonta africana*



### African elephant

Changes to the following annotations:

“For the exclusive purpose of allowing:

- a. trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes
- b. trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations, as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17), for Botswana and Zimbabwe and for in situ conservation programmes for Namibia and South Africa;
- c. trade in hides;
- d. trade in hair;
- e. trade in leather goods for commercial or non-commercial purposes for Botswana, Namibia and South Africa and for non-commercial purposes for Zimbabwe;
- f. trade in individually marked and certified ekipas incorporated in finished jewellery for non-commercial purposes for Namibia and ivory carvings for non-commercial purposes for Zimbabwe;
- g. trade in registered raw ivory (for Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, whole tusks and pieces) subject to the following:
  - i. only registered government-owned stocks, originating in the State (excluding seized ivory and ivory of unknown origin);
  - ii. only to trading partners that have been verified by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to have sufficient national legislation and domestic trade controls to ensure that the imported ivory will not be re-exported and will be managed in accordance with all requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) concerning domestic manufacturing and trade;

iii. not before the Secretariat has verified the prospective importing countries and the registered government-owned stocks;

iv. raw ivory pursuant to the conditional sale of registered government-owned ivory stocks agreed at CoP12, which are 20,000 kg (Botswana), 10,000 kg (Namibia) and 30,000 kg (South Africa);

v. in addition to the quantities agreed at CoP12, government-owned ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe registered by 31 January 2007 and verified by the Secretariat may be traded and despatched, with the ivory in paragraph (g) iv) above, in a single sale per destination under strict supervision of the Secretariat;

vi. the proceeds of the trade are used exclusively for elephant conservation and community conservation and development programmes within or adjacent to the elephant range; and

vii. the additional quantities specified in paragraph g) v) above shall be traded only after the Standing Committee has agreed that the above conditions have been met; and

h. no further proposals to allow trade in elephant ivory from populations already in Appendix II shall be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for the period from CoP14 and ending nine years from the date of the single sale of ivory that is to take place in accordance with provisions in paragraphs g) i), g) ii), g) iii), g) vi) and g) vii). In addition such further proposals shall be dealt with in accordance with Decisions 16.55 and 14.78 (Rev. CoP16).

On a proposal from the Secretariat, the Standing Committee can decide to cause this trade to cease partially or completely in the event of non-compliance by exporting or importing countries, or in the case of proven detrimental impacts of the trade on other elephant populations.

All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly.”

The proposal aims primarily for a deletion of annotations that were decided at COP 12 but which are no longer relevant. The annotations pertain to controlled one-time trade of confiscated ivory. These particular deletions are irrelevant to CITES policy, however other annotations, which will be effective in the future, would be eliminated also. This would make further exports of confiscated ivory possible.

During an eight-day marathon session at COP 14 in 2007 a joint African proposal was worked out and all previous proposals cancelled. The joint proposal included a 9 year moratorium followed by a single shipment to Japan of ivory stock registered up to that date. The resolution was accepted with great relief. For the first time a pan-African compromise was found. This should put an end to the constant “elephant-circus” at all conferences for a certain period of time. Proposals such as the current one will start this “circus” all over again.

The proposal would be somewhat reasonable if the situation of the African elephant in southern Africa had improved. This is not at all the case. Professionally organized poaching continues to reduce Africa’s elephant population. Maintaining stock in some national parks and a decent population in Botswana do not justify trade facilitation.

Decades-long experience has shown that merely proposing trade facilitation leads to increased poaching and smuggling as well as a reduction in worldwide populations.

## **DCSP recommends: Oppose**

---

**Proposal 18.12 by Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Togo**

*Loxodonta africana*



## African Elephant

Transfer of the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I

As expected, several central African states submitted a counterproposal to the proposal from southern African states for the protection of the African elephant. This has also happened at several previous conferences. However, this time it is justified. Events during recent decades have proven that southern African states are not capable of guaranteeing long-term survival of this species. Annually more than 20,000 elephants are poached in Africa, with a definite increase in recent years. Based on experience, the two proposals by the southern African states, will result in a substantial increase in poaching in 2019. The total population of the African elephant is declining in all countries of origin despite a listing in Appendix I.

