

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Proposal #/ Proponent	Species covered by the proposal	Proposal	RECOMMENDATION
# 13  Benin, Senegal and Sierra Leone	<i>Trichechus senegalensis</i> West African Manatee	Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I	<p>The West African Manatee <i>Trichechus senegalensis</i> was first included in Appendix II in 1975, when the two other manatee species were included in Appendix I. This aquatic mammal is found over a wide range along the Atlantic coast of west and central Africa, extending inland to Mali, Niger and Chad. No reliable population estimate exists, but there may be fewer than 10 000 individuals and IUCN assessed the species as Vulnerable in 2008. The population is under pressure from incidental by-catch, habitat destruction and fragmentation, and hunting, chiefly for meat and oil. The species has a relatively low productivity and harvesting may be having a negative impact along with other threats. Current legislation in all range States prohibits trade in any part of the species and little international trade has been reported since the species was listed in Appendix II in 1975. From the scant information available, the species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. An Appendix I listing would also not encourage the much-needed improvement in the management of the species's ecosystems, and strengthening of enforcement of national wildlife laws by range States authorities, which are likely to have a greater conservation benefit.</p> <p><b>REJECT</b></p>