CoP17

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

Recommendations on the Proposals for the 17th Conference of the Parties in Johannesburg (South Africa)

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DOCUMENTATION CENTER FOR SPECIES PROTECTION

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FAUNA

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MAMMALIA

ARTIODACTYLA

Bovidae

Proposal 17.01 by Canada

Bison bison athabascae

Wood bison

Deletion from Appendix II

Who hasn't seen the archive recordings of giant bison herds, who seemingly reached all the way to the horizon? Greed and ignorance drove these animals to the brink of extinction. In 1975, the subspecies was included in Appendix I and in 1997 it was transferred to Appendix II thanks to excellent management practices by Canada and the USA. The populations which are distributed over nine natural herds in Canada and one smaller naturalized herd in Alaska are considered stable. Out of roughly 7.5 million animals living in the wild, about 5.2 million are full grown animals. A CITES success story!

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.2 by the EU and Georgia

Capra caucasica

Western tur

Inclusion in Appendix II with a zero quota for wild-taken *Capra caucasica caucasica* exported for commercial purposes or as hunting trophies

The range of these animals is not particularly large. The number of animals living in the wild is steadily declining and the total population is classified as highly endangered. Poaching and trophy hunting are the primary causes for the damage done to this species. There is a general ban on hunting this animal in Georgia. The reproductive rate in nature is markedly smaller than the illegal removal from the wild, particularly through poaching. It is high time to include the Western tur in Appendix II, mainly to curb the trade of trophies.

DCSP recommends: Support

Camelidae

Proposal 17.3 by Peru

Vicugna vicugna

Vikuna

Amendment to the CITES Appendices referring to annotations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the populations of *Vicugna vicugna* in Appendix II.

Even though vicuñas are generally listed in Appendix I, within the five countries of origin (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru) their wild and semi-wild populations are listed in Appendix II, with deviating annotations for permitting international trade.
The currently valid annotation for Peru is as follows: For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade of wool sheared from live vicuñas and from wool inventory at the time of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties on November 1994 (3,249 kg) as well as of cloth and cloth products such as handrafted luxury items and knit wares. The reverse side of the cloth must bear the logo adopted by the range states, which have agreed to the protection and the conservation of the vicuñas, as well as the mark “VICUÑA — PERU“. Other products have to bear the logo and the mark “VICUÑA-PERU-ARTESANÍA“. All other items are to be viewed as items of species from Appendix I and their trade is to be regulated accordingly.
This implies that contrary to the other range states, trade regulated this way by Peru only pertains to items in stock. This deviating regulation resulted from databases that were initially insufficient, poaching, and illegal trade in Peru.
By now Peruvian vicuñas have recovered to a nationwide population exceeding 300,000 individuals.
The permitted keeping of wild vicuñas as livestock (keeping in enclosures and shearing of wild animals) in other countries of origin is still debated. However, there is no apparent reason for Peru to continue using provisions that sound different than those in use in bordering countries.
Provided that during the upcoming Conference of the Parties no contrary information becomes available, D.C.S.P. recommends supporting the proposal despite misgivings about the methodology for commercial exploitation.

DCSP recommends: Support

CARNIVORA
Felidae

Proposal 17.4 by Chad, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria and Togo

Panthera leo

African Lion

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

Experts figure there are 20,000 to 30,000 sexually mature specimens of African lions. Over the past two decades (roughly three generations of lions) the population decreased by 40 %. The individual populations are heavily fragmented. Concurrently, over the past ten years, international trade increased significantly, especially for hunting trophies and skeleton derivatives. Because habitat loss and a reduction in prey has also severely affect these animals, inclusion in Appendix I of the African lion would be important to mitigate trade. This measure would support existing local conservation efforts.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.5 by Canada

Puma concolor coryi und Puma concolor couguar

Florida-Panther and Eastern cougar

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

Since about 1900, the subspecies *Puma concolor couguar* has been rated extinct. The subspecies *Puma concolor coryi* is endemic in the state of Florida, USA. The National breeding program, established in 1995, has yielded very solid successes toward an increase in the panther population. In 1995, it was believed that there were only 20 to 30 individuals left in the wild. Thanks to very strict national efforts, the population now measures about 150 animals. There exists neither legal nor illegal trade of this subspecies. Furthermore, this proposal should be supported to avoid split-listing, since all other subspecies are already listed in Appendix II.

DCSP recommends: Support

PERISSODACTYLA
Equidae

Proposal 17.6 by South Africa

Equus zebra zebra

Mountain zebra

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The population development of the Mountain zebra, which was nearly extinct during the 1950s, is certainly a success story of CITES and the national protection measures of South Africa. The population has recovered to nearly 5,000 animals. The proponent claims that the subspecies does not correspond to the criteria of Appendix I. However, this is not comprehensible by any account. It is about an endemic species, at home in the Cape region with a low reproduction rate (1 offspring every 2 to 3 years). The population is fragmented into 75 subpopulations of which more than one third comprises fewer than 20 individuals. Only two national parks have larger populations of over 700 animals. Hunting as an economic factor to benefit nature conservation can currently not be considered notable. If 50 % of the present annual population increase in dense local subpopulations were hunted, it would imply only 50 – 100 trophies per year; for all of South Africa! Assuming continued positive development, it is conceivable to consider a limited quota for

the export of hunting trophies in the future – while retaining the Mountain zebra in Appendix I. Although, for that it is certainly too early.

DCSP recommends: Oppose

Rhinocerotidae

Proposal 17.7 by Swaziland

Ceratotherium simum simum

Southern white rhinoceros

To alter the existing annotation in the Appendix of Swaziland's white rhino, adopted at the 13th Conference of the Parties in 2004, so as to permit a limited and regulated trade in white rhino horn (which has been collected in the past from natural deaths, or recovered from poached Swaziland rhino), as well as to permit horn to be harvested in a non-lethal way from a limited number of white rhino in the future in Swaziland.

While the southern white rhino holds only small remnant populations in most countries of origin, through protection efforts aided by the listing in CITES, the South African population was able to recover in recent decades. The population grew close to 19,000 individuals, which connotes 95 % of the total African distribution. In the course of the last 10 years, however, the situation changed drastically because poaching and illegal trade has reached a new level of magnitude. Now poaching is carried out by Southeast Asian transnationally organized crime syndicates. Military trained locals are equipped with heavy calibre weapons and with night vision devices. Smuggling is done through already efficiently developed transportation channels used for weapon and drug smuggling. Horn is traded between 15,000 to 35,000 US$; the price even exceeds the price per kilogram of gold. Thus, this business has already become more lucrative than trading weapons and drugs. Poaching already exceeds – in combination with legal hunting – the reproduction rate of the southern white rhino in southern Africa. As long as there is no control of illegal shootings, any proposal to push trade of hunting trophies or horn leads to further decline in rhinoceros populations. The intention to saw horns off of living animals is simply perverse! Such measures are only approved if interested big game hunters agree to being castrated beforehand, as an equivalent measure to this request.