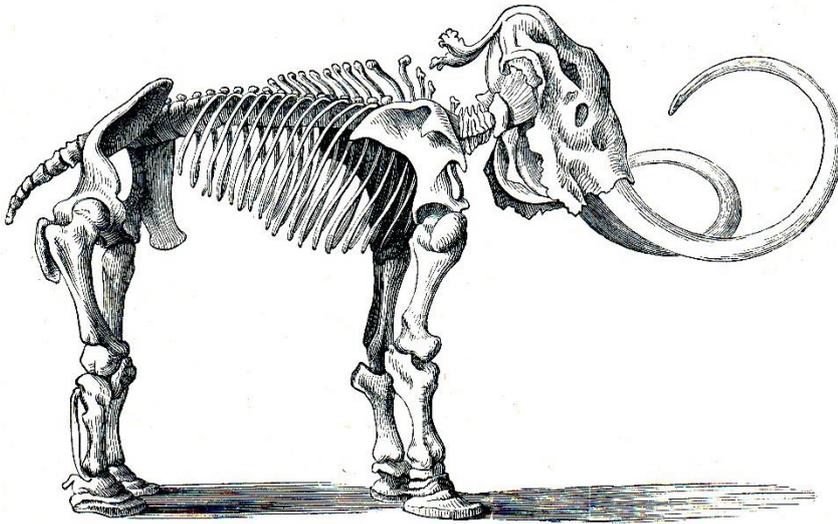
This strife and tragedy can only be put to end by listing all populations in Appendix I and by stopping all ivory trade (and other elephant products). Year-long critiques led the Chinese government to shut down all ivory stores and carving factories by the end of 2017. This is a deceptive ray of hope because now poaching and illegal trade is taken over largely by south Asian countries.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

## **Proposal 18.13 by Israel and Kenia**

### *Mammuthus primigenius*



## Woolly-Mammoth

Inclusion in Appendix II

The proposal for trade restrictions of body parts from extinct animal species is well intentioned and has contentual meaning. However, CITES regulates trade in endangered species, not extinct species, fossils or other relicts from the past. Relics from the woolly mammoth are not easily confused with ivory from extant elephant species. Thus it is urgently recommended that the offices of CITES in general oppose proposals that do not pertain to its sphere of activity and to concentrate on its actual purpose. After all the Convention is not responsible for dinosaurs, plant fossils (brown coal?) and algal limestone. According to the listing criteria all fossil relicts would have to be listed in Appendix I, because population trends of affected species approached zero at least 10,000 years ago. This would lead CITES ad absurdum.

More importantly it is recommended that the countries of origin (in this case primarily Russia and other states of the former Soviet Union) focus more attention on their cultural heritage and its abuse. This includes paleontological and archeological finds.

**DCSP recommends: Oppose**

---

MAMMALIA

Rodentia

Muridae

**Proposal 18.14 by Australia**

*Leporillus conditor*



**Greater Stick-nest Rat**

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The Greater Stick-nest Rat is endemic to Australia. Adult animals reach up to 26 cm in length. They live in extended families for several generations in their impressive, communal-built nests constructed from small branches. The species is considered extinct on the Australian mainland, however about 3000 animals exist on the Franklin islands and on other south west Australian islands with perennial thorny shrublands.

There is no evidence of trade and national laws are providing protection for these animals.

This proposal is based on the periodic review of the appendices by the Animals Committee and should be supported.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

MAMMALIA

Rodentia

Muridae

**Proposal 18.15 by Australia**

## *Pseudomys fieldi*



### Shark-Bay Mouse

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The Shark-Bay mouse is endemic to Australia. It only lives on a few islands in the Shark-Bay region where there are no predators. There exists no trade of these animals and the species is protected by national laws.

This proposal was submitted within the framework of a periodic review of the appendices by the Animals Committee and should be supported.

### **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

MAMMALIA

Rodentia

Muridae

### **Proposal 18.16 by Australia**

*Xeromys myoides*



## False Water-Rat

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The False Water Rat is native to northern Australia and Papua New Guinea and is exclusively a nocturnal animal. Its primary habitat is mangrove forests and coastal fresh water swamps. Habitat loss and pollution as well as non-native predators comprise the main threats to their populations.

There is no evidence of trade and national laws are providing protection for these animals.

