

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

Proposal #/ Proponent	Species covered by the proposal	Proposal	RECOMMENDATION
# 36 USA and Viet Nam	Platysternidae Big-headed turtles	Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I	<p>Big-headed turtles occur in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, with some relatively high population densities in Cambodia and Thailand. However, anecdotal information based on market observations and low population densities in an area where the species are believed to have been exploited indicate that populations have declined in recent years. They fetch high prices as juveniles in the international pet trade. Since their inclusion in Appendix II in 2000, around 1700 specimens have been recorded in trade, although 1500 of those were in a single shipment imported from Lao PDR in 2006. Nevertheless, given their relatively wide range, it is unlikely that their population is small and it is not clear if the species meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. However, given observed population declines in some areas and relatively high observations in some markets, it may be prudent that a zero quota be imposed until more information is available on levels of population decline and international trade.</p> <p>REJECT</p>