DCSP recommends: Oppose

PHOLIDOTA
Manidae

Proposal 17.8 by Bangladesh

Manis crassicaudata

Indian pangolin

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

For our comment please see Proposal 17.12

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.9 by Indiea, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the USA

Manis crassicaudata

Indian pangolin

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

For our comment please see Proposal 17.12

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.10 by Philippines und the USA

Manis culionensis

Philippine pangolin

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

For our comment please see Proposal 17.12

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.11 by the USA und Viet Nam

Manis javanica, M.pentadactyla

Sunda pangolin, Chinese pangolin

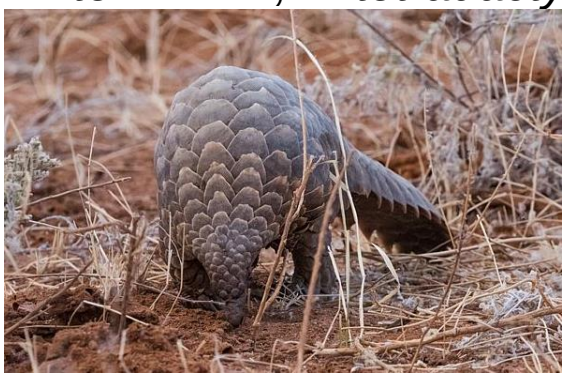
Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

For our comment please see Proposal 17.12

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.12 by Angola, Botswana, Chad, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and the USA

Manis gigantean, M.temminkii, M.tetradactyla, M.tricuspis



Giant pangolin, South African pangolin, Long-tailed pangolin, White-bellied pangolin

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The five proposals for the 8 extant pangolin species should be viewed as a unit. All five species are severely threatened because of poaching and unchecked exploitation.
The following applies to all 5 proposals collectively:
M. crassicaudata, M. culionensi, M. javanica and M. pentadactylus are four Asian species which are distributed over eight range states.
M. gigantea, M. temminckii, M. tetradactyla and M. tricuspis are four African species which are distributed over 40 range states.
Essentially it is easy to distinguish among living specimens based on their distinct appearance and their scales. In contrast to Asian species, African species lack hairs between the scales as well as earflaps. Pangolins are generally solitary; only during mating season do they share their burrows. They are nocturnal and some species are adept at climbing or swimming. All pangolins are highly adapted to eating ants and termites. This specialization is reflected in their body with its strong claws to dig into anthills and termite mounds and their small pear-shaped heads with its long tongue to capture their pray. The animals are traditionally eaten in Arica and occasionally animal parts are used in traditional medicine. The hide is tanned and further processed by the international leather industry. In Asia, however, it is the scales that are in high demand for traditional medicine. As a result Asian populations have been so dramatically exploited that rising market prices have escalated poaching in Africa. Between the years 2004 and 2014 approximately one million pangolins were sourced from nature. Since mostly animal derivatives are traded it is very challenging to match the parts to the individual species. National protective efforts often fail based on the limited financial and legal options for local authorities. Inclusion in Appendix II of CITES with a zero quota was ineffective. Inclusion of the entire genus in Appendix I is essential.

DCSP recommends: Support

PRIMATES

Ceropithecidae

.**Proposal 17.13 by the EU and Morocco**

Macaca sylvanus

Barbary macaque

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The wild populations of these primates in Algeria and Morocco are considered very endangered. The main reason for this is habitat loss. These animals are legally and illegally traded on the international market. The total population declines year after year. Only the Barbary macaques of Gibraltar form a stable population. Because the Upper Rock of Gibraltar residing specimens were introduced 200 years ago their gene pool is of low worth as Moroccan and Algerian animals have interbred. These Gibraltar Barbary macaques enjoy a political cult status ("as long as there are Barbary macaques in Gibraltar, Gibraltar will remain British"). The species went extinct in Tunisia 100 years ago. Several preserves exist in Europe where the animals are bred in captivity. The valuable natural populations require absolute protection in Appendix I of CITES, especially to support the efforts of Morocco and Algeria in preserving the species. A reintroduction in Tunisia is planned, which would be beneficial to the total population.

DCSP recommends: Support

PROBOSCIDEA
Elephantidae

Proposal 17.14 by Namibia

Loxodonta africana

African elephant

Delete the annotation to the listing of the Namibian African elephant population in Appendix II by deleting any reference to Namibia in that annotation.

In contrast to the rest of the continent the Namibian population of African elephants seems to have recovered in recent decades. In any case, the state is to be commended for its successful protection efforts. A near tripling of its population within 20 years, however, seems unlikely based on the low reproductive rate of the species. This is generally attributed to more efficient surveys.
Namibia is home to little – only about 5 % - of the pan-African elephant population. As the past has shown, any type of activity that downgrades protection of a species, triggers increased pressure through poaching in other countries of the African elephant. For this reason, independent from the national population situation of the species, all requests for a legal retraction of trade limitations are to be opposed. It can only be hoped that the countries of the African continent again reach a promising consensus.

DCSP recommends: Oppose

Proposal 17.15 by Namibia and Zimbabwe

Loxodonta africana

African Elephant

Amend the present Appendix II listing of the population of Zimbabwe of *Loxodonta africana* by removing the annotation in order to achieve an unqualified Appendix II listing.

Contrary to all other sources of information and to scientific studies the proponent state refers to a population increase of the African elephant on the entire African continent within the last 10 years. This disqualifies the proposal, which can only be called obscure, from the start. Additionally, irritating statements within the framework of this proposal refer to numerous dying local populations in Zimbabwe and to considerable poaching. They document the catastrophic condition in this country impressively.

DCSP recommends: Oppose

Proposal 17.16 by Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka und Uganda

Loxodonta africana

African Elephant

Inclusion of all populations of *Loxondonta africana* (African elephant) in Appendix I through the transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of the populations in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

At the COP14 (2007), during an 8 day marathon session, a joint African proposal was worked out and all previous proposals canceled. The joint proposal included a 9 year moratorium which will be followed by the export of hitherto registered ivory stocks in a single shipment to Japan. The resolution was accepted with great relief. For the first time a pan-African compromise was found. This should end the constant “elephant circus“ at all conferences at least for a certain period of time. The moratorium expires this year.
The situation of the African elephant has continued to worsen during this time frame. In all countries of origin poaching has again increased and exceeds the natural reproductive rate by far. Great population losses were noted during this period especially in central Africa, east Africa, and Mozambique.
Also the conditions at intra-African border controls could not be improved during this time, whereby no sufficient limitation for ivory smuggling is given. Even within south African populations with the highest density, a population decline of 5 % was documented over the past 10 years. In total, the pan-African elephant population declined by 15 % during this so called “moratorium”!
It is high time to set an end to the massive decline over the last years of the African elephant. Thus far, no means could be found against the increasing, ever better organized poaching.