This proposal is based on the periodic review of the appendices by the Animals Committee and should be supported.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

MAMMALIA

Rodentia

Muridae

**Proposal 18.17 by Australia**

*Zyzomys pedunculatus*



## Thick-tailed Rock Rat

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The nocturnal Thick-tailed Rock Rat is endemic to Australia. Currently their population is estimated to comprise a mere 800 – 1000 individuals. In the past their habitat was more expansive but widespread wildfires and feral cats continue to decimate the population.

These animals are considered endangered but there is no evidence of trade and national laws are providing protection.

This proposal is based on the periodic review of the appendices by the Animals Committee and should be supported.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

AVES

Galliformes

Phasianidae

**Proposal 18.18 by China**

*Syrmaticus reevesii*



## Reeves' Pheasant

Inclusion in Appendix II

Reeves' Pheasants are originally endemic to mountain forests in central China. Today three populations with a total estimated size of 3,500 to 15,000 animals remain. However, these numbers are declining. There is high demand for the magnificent tail feathers of male specimens. These feathers can reach 2 meters in length and are in fashion as interior decorating objects. In the USA and Europe Reeves' Pheasants are released to sport hunting enthusiasts. In the Czech Republic and France small wild breeding populations exist. Captive breeding programs are very successful within and outside China. Within China, Reeves Pheasants are protected by national laws. China submitted this proposal to improve tracking the origins of traded feathers. In the context of sustainable use this proposal should be supported.

**DCSP recommends: Approves**

---

AVES

Gruiformes

Guidae

**Proposal 18.19 by Senegal and Burkina Faso**

*Balearica pavonina*



## Black crowned Crane

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The entire family Gruidae has been listed in Appendix II since CoP5. Sadly, the situation for cranes has not improved since then. Increased periods of drought and the subsequent loss of wetlands, which provide the natural habitat for the black crowned cranes, puts a growing strain on these beautiful birds. The main threat, however, lies within trade. Eggs as well as young animals are taken from nature, raised in captivity and then legally or illegally sold to bird lovers everywhere. These animals are highly sought after because of their spectacular beauty and draw high prices at local and international markets. Their life expectancy in captivity is very low and offspring rarely survive. The population in Mali is particularly threatened by extinction. The black crowned crane is the national bird of Nigeria, where it exists in barely viable remaining populations.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

AVES

Passeriformes

Dasyornithidae

**Proposal 18.20 by Australia**

*Dasyornis broadbenti litoralis*



## Western Rufous Bristlebird

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The last sighting of the Western Rufous Bristlebird occurred in 1906. The species is considered extinct.

This proposal is based on the periodic review of the appendices by the Animals Committee and should be supported.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

AVES

Passeriformes

Dasyornithidae

**Proposal 18.21 by Australia**

*Dasyornis longirostris*



## Western Bristlebird

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The Western Bristlebird is endemic to Australia. Nearly the entire population of these basically flightless birds is located within protected coastal habitats in southwestern Australia.

There is no evidence of trade and national laws are providing protection.

This proposal is based on the periodic review of the appendices by the Animals Committee and should be supported.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

### CROCODYLIA

#### Crocodylidae

### **Proposal 18.22 by Mexico**

#### *Crocodylus acutus*



## American crocodile

Transfer the Mexican population from Appendix I to Appendix II

Although the American crocodile has widespread distribution across 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> in Mexico, its population density is low. Since its listing in Appendix I the populations have clearly recovered. This recovery of the Mexican population took place over 30 years and must not belie the substantial losses incurred within the past 10 years. In 2017 the species could no longer be found in 30 % of the areas where in 2008 a nation-wide survey had shown populations. A transfer of crocodile species listed in Appendix I is warranted if a proper ranching program is established. Other countries provide plenty of perfect examples on how sustainable practices can be built through ranching. This is not the case in Mexico. One can only support this proposal once Mexico provides solid data for its sustainable ranching program. Let us remember that Columbia's proposal at the CoP 16 was not supported because its ranching program was only in its early stages.

