

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
# 38  China and USA	<i>Aspideretes leithii</i> , <i>Chitra chitra</i> , <i>C. vandijki</i> , <i>Dogania subplana</i> , <i>Nilssonina formosa</i> , <i>Palea steindachneri</i> , <i>Palea steindachneri</i> , <i>Pelodiscus axenaria</i> , <i>P. maackii</i> , <i>P. parviformis</i> , and <i>Rafetus swinhoi</i> .  Softshell turtles	Inclusion of <i>Aspideretes leithii</i> , <i>Dogania subplana</i> , <i>Nilssonina formosa</i> , <i>Palea steindachneri</i> , <i>Pelodiscus axenaria</i> , <i>P. maackii</i> , <i>P. parviformis</i> , and <i>Rafetus swinhoi</i> in Appendix II. Transfer of <i>Chitra chitra</i> and <i>C. vandijki</i> from Appendix II to Appendix I	<p>With the exception of <i>Palea steindachneri</i>, <i>Pelodiscus maackii</i> and <i>Pelodiscus parviformis</i>, these species are threatened to varying degrees by poorly regulated international trade, largely to meet demand in China for food and use in traditional medicines. Some species are heavily traded: <i>Dogania subplana</i> is traded from Indonesia in large volumes, and to a lesser extent, from Malaysia and the Philippines. Exporters in Indonesia are also known to send large volumes of the look-alike species <i>Amyda cartilaginea</i> (currently listed in Appendix II) falsely declared as <i>D. subplana</i>. These species are exceptionally difficult for enforcement officers to differentiate from one another, and therefore including all of them in this proposal on lookalike reasons is warranted.</p> <p><i>Rafetus swinhoi</i> is one of the rarest chelonians alive. It no longer appears to be found in trade and while inclusion in Appendix II would have been beneficial at an earlier stage, listing now would at least allow for trade controls if specimens are once again found in trade. The two <i>Chitra</i> species, <i>C. chitra</i> and <i>C. vandijki</i> are seriously threatened by illegal and unsustainable harvest, for local consumption and to meet international demand for meat and eggs. <i>C. chitra</i> is currently assessed in the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered, <i>C. vandijki</i> is provisionally assessed as Critically Endangered. Both species were listed in Appendix II in 2003. However, illegal trade has continued, and populations continue to decline, so inclusion in Appendix I would be beneficial.</p> <p><b>ACCEPT</b></p>