DCSP recommends: Support

AVES
FALCONIFORMES
Falconidae

Proposal 17.17 by Canada

Falco perigrinus

Peregrin falcon

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

This small species of falcon has an extremely large range. The estimated 400,000 mature specimens are distributed over about 200 range states. In the majority of the states legal or illegal trade is hardly significant. 95 % of the trade volume is restricted to 24 states which engage in exporting and importing.
In the past, the biggest threat to the survival of the species came from the use of pesticides such as DDT. Today the populations are stable in large part because of effective and well established management practices. The peregrine falcon is successfully bred in captivity which can easily cover the comparatively small demand for falconry.
This species no longer meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Eventhough a transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II may stimulate the market, it is understood that this will have no negative impact on natural populations.

DCSP recommends: Support

PASSERIFORMES
Meliphagidae

Proposal 17.18 by Australia

Lichenostomus melanops cassidix

Helmeted honeyeater

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The helmeted honey-eater inhabits swamp forests in a relatively small area in southern Australia. There is virtually no legal or illegal trade of these animals. The main threat for these birds constitutes population fragmentation and habitat loss. In the absence of trade relevance, this subspecies does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

DCSP recommends: Support

PSITTACIFORMES
Psittacidae

Proposal 17.19 by Angola, Chad, the EU, Gabon, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and the USA

Psittacus erithacus

African gray parrot

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The African gray parrot is one of the most traded birds listed in CITES. Estimating the size of the heavily fragmented populations is difficult or altogether impossible. Although currently there is no solid data, experts agree that the decrease in population size stands at more than 50 %. The African gray parrot inhabits forests in West- and Central Africa. Practically no national management programs exist in the countries of origin. The mortality rate of captured animals (even before export) is 30 – 60 %. Before too long, many of the populations will collapse, and in several countries of origin, the African gray parrots will go extinct if trade continues as is.
Captive breeding can easily meet the demand for the pet market. However, animals caught in the wild are currently offered at lower prices. This would drastically change with inclusion in Appendix I and captive breeding would become much more attractive to the market.

DCSP recommends: Support

STRIGIFORMES
Strigidae

Proposal 17.20 by Australia

Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata

Norfolk Island boobook owl

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The last sighting of a genetically pure female representative of this species was in 1996. Since then, this subspecies has been considered extinct. A small population of hybrids with the closely related subspecies *N.n.novaeseelandiae* exists on the island of Norfolk, Australia.
There is no legal or illegal trade of these animals. Thus, the criteria for being listed in Appendix I are not met.

DCSP recommends: Support

REPTILIA
CROCODYLIA
Crocodylidae

Proposal 17.21 by Colombia

Crocodylus acutus

American crocodile

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II of the population of *Crocodylus acutus* of the Distrito Regional de Manejo Integrado del rea de Manglar de la Baha de Cispata y Sector Aledao del Delta Estuarino del Ro Sin, located in the department of Cordoba, Republic of Colombia, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on ranching and trade in ranched specimens

The American Crocodile occupies a wide range in Central America and in the northern regions of South America. However, excessive hunting over the past decades decimated numerous populations to where it became necessary to include it in Appendix I with the exception of the Cuban population. Now Colombia would like a split-listing for one sub-population in one range without establishing a captive breeding program. The data on local population trends are based on 70 – 120 monitored specimens and seem dubious. In the year 2011 the population supposedly increased by 80 %. Perhaps the proponent should focus on ecotourism because such a miracle of nature would surely draw great interest. There exist plenty of examples in other countries on how to develop sustainable use programs through farming. Moreover, split-listing goes against the basic principles of the criteria for inclusion.

DCSP recommends: Oppose

Proposal 17.22 by Mexico

Crocodylus moreletii

Morelet's crocodile

Delete the zero quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes from the Appendix-II listing of the population of Mexico of *Crocodylus moreletii*

Since the 11th Meeting of the Parties (2000) Mexico submits proposals regarding commercial use of the Mexican crocodile. At the COP 15 (Doha, 2010) the transfer of the protective status of C. Moreletti from Appendix I to Appendix II on condition of a zero export quota was decided. For over 20 years there has been a successful ranching program in Mexico with increasing population densities of this species. The nation-wide wild population is currently estimated at 76,000 individuals. Low level illegal trade was regularly noticed. World-wide legal trade of individuals as well as derivatives of the Mexican crocodile amounted to an average of 775 individuals per year within the last 10 years.
States that continuously implement protective measures, proper monitoring, as well as long term ranching programs, should in due time be given the opportunity for commercial use of the species concerned.
The current proposal does not aim toward a further split-listing of the species, rather it wants to merely delete the annotation for a zero-export quota. It would make more sense, from the point of view of the DCSP, to establish a defined export quota of products and derivatives. This, however, was not proposed. Despite this point of criticism it is advised to support the proposal.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.23 by Madagascar

Crocodylus niloticus

Nile crocodile

Maintain the Malagasy population of *Crocodylus niloticus* in Appendix II subject to the following annotation:

1. No skins or products within the artisanal industry from wild *C. niloticus* less than 1 m or greater than 2.5 m total length will be permitted for national or international trade
2. An initial wild harvest ceiling of 3000 animals per year for the artisanal industry will be imposed for the first three years of operation (2017-2019)
3. No export of raw or processed skins harvested from the wild will be permitted for the first 3 years
4. Farm production shall be restricted to ranching and/or captive breeding, with national skin production quotas
5. Management, wild harvest ceiling and national skin production quotas will be audited and reviewed annually by international experts for the first three years to ensure sustainability and national skin production quotas will be audited and reviewed annually by international experts for the first three years to ensure sustainability.

Independent of the local population situation of the Nile crocodile in Madagascar, such proposals would significantly complicate enforcement by the customs authority.
An excess of barely monitorable annotations is not in accordance with the intensions of CITES toward a feasible control of international trade and directly affects populations of Parties with small natural populations.

DCSP recommends: Oppose

Proposal 17.24 by Malaysia

Crocodylus porosus

Saltwater crocodile

Transfer of the Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) in Malaysia from Appendix I to Appendix II, with wild harvest restricted to the state of Sarawak and a zero quota for wild specimens in other states of Malaysia (Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia), with no change in the zero quota unless approved by the Parties.

The Saltwater crocodile, except for the populations in Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (respectively in Appendix II), is listed in Appendix I of CITES. Its range in the Pacific region is very extensive and primarily comprises coastal areas and characteristically oceanic habitats. Because of unscrupulous exploitation and hunting the species was protected, especially along the Asian coasts, through inclusion in Appendix I.
Within the framework of this proposal eggs and adult animals are to be taken from wild populations along coastal forests of a single region (Sarawak). In this region the local forest administration could already observe 107 sub-adult and adult animals in 2014. This by no means justifies transfer of the species to Appendix II.
The proponent is to be advised to enforce existing breeding efforts for future commercial use of Saltwater crocodiles, to establish a proper ranching program and to continue to protect the growing local populations. On no account are regional increases of sub-populations a reason for split-listing a species that is extremely endangered in vast regions of its range. Upon presentation of sufficient databases, the establishment of export quotas of products and derivatives from successful captive breeding is to be taken into consideration in the future. But this is not part of the current proposal.