**DCSP recommends: Oppose**

---

### **Proposal 18.23 by Sri Lanka**

*Calotes nigrilabris, Calotes pethiyagodai*



## Black-lipped lizard

## Crestless lizard

### Inclusion in Appendix I

Both species are endemic to Sri Lanka and their habitat is extremely small. *C. nigrilabris* as well as *C. pethygodai* are endangered and meet all criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Both species are regularly found at illegal international reptile markets, especially in the EU and the USA. All trade is illegal and the price is about \$ 1,000 per pair. Some unscrupulous people finance their Sri Lankan vacation by illegally removing these animals from the wild. Both species are sold as „bred-in-captivity“, although such breeding programs do not exist. It is high time to place these beautiful specimens under the protection of CITES through inclusion in Appendix I, otherwise they risk extinction.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

## **Proposal 18.24 by Sri Lanka**

*Ceratophora spp.*



## Horned agamid lizards

Inclusion in Appendix I

Five species of the genus *Ceratophora* have been described so far. Three of these species are critically endangered and two are endangered. All removal from nature is carried out illegally. Captive breeding efforts for two species are insignificant. These lizards fall victim to yet another blatant case of “plundering-tourism”, the illegal removal from the wild by unscrupulous tourists who use the proceeds to finance their vacation. A pair costs up to 2.500 €. These criminals must be fined and stopped. All five species meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Please support this proposal unconditionally.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

### **Proposal 18.26 by Sri Lanka**

*Lyriocephalus scutatus*



## Hump Snout Lizard

Inclusion in Appendix I

The Hump Snout Lizard is endemic to Sri Lanka and the only representative within its genus. This species is one of the most coveted lizards at illegal pet markets. In the USA a pair sells for € 5,000. Oftentimes these large and charismatic animals are labeled as captivity-bred, which is absolutely false. Very few captive breeding efforts are mentioned in reputable publications; all animals offered for trade are illegally removed from the wild. Unscrupulous criminals finance their Sri Lankan vacation through smuggling. Massive habitat loss as well as abundant predators further add to the Hump Snout Lizards' demise. This species meets all requirements for inclusion in Appendix I and should therefore be listed without delay.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

SAURIA

Iguanidae

**Proposal 18.31 by El Salvador and Mexico**

*Ctenosaura spp.*



## Spiny-tailed iguana

Inclusion of the entire genus in Appendix II

Appendix II already lists 4 species of the spiny-tailed iguana (*C. bakeri*, *C. melanosterna*, *C. oedirhina*, *C. palearis*). The largest species, *C. similis* (up to 1,30 m in length) is widely distributed and regionally abundant. However, entire populations of eight other species are estimated to be below 2,500 and two other species are estimated to be below 5,000 animals. The relevance in terms of trade is enormous. Thousands of animals are traded every year for two different reasons. Firstly, in central America animals as well as eggs are traded for human consumption, largely illegally. Secondly, some of these attractive species are of interest for terraristics, especially smaller species such as *C. quinquecarinata* (five-keel spiny-tailed iguana), *C. palearis* (Guatemalan spiny-tailed iguana; endemite, Appendix II). Larger species such as *C. pectinata* (Mexican spiny-tailed iguana; endemite) and *C. similis* (black spiny-tailed iguana) are also sought worldwide. They can obtain prices up to € 2.500,- . There is no knowledge of the conservation status regarding some species.

Even though not all species are highly endangered it is appropriate to include the entire genus in Appendix II. On one hand, this would greatly ease enforcement efforts by customs authorities. While on the other hand, this would encourage sustainable breeding programs for human consumption. After all, these species can easily be farmed in their countries of origin.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

REPTILIA

Viperidae

**Proposal 18.32 by Iran**

*Pseodocerastes uroarachnoides*



## Spider-tailed Horned Viper

Inclusion in Appendix II

In 2006, a new species of snake was described in Iran that possesses a unique feature coupled with a behavior never before observed in snakes. The end of its tail exhibits lateral extensions and terminates in a bulb-like structure. A dancing movement of the tail simulates a deceptively real looking spider used to bait birds, the snakes' main prey. This discovery garnered much interest within professional circles and with keepers of terrarium animals. "Fortunately", the snakes' habitat is near Iraq's war zones, stifling a first assault on the species.

The spider-tailed horned viper is only endemic to the west Iranian Zagros mountains. The currently known habitat has a diameter of 1,500 km. Additional habitats are suspected to be in Kurdistan but because of the political situation there they have not yet been explored. The viper is considered endangered in Iran and up until now only a low population density has been verified. Currently little is known about its biology and population size. Iranian law prohibits legal trade. Some specimens for terraristics have been smuggled out of the country. The geopolitical situation has hindered the development of noteworthy trade.