DCSP recommends: Oppose

SAURIA
Anguidae

Proposal 17.25 by Guatemala

Abronia anzuetoi, A.aurita A.campbelli, A.frosti, A.meladona, A.galophantasma, A.montecristoi, A.salvadorensi, A.vasconcelosii,

Abronia

Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation:
a) 0 (zero) export quota for wild specimens
b) 0 (zero) export quota for specimens bred in non-range countries of the species

The genus Abronia comprises attractive, often colourful, up to 25 – 35 cm long lizards, with stout bodies, long prehensile tails and (in contrast to European abronias) pronounced extremities. Their habitat is limited to old-growth forests in mountain regions of northern Central America (Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador). Most species are extreme endemites that often only inhabit a single mountain range or volcano. Of the individual species only single individuals from a single location are known. It is also not clear if individual species of the 29 recorded species have gone extinct already.
The main threat is partly due to habitat loss and partly due to animal trade. Owing to a low captive breeding rate and the difficulty in keeping these mostly cloud forest dwellers as pets, the price for terrarium animals is astronomical. In German speaking countries, the asking price for animals raised in captivity goes up to 1,800 €.
From a technical perspective, the proposal seems justified, it is however inadequately prepared and contradicts in part the intentions of CITES. The formulated comments are not appropriate. A 0-export quota is unnecessary for species in Appendix I. The export of animals from captive breeding supports the effort of the treaty, to cover the demand of pet markets – a 0-export quota is therefore counterproductive.
Within the framework of CITES, a split-listing is preferably to be avoided. Individual species of the genus Abronia, with small natural populations and a range partly less than 1 and up to 20 km2, would certainly meet the criteria of Appendix I of the Convention. However, it is recommended that the proposal by the EU and Mexico, concerning the same genus to list the entire genus in Appendix II is supported. At future conferences proposals for including single species in Appendix I can be supported as long as a clear species-specific distinction is deemed possible for the appropriate customs authority.

DCSP recommends: Withdraw

Proposal 17.26 by the EU und Mexico

Abronia spp.

Abronia

Listing of the entire genus Abronia (29 species) in Appendix II

As already described in the proposal by Guatemala this genus is predominantly highly endangered and threatened with extinction. They, for the most part, have exceedingly small ranges, threatened habitats, low population densities and low reproductive rates while being in high demand at the international pet market.
As a first step, it is strongly recommended to list the entire genus in Appendix II. An inclusion of individual species in Appendix I at the next Conference of the Parties is expected and, given adequate distinguishability, to be supported.

DCSP recommends: Support

Camelionidae

Proposal 17.27 by the Central African Republic Chad, Gabon, Nigeria and the USA

Rhampholeon spp. und Rieppeleon spp.

Pygmy chameleons

Inclusion in Appendix II

For our comment see Proposal 17.12

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.28 by Kenya

Rhampholeon spp. und Rieppeleon spp.

Pygmy chameleons

Inclusion in Appendix II

The very precise and scientifically worked out proposal by Kenya clearly demonstrates that the trade of these species continually increases. Their diminutive size makes these terrarium animals particularly desirable. However, they have become rare within their range and more and more endangered. 15 of the 19 Rhampholeon species are endemic. Because these animals are challenging to keep alive in captivity, from the viewpoint of DCSP, trade should be generally banned. The mortality rate of captive animals within the first year in a terrarium is 99 %. The remaining 1 % do not survive their second year in captivity. For once it has to be stated clearly that pygmy chameleons are completely inappropriate for terraristics. It is scandalous that these two genera are exposed to eradication. All species are offered in large quantities at the reptile exchange and touted as easy to keep, which is an outright lie. The driving force for the mostly illegal traders is profit. The ever increasing loss of habitat compounds the issue. Coffee plantations are no substitute for primary forests. Soon all representative species will meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I of CITES. Animal trade to Europe, both legal and illegal, is enormous. It is highly recommended that the EU includes both genera in Appendix A now. As a minimum, inclusion in Appendix II of CITES is recommended in order to get a grip on the relentlessly expanding problem for these genera.

DCSP recommends: Support

Geckonidae

Proposal 17.29 by the EU and Viet Nam

Cnemaspis psychedelica

Psychedelic rock gecko

Inclusion in Appendix I

This mainly diurnal gecko species was first described in 2010. The extraordinary colored gecko is endemic to a single island in southern Vietnam. The size of the island is 8 km² of which 6 km² are suitable as a habitat for this species. The animals are very territorial and live on granite rocks in dense forests. Their size is a little over 7 cm not counting the tail, with males being larger than females. The reproductive rate is very low and the entire population comprises only 500 – 700 adults. This implies that this species cannot recover from unbridled harvesting. The first live specimens appeared in EU and Russian markets in 2013. The price for a male/female pair is between 2,500 and 3,500 EUR. In 2015 scientists were able to successfully breed these animals in captivity for the first time. This species is not conducive to trade based on its population size and limited habitat and should thus be included in Appendix I of CITES.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.30 by the EU and Tanzania

Lygodactylus williamsi

Turquoise dwarf gecko

Inclusion in Appendix I

These pretty diurnal gecko artists are endemic to a relatively small, locally protected forested area in eastern Tanzania. The species requires a particular type of screw palm (*Pandanus rabaiensis*) for its habitat. The attractive, brightly blue-colored males grow to about 8.5 cm in length. The inconspicuous females are green-brown in color. This type of gecko has a comparatively high reproductive rate. The females deposit a pair of eggs every 3 to 4 weeks.
The exploitation of the species started in 2004 and lead to a one third reduction of population, down to 150,000 individuals by the year 2009.
All removal from the wild is illegal and involves collectors cutting down screw palms to get to the animals. The mortality rate during export is especially high for female specimens. It is assumed that immature eggs mature within the bodies of the females during transport. Because the females have no opportunity to deposit these eggs, the situation is fatal.
This overexploitation must be urgently halted internationally since Tanzania is incapable of ensuring the conservation of the species by itself. Captive breeding is possible and efforts in that direction will surely intensify when the species is listed in Appendix I.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.31 by the EU and Madagascar

Paroedura masobe

Masobe Gecko

Inclusion in Appendix II

The nocturnal Masabo Gecko is a sought after inhabitant of vivariums because of its spectacular dark gray to dark brown coloration with white dots. Adults reach a size of 17 cm in length. Its single range is in a comparatively small wooded area in east central

Madagascar. Currently there is inadequate data regarding its population size. The available trade figures may represent just the tip of the iceberg and considering the small range, these figures may point to the worst in terms of illegal trade. First successful captive breeding attempts occurred in 2012 in the Ukraine.
The Masabo Gecko has been protected on a national level since 2006 and in 2015 Madagascar has issued a trade moratorium. However, it is nearly impossible to completely monitor all 4828 km of coastline. Due to its early separation from the African continent, Madagascar has unique flora and fauna which should be protected for future generations. To preserve the biodiversity of its species, such as the Masabo Gecko, Madagascar requires international support through the inclusion in Appendix II of CITES.

DCSP recommends: Support

Lanthanoidae

Proposal 17.32 by Malaysia

Lanthanotidae spp.