If there is no information regarding an increase in the illegal trade presented at the conference, DCSP recommends opposing this proposal. Every year lists of hundreds of species with potential trade relevance are updated. Including all these species in Appendix II as a precaution would overload the enforcement authority and policy of CITES. Inclusion in rare cases such as extreme-endemites, which could be rapidly decimated because of easy access to their habitats or through their biology, would be appropriate however.

It is a sad fact, but currently this species is protected by the nearby war zones and by terrorist threats. This offers Iranian scientists a window of time to research the species and its actual population size more closely.

**DCSP recommends: Oppose**

---

## REPTILIA

### Testudines

### Geoemydidae

### **Proposal 18.33 by Vietnam**

### *Cuora bourreti*



### Bourret's Box Turtle

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

Bourret's Box Turtle is endemic only to Vietnam and Laos. Its habitat is dense evergreen deciduous forests between 300 to 1,700 meters above sea level. Their main threats are pet and zoo trade and a further threat is local consumption. No precise population numbers are available but local collectors report that they currently find a few animals per week. In contrast, fifteen years ago they were able to collect 20 specimens per day. Both countries of origin protect these species through national laws, which are unfortunately insufficiently executed. *C. bourreti's* situation is similar to *C.picturata*. The IUCN lists *C. bourreti* as critically endangered.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

## REPTILIA

### Testudines

### Geoemydidae

### **Proposal 18.34 by Vietnam**

### *Cuora picturata*



### Southern Vietnam Box Turtle

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The Southern Vietnam Box Turtle is endemic to Vietnam and lives in evergreen mixed woods between 350 to 560 meters above sea level. Their 19 cm carapace length and one kg weight places them among midsize turtles. The local population uses specifically trained hunting dogs to collect these turtles and sell them to intermediaries. Juvenile and adult specimens are taken from nature to be sold at international reptile markets, where females fetch prices up to US\$ 4,000. This turtle species was only recently discovered in the 1990s at local and national food markets. For a long time scientists did not know their natural habitat. Only about 15 years later were these animals found on the eastern slopes of the Langbian plateau. Now the IUCN already lists *C. picturata* as critically endangered.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

## REPTILIA

Testudines

Testudinidae

### **Proposal 18.36 by India and Sri Lanka**

*Geochelone elegans*



### Indian Star Tortoise

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The Indian Star Tortoise is endemic to parts of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These three countries provide restrictive laws for the protection of these animals, yet illegal trade cannot be stopped. Their striking patterns make these reptiles particularly interesting to the pet trade worldwide where they fetch high prices. Survival in captivity is typically short and there are no noteworthy successful captive breeding efforts. Statistics show that some of the major exporters are based in Asia and Europe where there are no range states. Animals traded legally thus far probably came from questionable sources. There is little reliable data on actual population size. The estimated population decline of 30 % seems too low based on biological characteristics and available legal trade figures. For years the EU has listed the entire family in Appendix A.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

## AMPHIBIA

### Centrolenidae

### **Proposal 18.38 by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Peru**

*Hyalinobatrachium* spp., *Centrolene* spp., *Cochranella* spp. and *Sachatamia* spp.



## Glass frogs

Inclusion in Appendix II

Currently glass frogs are divided into 12 genera and about 150 species, although new species are continually described or genera subdivided or renamed. The habitat includes rain forests and other wetlands in tropical and subtropical Latin America. The proposal affects 104 currently described

species. A high number of endemic species is typical for neotropical rain forests. Of the affected genera four species are listed as critically endangered and 28 additional species are listed in various degrees of endangerment.

In recent decades nearly 70% of rain forests have been lost or were severely damaged through agricultural or silvicultural activities. Global climate change further intensifies this situation.

Therein lies the main threat to these species. Numerous glass frog species are also exported for terraristics, the only use for these small secretive animals. Official data document an annual trade of several hundred individuals per species for a market price of 40 to 200 €. The U.S. imports 100 to 200 specimens (encompassing several species) annually. Illegal trade also exists. Popular terrarium animals like *Hyalinobatrachus valeroi* are regularly bred in captivity. And therefore this market demand bears no relation to their distribution and population size compared to the actual threat, the destruction of rain forests.