Earless monitor lizards

Inclusion in Appendix I

L. borneensis is the only representative species in the family of earless monitor lizards and was first described in 1877. This animal is very similar to a 70 million year old Mongolian fossil and can thus provide valuable paleontological insights. The inconspicuous brown colored earless monitor lizard of Borneo grows to about 40 cm in length and dwells exclusively in moist, earthy subterranean habitats near rivers. It is primarily nocturnal and hunts beetles, worms, and possibly small fish. Adaptations for its life style are its stout body, short legs, translucent closed lower eye lids, nostrils that shift to the upper surface of the snout, as well as the missing ear openings. This species exists in Malaysia and Indonesia and is suspected to also exist in Brunei – Darusalam. For decades, it went ignored. It was only in 2012 that this living fossil advanced to star status within the reptile scene of Europe and Japan. Since then, unscrupulous traders systematically capture earless monitor lizards and sell them to “enthusiasts” at horrendous prices via internet forums and reptile tradeshows in Europe. One couple may sell for as much as 12,000 Euro. The Borneo earless monitor lizard is under strict national legal protection in the three countries of origin; legal removal from the wild is not possible. Although the species is not

part of IUCN's Red List, the inclusion of the family Lanthanotidae in Appendix I is urgently needed, otherwise the species will become extinct even before it is scientifically researched.

DCSP recommends: Support

Xenosauridae

Proposal 17.33 by China, the EU and Viet Nam

Shinisaurus crocodilurus

Chinese crocodile lizard

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The crocodile lizard, up to 50 cm in length, is one of the rarest reptilian species in the world. Its range is limited to small-scale isolated habitats in south China and North Vietnam. Since its inclusion in Appendix II (COP 7, Lausanne 1989) its natural population has declined from 2,500 individuals to 600 to 800 in China and to 100 in Vietnam. The main threat is to be noted as illegal trade for pet keeping as well as for traditional Chinese medicine. In German speaking countries these popular terrarium animals are traded for about 500 €. In addtion there is habitat loss and destruction through climate change for these wetland habitat dependent animals.
The drastic population decline since 1990 shows that with high trade pressure protection in Appendix II is not always adequate.

DCSP recommends: Support

SERPENTES
Viperidae

Proposal 17.34 by Kenya

Atheris desaixi

Mount Kenya Buschviper

Inclusion in Appendix II

This unusually attractive venomous snake is one of the most sought after specimens for collectors of venomous snakes. Flawless adult animals are traded for around 4000 € at European reptile exchanges and on the internet. Each specimen is illegally removed from nature. The interest in this beautiful snake is increasing. This species is under strict national protection in Kenya. In addition to illegal captures in the wild, severe habitat loss through logging provides a risk factor. There is sporadic captive breeding, but the demand exceeds the supply by multitudes. The average size of this species is only 60 cm which makes smuggling easy. Experts consider this species difficult to keep because it requires a chilled terrarium and thus the mortality rate in captivity is very high. Trade of this species must be stopped. At minimum an inclusion in Appendix II of CITES must happen.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.35 by Kenya

Bitis worthingtoni

Kenya horned viper

Inclusion in Appendix II

Habitat loss is the primary threat to this species which is endemic to Kenya and lives in the mountains around Lake Naivasha. Trade of this venomous snake is solely illegal especially in Europe and the USA. In Europe, a specimen may fetch 1,000 € from collectors of venomous snakes. The small size of this species (only about 35 cm on average) makes it very appealing to herpetological tourists who finance their vacation by smuggling this highly sought after animal. Captive breeding is sporadically successful; the demand, however, far exceeds the supply. An inclusion in Appendix II would protect this beautiful snake from extinction. We must help Kenya now to ensure protection of this rare animal.

DCSP recommends: Support

TESTUDINES
Trionychidae

Proposal 17.36 by Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Togo and the USA

Cyclanorbis elegans, *C.senegalensis,*

Nubian flapshell turtle Senegal flapshell turtle,

Cycloderma aubryi, *C.frenatum,*

Aubrys flapshell turtle, Zambesi flapshell turtle

Trionyx triungis, *Rafetus euphraticus*

Nile soft-shell turtle, Euphrates soft-shell turtle

Transfer of 6 species of the family Trionychidae in Appendix II

One thing in common with all 6 species is that they are categorized endangered to critically endangered. These large growing turtles are seen as a source of meat and are also often used in traditional superstition-based medicine in Asia. Internationally, these species are massively poached and traded illegally; in fact, they are the most traded of all fresh water turtles. In many countries of origin these species are fully protected. This proposal must be supported most urgently; CITES must ensure international control. DCSP suggests that it would be even more beneficial to include the entire family Trionychidae in Appendix II.

DCSP recommends: Support

AMPHIBIA
ANURA
Microhylidae

Proposal 17.37 by Madagascar

Dyscophus antongilii

Tomato frog

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

Luckily the range of the tomato frog is larger than was estimated in 1987. Besides Maroantsetra there are two additional large population ranges. Apparently this species inhabits the entire northeast of Madagascar; it was even found in secondary forests within this region. Furthermore this species is regularly bred in captivity in Europe and the demand for these magnificent and much desired terrarium frogs can be met entirely from these breeding efforts. Thus there is no objection to down listing.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.38 by Madagascar

Dyscophus guineti, D.insularis

False tomato frog

Antsouhy tomato frog

Inclusion in Appendix II

Both listed species may currently be traded legally because they are not under the protection of CITES. The trade of these magnificent frogs increases steadily and their natural populations continually weaken. Both species meet all criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. Both species can be, and in effect are currently being, bred in captivity. If proposal 17.37 is approved then the entire genus would be included in Appendix II. DCSP is sure that the inclusion in Appendix II would massively stimulate captive breeding efforts of all three species and none of them would need to be removed from nature. Please support this proposal strongly.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.39 by Madagascar

Scaphiophryne marmorata, S.boribory

Green burrowing frog

Burrowing frog

and S.spinosa

Spiny burrowing frog

Inclusion in Appendix II

The natural populations of all three species endemic to Madagascar are considered endangered. The currently still legal animal trade of these splendid frogs increases steadily and their habitat loss increases steadily too. Placing these animals under protection would greatly stimulate captive breeding efforts. The genus Scaphiophryne encompasses 9 species, all of which are very striking and being traded. All of these 9 species are considered vulnerable at the least. Thus it would have been wiser to include the entire genus in Appendix II. All species are clearly and easily differentiated.