## **DCSP recommends: Oppose**

---

### AMPHIBIA

#### Caudata

#### Salamandridae

### **Proposal 18.39 by China**

*Echinotriton chinhaiensis* and

*Echinotriton maxiquadratus*



Chinhai Spiny Newt and

Mountain Spiny Newt

## Inclusion in Appendix II

*Echinotriton chinhaiensis* is endemic to the uplands of the southern Chinese province Zhejiang. *Echinotriton maxiquadratus* was discovered in the mountain regions of the northeastern Chinese province Guangdong in 2013. Both species occupy very small habitats, have fragmented populations, a low reproductive rate, and a high mortality rate prior to reaching sexual maturity at about 3 years. The animals may live up to 20 years. A program exists for *E. chinhaiensis* which allows for harvesting eggs from the wild, raising the hatchlings and returning them to the wild after their metamorphoses. China has very strict protective measures in place for these newts and invests heavily in educating locals about species conservation. There exists no legal trade, nonetheless both species are available on the Internet at times for horrendous sums of money. Both species meet the criterias for inclusion in Appendix II.

## DCSP recommends: Support

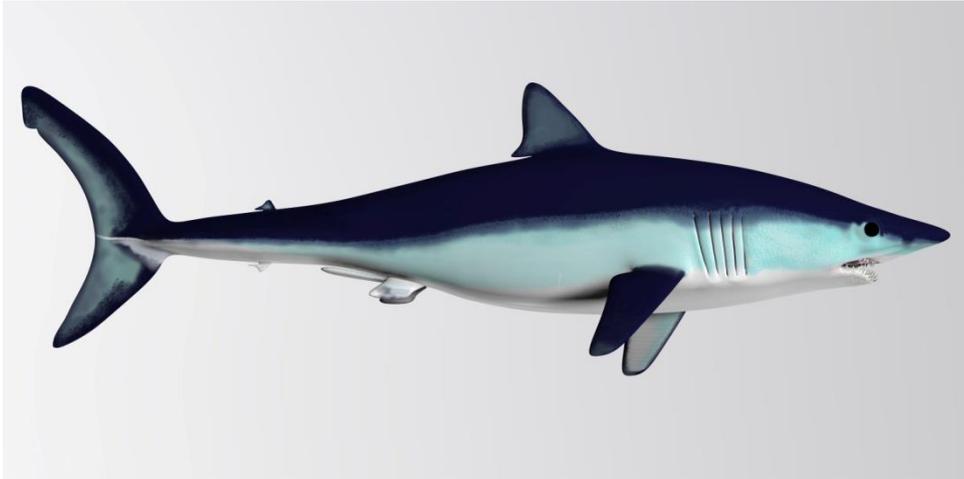
---

### ELASMOBRANCHII

#### Lamnidae

**Proposal 18.42 by Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, European Union, Gabon, Gambia, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Palau, Samoa, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Togo**

*Isurus oxyrinchus and Isurus paucus*



## Shortfin-Mako and Longfin-Mako

Inclusion in Appendix II

Mexico's proposal for two species of mackerel sharks pertains to species distributed in tropical and subtropical oceans worldwide. The two species of Mako sharks grow up to 4 m in length, have a low reproductive rate, live in coastal waters and are easily confused. By now both species have largely gone extinct in the Mediterranean. Over the past 10 years North-Atlantic populations have declined by 60% and Indo-Pacific populations by 40%. Population development in additional marine zones, such as the South Atlantic, are unknown because of insufficient population surveys and a lack of trade volume documentation. Annually more than 40,000 tons (!) of meat and fins of both Mako species are traded internationally. It has been observed with many species in general, that protection leads to increased pressure to find alternative products. Additional threats are environmental damage to coastal areas and bycatch with trawl net fishing. It is high time to regulate the increase of Mako overfishing through inclusion in Appendix II of CITES.