DCSP recommends: Support

Telmatobiidae

Proposal 17.40 by Bolivia and Peru

Telmatobius culeus

Titicaca water frog

Inclusion in Appendix I

T. culeus is the largest aquatic anuran in the world. The species exists exclusively at Lake Titicaca. This taxon belongs to the Andean whistling frogs and attracts attention because of its numerous skin folds (oxygen uptake primarily through cutaneous respiration). These are an ecological adaptation to a habitat 3,800 m above sea level with low oxygen levels in the water as well as on land. The animals, which may weigh
as much as 1 kg, have over the past 60 years suffered a not fully explained population collapse and are currently classified as “threatened with extinction“. The species is massively exploited for consumption based on its size, but it is also in use in traditional local folk medicine as a remedy against tuberculosis, anemia and infertility. Also, the release of non-native predators, such as the rainbow trout, contributed to the decline.
Meanwhile high level illegal exploitation of T. culeus still occurs. Captive breeding programs have now been launched in Lima (Peru).
Small scale international trade is being noticed. Here 6 to 13 annually documented and exported individuals destined for terraria are in contrast to roughly 10,000 individuals offered annually at the food markets in Peru. In Bolivia, the consumption of this species as food and folk medicine even exceeds this value.
The two countries bordering Lake Titicaca and thus the only countries of origin – Bolivia and Peru – have proposed inclusion in Appendix I. The principal threat, however, results from the exorbitant use for human consumption and for local folk medicine. Provided that no evidence of considerable international trade comes to light at the upcoming Conference of the Parties, DCSP recommends opposing this proposal.

DCSP recommends: Oppose

CAUDATA
Salamandridae

Proposal 17.41 by China

Paramesotriton hongkongensis

Hong Kong warty newt

Inclusion in Appendix II

This newt has a very small range in the Hong Kong area. The entire population is considered endangered mostly because of major illegal animal trade. The USA and Europe are the primary consumers of this species. Captive breeding of this species occurs but not enough to meet demand. Inclusion in Appendix II of CITES would greatly support captive breeding efforts. However, one must consider the dangers of confusing different species of Paramesotriton, all of which are considered endangered. Thus it would be preferable to place the entire genus under protection.

DCSP recommends: Support

ELASMOBRANCHII
CARCHARHINIFORMES
Carcharhinidae

Proposal 17.42 by Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Comoros, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the EU, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritania, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Sri Lanka und Ukraine

Carcharhinus falciformis

Silky shark

Inclusion in Appendix II

Only in the course of the last three Conferences of the Parties has CITES started taking responsibility for the exploitation of sharks. This exploitation is not in the least sustainable. Within the genus Carcharhinus sp. (requiem sharks) only C. longimanus has been included in Appendix II. The silky shark is among the most common smaller species of this genus in the tropical seas. But this species is also not used sustainably. Over the past decades, depending on the region especially within the indo pacific realm, 70 -90 % of the populations declined. Disregarding losses from bycatch this results from seine and trawl fishing. A particularly rapid increase in these population losses has happened within the past five years. The over-exploitation of this species is reflected in fishing quotas reports that show an increase in the number of subadult animals because the population of sexually mature individuals declined extraordinarily rapidly.

DCSP recommends: Support

LAMNIFORMES
Alopiidae

Proposal 17.43 by Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Comoros, Dominican Republic, Egypt, the EU, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Maldives, Mauretania, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Ukraine

Alopias spp.

Tresher sharks

Inclusion of the genus Alopias spp. in Appendix II

Thresher sharks belong to open ocean species that are primarily hunted for their fins. Like numerous other shark species that are already under protection, thresher sharks have a low reproductive rate. Three species of this genus have experienced massive population collapses over the past thirty years because of unsustainable management practices. Additionally, substantial losses occurred as a result of bycatch on the open ocean. Four million of these comparatively low-priced fins are traded annually in Hong Kong alone. A population decline of nearly 80 % was noted in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans during the past 30 years. In the Mediterranean Sea these species are nearly extinct. The primary commercial focus is the *Alopias superciliosus* (bigeye thresher). But *A. vulpinus* (common thresher) and *A. pelagicus* (pelagic thresher) are also traded. Furthermore, there exist significant problems with differentiating between the commonly traded goods (fins) within these species. Therefore, it makes sense to include all three species in Appendix II, even though data on the population decline of *A. vulpinus* and *A. pelagicus* is rather sparse.

MYLIOBATIFORMES
Myliobatidae

Proposal 17.44 by Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, the EU, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauretania, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and the USA.

Mobula spp.

Devils rays

Inclusion of Mobula spp. in Appendix II

Mobula rays belong to eagle rays or devil rays and are unscrupulously exploited without any appropriate monitoring. Disregarding bycatch losses, these coast-dwelling species of tropic and temperate maritime environments are brought to the brink of extinction mostly because their gill plates are used for culinary pleasures. Since the year 2000, there have been population decreases of 96 % for *M. japonica* and of 99 % for *M. tarapacana* in the indo pacific region. It should be noted that rays belonging to the genus Mobula have the lowest reproductive rate (1 young every 2 – 3 years) of all cartilaginous fish (sharks, rays). Also the range of the individual species is highly fragmented in isolated subregions. There is insufficient information available on population trends for additional species of this genus. The commonly traded goods are difficult to distinguish at the species level. Therefore it is imperative to include the entire genus in Appendix II in an effort to finally guarantee controlled and sustainable use.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.45 by Bolivia

Potamotrygon motoro

Octellate river stingray

Inclusion in Appendix II

A proposal for inclusion of these in tropical freshwaters of South America dwelling types of rays (primarily river systems of the Parana, Amazon, and Orinoco) was already submitted at the last Conference of the Parties. Without a doubt, population decline is due to habitat loss, local use for meat and oil, as well as killings of a “dangerous animal”. No reliable data exist for population trends. The international trade of living juvenile specimens as “ornamental fish” affects a small portion of the entire population. Annual exports on a larger scale are documented coming mostly from Columbia. However, this data refers to the entire family of sting rays. If additional data on trade relevance is presented at the Conference of the Parties, DCSP recommends the proposing state to withdraw this proposal.

DCSP recommends: Oppose or Withdraw

ACTINOPTERYGII
PERCIFORMES
Apogonidae

Proposal 17.46 by the EU

Pterapogon kauderni

Banggai cardinalfish

Inclusion in Appendix II

This splendid fish is massively harvested from the wild and often traded as a saltwater aquarium fish. Its habitat is solely within the Indonesian Banggai archipelago and is categorized throughout as endangered. Besides reckless exploitation of natural populations, habitat loss provides another threat. These fish have become extinct in some ranges and overall there is less than 10 % of the original population left. This species can fairly easily be bred in captivity but as long as the profit gained from wild caught specimens is 3 to 5 times as large as for those bred in captivity, this will not happen. If we include *Pterapogon kaudermi* in Appendix II of CITES, captive breeding programs will be boosted promptly. This species has been a candidate for inclusion before. At that time it was promised that appropriate protective measures would be taken. Not much has happened. It is a shame how thoughtlessly this species is plundered from nature. If this spectacular and popular species is still not listed we will soon have to include it in Appendix I of CITES. The EU should list this species in Appendix B independent from the decision by CITES.

DCSP recommends: Support

Pomocanthidae

Proposal 17.47 by Mexico

Holacanthus clarionensis

Clarion angelfish

Inclusion in Appendix II

This particularly beautiful angelfish is endemic to the Mexican coast. The status of all populations is currently classified as heavily endangered and continues to worsen.
Habitat damage from natural catastrophes adds to the damage done from trade. This splendid fish is considered the best and most expensive animal on the saltwater fish market. It is the “Rolls Royce” among ornamental saltwater fish; exceptionally beautiful specimens sell for up to 5,000 US $. 99% of the specimens are delivered to the USA. As is often the case with such high-priced specimens, illegal trade is rapidly increasing. Smuggling of this endangered species must be stopped. Inclusion in Appendix II is the minimum that needs to happen. If this fish is not protected through CITES, profit greedy and criminal sport fishing will drive the fish to extinction. It will also become necessary to prosecute smugglers to set an example, provided they can be caught. There is no captive breeding in aquariums. DCSP would prefer to see this fish included in Appendix I.

DCSP recommends: Support

MOLLUSCA
CEOHALOPODA
NAUTILIDA
Nautilidae

Proposal 17.48 by Fiji, India, Palau and the USA

Nautilidae spp.

Nautilus

Inclusion of the entire family Nautilidae in Appendix II

Nautilus, a collective term for the genera *Allonautilus* and *Nautilus* with two and five representative species respectively, is considered a living fossil and provides the field of paleontology with important insights into the evolution of invertebrates. Nautilus are solely retrieved from nature. Offspring viability from captive breeding efforts has thus far not exceeded 2 months. In addition, captive adults and subadult specimens in aquaria have not survived past 2 years.
The majority of international trade however involves not the pet trade but rather to the trade of shells as souvenirs, as well as to the trade for the jewelry industry, for mollusk and snail collectors, and not least of all, for the home decorating market.
Documented trade figures from the USA from 2005 through 2014 exist. These figures encompass about 100,000 individuals and about 800,000 animal derivatives mainly from the Philippines and Indonesia.
Nautilus live in very specific, naturally isolated habitats and are mainly scavengers. They inhabit reefs with sandy descending levels at a preferred depth of 70 – 300 m. They avoid open waters because their shells implode at a maximum depth of 800 m. Furthermore, they do not tolerate water temperatures exceeding 25°C and are unable to traverse such warm water regions to colonize new habitats.
Females deposit few eggs annually and it takes more than one year for the young to hatch. There is no larval stage. The animals reach sexual maturity at 10 to 15 years of age and their life expectancy is at least 20 years.

A decline in population is documented in sought out areas, specifically where non-selective fishing methods utilizing dynamite or cyanide are used. Once a population has reached critical levels natural recovery is practically impossible due to biological characteristics and geographic barriers.
It is likely that the family Nautilidae meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. At any rate, the international trade must be urgently regulated and document through CITES.

DCSP recommends: support

GASTROPODA
STYLOMMATOPHORA
Cepolidae

Proposal 17.49 by Cuba

Polimita spp.

Cuban landsnails

Inclusion of the genus Polymita spp. in Appendix I

Cuban land snails inhabit the subtropical regions of Cuba. Thus far six endemic species of these tree-dwelling snails have been classified. Their populations declined by 50 – 75 % exclusively because of habitat loss in both subtropical moist and arid forests. Tens of thousands of these species are primarily traded illegally every year. Their shells are considered one of the most attractive of all land snails. The trade occurs primarily through internet portals where the asking price for these rather small shells (mostly between 20 to 30 mm in diameter) may reach up to € 40. There are no sufficient captive breeding efforts being made. It is high time to stop this unregulated exploitation of natural populations.

DCSP recommends: Support

FLORA
ASPARAGACEAE

Proposal 17.50 by Mexico

Beaucarnea spp.

Ponytail palm

Inclusion of all Beaucarnea In Appendix II

This proposal primarily concerns the species *B. recurvata*. The remaining species of the genus should also be included in Appendix II because of their similar appearance and the resultant difficulty for officials in differentiating among them.
The elephant foot tree is a succulent tree which reaches a height of up to 9 meters. It is endemic to a relatively small range in Mexico. The plants are traded as ornamental plants and the available data demonstrates that international demand is increasing. The majority of the traded plants are harvested from nature.
Currently it is not possible to meet the demands for both national and international trade through cultivation. There is however promising research which could lead to the cultivation of plants in sufficient numbers, including plants to be released in nature.
Mexico already protects elephant foot trees on a national level and assiduously enforces its national laws. Inclusion in Appendix II of CITES would be an important supplement to the national efforts of Mexico.

DCSP recommends: Support

Bromeliaceae

Proposal 17.51 by Mexico

Tillandsia mauryana

Maurey's tillandsia

Streichung aus Appendix II

This species is endemic to Mexico. There is no legal trade of specimens harvested from nature. Additionally there is limited interest in this species. The small demand is completely met through artificial propagation. At this point it needs to be noted that tillandsia trade has declined altogether. The natural populations are stable, thus one can support the proposal without hesitation.

DCSP recommends: Support

CACTACEAE

Proposal 17.52 by the USA

Sclerocactus spinosior ssp., S.cloverae und S.sileri



Fishhook cacti

Transfer by Appendix II in den Appendix I

The proposal is most welcome, more so still because 9 species of fishhook cacti are already included in Appendix I. However there exists a tremendous look-alike problem. These species are also regularly traded. It would have made more sense to include the entire genus in Appendix I.

DCSP recommends: Support

LEGUMINOSAE

Proposal 17.53 by Thailand

Dalbergia cochinchinensis

Siam-Rosewood

Deletion of Annotation #5
And replace with Annotation #4

Since its inclusion in Appendix II in 2013, the proponent Thailand has intercepted large shipments of Siam rosewood destined for illegal export. The current annotation #5 concerning logs, boards, and veneers, is not far-reaching enough to support the protective efforts of Thai authorities. Traders circumvent Annotation #5 by processing timber in the land of origin and manufactured products are not covered by Annotation #5. To counter the activities of timber exploiters and illegal logging troupes it is necessary to amend the annotation so that trade of all parts and products is again regulated according to the initial intention in the listing of the species.
Since Siamese Rosewood is already included in Appendix II, there is no contradiction to the proposal for inclusion of the entire genus Dalbergia in Appendix II.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.54 by Mexico

Dahlbergia calderoni, D.calycina, D.congestiflora, D.cubilquitzensis, D.glomerata, D.longepedunculata, D.luteola, D.melanocardium, D.modesta, D.palo-escrito, D.rhachiflexa, D.ruddae und D.tucurensis

Rosewoods

Inclusion of 13 species of the genus Dalbergia in Appendix II (Populations in Mexico and Central America)

The populations of the 13 Central American species requested to be included in Appendix II, are strongly affected by unregulated and unsustainable exploitation. These species inhabit predominantly small-scale ranges in Mexico and bordering countries and have lost over 60% of their area within recent decades. As also described in proposal 17.55, world-wide trade has been growing rapidly over the last years. Because of the challenge in classifying trade goods at the species level, illegal trade is difficult to quantify and false declarations of hitherto unprotected Dalbergia species are nearly impossible to verify. This demonstrates the importance for inclusion of the entire genus in Appendix II of CITES.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.55 by Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala and Kenya

Dalbergia spp.

Rosewoods

Inclusion of the entire genus in Appendix II with the exception of the species already listed in Appendix I.