## DCSP recommends: Support

---

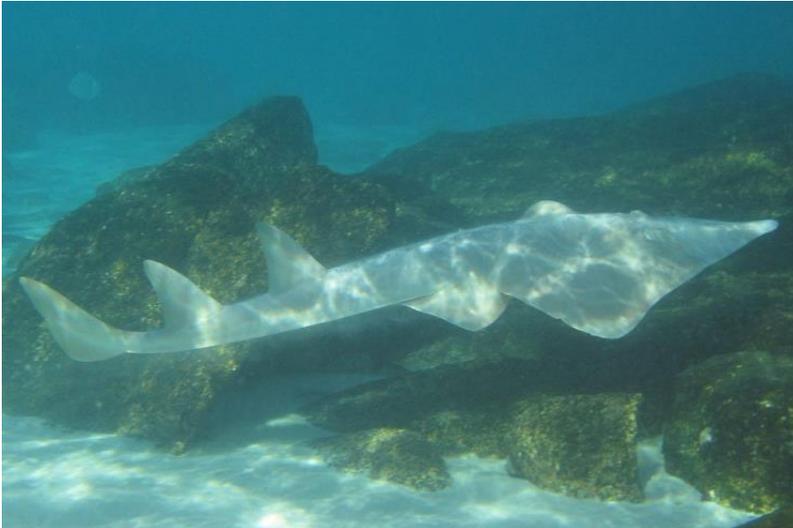
PRISTIFORMES

Glaucostegidae

**Proposal 18.43 by Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, European Union, Gabon, Gambia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Monaco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Palau,**

## Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo and Ukraine

*Glaucostegus spp.*



### Giant Guitarfish

Inclusion in Appendix II

Senegal initiated this proposal whose primary aim is to encourage sustainable use of the species *G. cemiculus* (black-chin guitarfish: Mediterranean, Portugal, west African coast) and *G. granulatus* (sharp-nose or granulated guitarfish: Persian Gulf, South Asia). These oviparous animals grow up to 3 m in length and have a low reproduction rate. Like sea turtles they return to the stretch of coast where they were born to lay their eggs. This behavior makes them particularly vulnerable to fishing.

Within 3 generations overfishing and habitat loss led to an 80 % decline in the world population for both species. This decline is especially drastic for *G. granulatus* in the Indian ocean, where it has reached 86 % over the past five years. Both species have gone extinct along numerous Mediterranean (*G. cemiculus*) and Persian Gulf (*G. granulatus*) coasts. Trade regulations for shark fins, resulting from a CITES listing, has increasingly shifted the international trade toward alternative products such as fins of giant guitarfish. Their exploitation proceeds completely uncontrolled. The meat of these species of ray fish is also consumed. In the absence of a CITES listing the trade volume cannot be clearly determined, presumably it is several thousand tons per year. Neither protective measures nor control measures regarding sustainable management currently exist for guitarfish.

Reports of massive population decline exist for four additional species of the giant guitarfish. However data is exceedingly sparse. It is difficult to distinguish between various species even in the presence of complete specimens and it is even more difficult based on just commercial products (fins). Thus, including all 6 species of this genus in Appendix II is most appropriate.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

## HOLOTHUROIDEA

### Aspidochirotida

### Holothuriidae

## **Proposal 18.45 by the European Union, Kenya, Senegal, Seychelles and the United States of America**

*Holothuria fuscogilva*, *H.nobilis*, *H.whitmaei*



## White-Teatfish, Black-Teatfish (2 species)

Inclusion in Appendix II

Sea cucumbers live primarily in the coastal coral reefs and sandy seagrass beds of the Indian and Pacific oceans from east Africa to Polynesia down to a depth of 50 m. Adult specimens of these three species grow from 30 to 70 cm in length. For reproduction ova and sperm are released into the water. Fertilization occurs when the gametes meet. Reproductive success thus depends directly on population density. The role of sea cucumbers in marine systems is analogous to the important role of earthworms in terrestrial systems. They process organic particles and prepare habitats for many other marine organisms. Since the 1980s a five-fold increase in trade was recorded. The animals can be captured without major effort, which promotes systematic plundering of entire regions. Vast amounts of sea cucumbers are dried and exported to southeast Asia. The main importers are China and the Philippines where sea cucumbers are sold as high-priced delicacies. In traditional Asian medicine they are used as analgesics and anti-inflammatories. Trade of this ecologically important family must be urgently regulated. The presence of wart-like bumps makes identification by enforcement authorities easy, even in dried specimens. The IUCN lists the species as endangered and in the case of *H. fuscogilva*, vulnerable. DCSP recommends including the entire genus in Appendix II to prevent exploitation of other species. The vital importance of these animals to a functioning ecosystem cannot be overemphasized.

## DCSP recommends: Support

---

INSECTA

LEPIDOPTERA

Papilionidae

### **Proposal 18.47 by the EU and Phillipines**

*Achillides chikae hermeli*



Since 1987 Appendix I of CITES has listed *Papilio hermeli*. Scientific findings represent *P. hermeli* as a synonym of *Achillides chikae hermeli*. This implies that *Achillides c. hermeli* is already listed at the highest level of protection of CITES. This proposal is an unnecessary and bueraucratic burden; CITES should not permit such proposals. Instead in its listing CITES should succinctly observe that *Achilles chikae* (including the nominate species for “look alike” reasons) is identical to *Papilio hermeli*. Naturally one has to support the nomination, although it is most ridiculous. One should mention that this proposal is only laughed at during corresponding butterfly forums. In that regard, DCSP is of the opinion that CITES must not be exposed to such ridicule. CITES is urgently advised to solve such nomenclature problems internally and not concern CoP with this issue in the future.

## DCSP recommends: Support

---

# FLORA

## MAGNOLIOPSIDA

### Bignoniaceae

#### **Proposal 18.49 by Brazil**

*Handroanthus spp., Tabebuia spp., Roseodendron spp.*



#### Trumpet Creepers

Inclusion of the three veneers in Appendix II

In Latin America the tropical trumpet creeper trees are traded because of their attractive reddish to olive-brown colored wood and whose durability and fire resistance make it a highly priced construction material. The wood is sold in the form of logs and boards or as further processed products like furniture. The price for raw timber can be as high as 1,300 USD/m<sup>3</sup>. Transcontinental trade involves primarily processed products such as flooring, veneers, and garden furniture.

The three genera originally belonged to *Tabebuia* and are not the dominant population within their habitat. The average density of trumpet creepers is only 1 specimen per 1 to 5 hectares. A substantial amount of the trade goods comes from unsustainable logging in the Amazon rainforest. This occurs mainly illegally. Exploitation of natural populations of individual species also occurs in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico.

The Red List of IUCN lists 15 of the currently recognized 106 species as “highly endangered” or “at risk of extinction”. The common trade names do not indicate the actual species. The highly variable trade volume depends on the species and country of origin and can be quite substantial (e.g. *Handroanthus serratifolius*: 30.000 m<sup>3</sup> per year in Brazil alone). Inclusion in Appendix II would permit an efficient control of the currently confusing and unregulated trade procedures. This would also urge the countries of origin to develop sustainable cultivation practices.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

### **Proposal 18.50 by Malawi**

#### *Widdringtonia whytei*



### **Mulanje Cedar**

Inclusion in Appendix II

Mulanje cedar populations continue to decline. Now the last of the large forests are found only on the slopes of Mount Mulanje in Malawi. Logging remains the major cause for this decline. The aromatic wood is in great demand. It is resistant to insect infestation and used in ship building. These bisexual trees grow to 40 m in height with a diameter of more than 1 m. The color of the wood of male specimens is yellowish brown and that of female specimens is blue and white, which adds to its attractiveness. Legal trade does not exist since its wild populations are now very small. Any form of trade is thus illegal. Implemented reforestation programs have not shown any anticipated success.

Forest fires further decimate the populations. The Mulanje cedar is the national tree of Malawi. These pioneer-plants stand on the brink of extinction and actually meet all criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. It is thus urgent to place this tree under the protection of CITES by at least listing it in Appendix II. A consensual approval would be very desirable.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

Liliaceae

### **Proposal 18.55 by Republic of South Africa**

*Aloe ferox*



Discorides, the most famous pharmacologist of antiquity, described the fantastical healing properties of aloe plants. These plants later became known scientifically as *Aloe ferox*. *Aloe ferox* is described in Appendix II, only based on “look-alike” features. The plant is certainly not endangered. All derivatives are produced solely from wild plants. Annually about 7 leaves per wild plant are harvested without harming the growth tips. Flower shops regularly offer Aloe plants because of their magnificent flowers. The village of Albertina in South Africa produces most of the beneficial derivatives. To

simplify trade, annotation #4 should be extended to read “Aloe ferox and”. One should definitely support South Africa’s proposal.

## **DCSP recommends: Support**

---

Malvaceae

### **Proposal 18.56 von Switzerland**

*Adansonia grandidieri*



Amendment of the annotation “#16 Seeds, fruits, oils and living plants” to the listing of *Adansonia grandidieri* in Appendix II by deleting reference to live plants, so as to read: #16 Seeds, fruits and oils

DCSP is unaware of any instance involving the trade of a living baobab. Should a botanical garden desire a living baobab for scientific purposes the scientific authority of Madagascar will provide it. Therefore annotation #16 should be corrected as proposed.

**DCSP recommends: Support**

---