Proposals for individual species of the genus Dalbergia were made at several Conferences of the Parties. Currently one species (*D. nigra*) is listed in Appendix I, four genera as well as the population in Madagascar are listed in Appendix II, and six genera are listed in Appendix III.
This genus comprises over 300 mostly endemic species that are low growing hard-wood types in forest communities of Latin America, Central Africa and Madagascar, as well as Southeast Asia. They tend to inhabit very small scale habitats. These particular species experience severe population decline through both habitat loss and logging. In addition, unsustainable clear cutting of their entire habitat often occurs. Because only the heartwood of older trees is used there is a lot of waste within the individual species
Since the inclusion of Brazilian Palisander (*D. nigra*) in Appendix I, the trade demand for other species of this genus increased, which lead to wide-spread logging of hitherto unprotected species within a few years. This logging was further fueled by the increased demand for wood veneers in Asia.
World-wide demand has amplified massively over the past five years. The trade volume from China alone has increased nearly ten-fold since 2011. The customary trade goods (predominantly logs, timber, and veneer wood) are difficult to classify at the species level even for experts.
As was already recommended at COP 16, the entire genus needs to be regulated and protected within the framework of CITES.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.56 by the EU and Gabon

Guibourtia tessmannii, G.pellegrinniana, G.demoisei

Bubinga

Inclusion in Appendix II

G. tessmannii and *G. pellegriniana* are both tree species that are very attractive to the wood industry. They are very difficult to differentiate from one another. They reach a height of about 50 m and a diameter of up to 2 m. The beautiful and evenly grained wood varies in color from pink to a reddish brown. Its ranges lie in the tropical evergreen forests of central Africa. The trade name “African Rosewood” is a bit misleading. This wood has nothing in common with rosewood from the family of Palisanders. The heavy and hard wood is well suited for processing and is used for furniture, knife handles, and in the building of musical instruments. Both species are also known under their trade name Bubinga. *G. demeusei* also belongs to this category and shows great similarity to both species. Although the population of *G. demeusei* appears to be healthy, *G. demeusei* should also be included in Appendix II as a precaution because the wood of all three species looks very much alike when processed. International trade of Bubinga wood started in the middle of the 20th century, but it is only within the last five years that the price of this tropical wood has started to soar due to strong demand from the Chinese market. Currently, Bubinga is the most expensive tropical wood from central Africa. There is almost no reliable data about population size, but it is commonly agreed that the regenerating potential of all three species is quite small. This is partly due to the reduction of animal species that distribute seeds. The proponent Gabun has already banned all logging of *G. tessmannii* and *G. pellegriniana* on a national level by decree until further notice.

DCSP recommends: Support

Proposal 17.57 by Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ivory Coast, the EU, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria Senegal and Togo

Pterocarpus erinaceus

African rosewood

Inclusion in Appendix II without any Annotation

This West African species was included into Appendix III by Senegal but to little effect. The decline of natural populations is dramatic. China imports most of this decorative wood. In 2014 alone, China imported 750.000 m³, most of which was smuggled out of the country by corrupt loggers. This tree is recklessly plundered from all range states and is being driven toward extinction. Only two countries, Nigeria and Togo, allow legal trade, nearly all other countries have a strict ban on export. It is unacceptable that a single country like China can do as it pleases. China may please utilize its own wood species in a sustainable fashion. It is high time to include this species in Appendix II.

DCSP recommends: Support

MALVACEAE

Proposal 17.58 by Madagascar

Adansonia grandidieri

Grandidier's baobab

Inclusion in Appendix II with annotation # 4: only for seeds, fruits, oil and live plants and annotate the listing to this effect

The baobab, or "tree of life", comprises nine representative species. *A. grandidieri* is endemic to dry deciduous forests in southwestern Madagascar. The tree, which reaches heights of 25 to 30 m, has a massive water retaining trunk and only grows near seasonal watering holes and river courses.
The local population has a variety of traditional uses for the baobab. The fruit is harvested for its high nutritional value as well as for its pharmaceutical importance. The wood is used as cover material for roofs, and the fibrous fruit pods and bark are used to manufacture ropes.
The US and European markets for fruit derivatives is heavily expanding owing to its characteristics as a "super-food". Powder made from the fruits is traded as a weight-loss miracle drug. It actually has positive effects on intestinal health and antipyretic properties.
Because of massive human interference in the trees' ecosystem through excessive removal of fruits, seeds and young plants, a significant increase in the average age of baobab populations can be observed. Given that the international demand for baobab products will increase, a placement under full protection through CITES for this small range endemic species of *A. grandidieri* is vitally necessary. IUCN also classifies this species as "endangered".

DCSP recommends: Support

PINACEAE

Proposal 17.59 by Algeria

Abies numidica

Algerian fir

Inclusion in Appendix I

The proposal is highly inadequate and should not be accepted as is. The Algerian fir is very rare and threatened with extinction. DCSP is not aware of any trade relevance of specimens harvested from nature. Limited trade of artificially propagated specimens exists in the Mediterranean. The tree is used as an ornamental. Sometimes it is used for hedges, primarily because this species responds well to trimming. Considering the dramatic situation of the dwindling natural populations and taking a precautionary approach, the proposal should be supported. It is strongly recommended that Algeria adopts a forestry management program for this tree. This species is easy to cultivate in tree farms.

DCSP recommends: Support

THYMELAEACEAE

Proposal 17.60 by the USA

Aquilaria spp., Gyrinops spp.

Agarwood

Anmerkung zur Listung by *Aquilaria spp. und Gyrinops spp. in Appendix II*

It is about a change in the annotation which will simplify the bureaucracy during trade. Primarily it is about wood chips and this simplification is to be welcomed, thus the proposal by the USA can be supported without hesitation.

DCSP recommends: Support

ZINGIBERACEAE

Proposal 17.61 by South Africa

Siphonochilus aethiopicus

Natal ginger

Inclusion in Appendix II

This beautiful lilac flowering species of ginger has a large range in the dry forests south of the Sahara and from southeast Africa down to South Africa. During the dry season the plant withdraws into its rhizome and the above ground parts die back. It is these rhizomes which are the parts of the plant that are dug up and traded at local markets for

pharmaceutical purposes. Its use in traditional medicine in southern Africa provides the greatest threat for this species, especially for the populations which are included in this proposal. Entire ranges are plundered systematically and the rhizomes are transported from Swaziland and Zimbabwe to South Africa. The populations in Swaziland and Zimbabwe as well as those in South Africa have declined dramatically. Increasingly, as of late, populations in Mozambique are harvested to meet the growing demand in the cities of South Africa. Ginger is easily propagated artificially and can be cultivated commercially in the warm parts of South Africa. Inclusion in Appendix II of CITES could hasten the development of such farms. South Africa is asked to also implement national measures for sustainable use.

DCSP recommends: Support

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

Proposal 17.62 by the USA

Bulnesia sarmientoi

Holy wood

Amend the listing of *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in Appendix II

Amend Annotation #11 with the underlined text:

Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood, powder and extracts. Finished products containing such extracts as ingredients, including fragrances, are not considered to be covered by this annotation.

It is a request for a slight change in the annotation and it can then be supported without hesitation. It simplifies trade of this species.

DCSP recommends: Support