

RECOMMENDATIONS

TRAFFIC Recommendations on
the proposals to amend the
CITES Appendices
at the 16th Meeting of the
Conference of the Parties

Bangkok, Thailand
3–14 March 2013



TRAFFIC[®]
the wildlife trade monitoring network

**TRAFFIC Recommendations on the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices
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TRAFFIC publishes its Recommendations on the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices prior to every CITES Conference of the Parties. This document is made available in English, French and Spanish language versions in hard copy prior to and during CoP16 as well as from <http://www.traffic.org/cop16>.

The TRAFFIC Recommendations should be read in conjunction with the *IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties*, which provides background information for justification of the TRAFFIC positions. Summaries of these are available in hard copy or the full Analyses can be accessed at:

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/our_work/species_and_policy/iucn_traffic_analyses_of_proposals_cites_cop16/
or from: <http://www.traffic.org/cop16>.

Although every attempt has been made to use the most recent information available, TRAFFIC recognizes that further information may become available prior to or during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In this booklet you will find: TRAFFIC's Recommendations on pages 1–32 and an index of scientific names on page 33.

CoP16 Prop 1. Denmark†: *Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata* (Abruzzo Chamois)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

This subspecies of chamois endemic to Italy has a small global population (of about 1500) that is stable or increasing and there is at least one relatively large sub-population. The subspecies now occurs in a number of protected areas and is protected nationally and internationally (e.g. under the Bern Convention and the EU Habitats Directive). There has been virtually no reported international trade between 2001 and 2010. It therefore appears that the taxon does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. The current listing of *R. pyrenaica ornata* is inconsistent with recommendations set out in Annex 3 of *Resolution Conf. 9.24. (Rev. CoP15)* which advise that split-listings placing some populations of a species in the Appendices, and the rest outside, should normally not be permitted. Following the precautionary measures set out in Annex 4, the taxon is proposed for transfer to Appendix II, rather than immediate deletion from the Appendices.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 2. Ecuador: *Vicugna vicugna* (Vicuña)

Proposal: Transfer of populations of Ecuador from Appendix I to Appendix II

Vicuña *Vicugna vicugna* is native to the high Andes of Argentina, Chile, the Plurinational States of Bolivia, and Peru, and has been (re-)introduced into Ecuador where, between 2000 and 2012, populations increased from 1700 to around 5000 animals. All Bolivian and Peruvian populations and selected populations from Argentina and Chile are already included in Appendix II of CITES. This proposal aims to transfer the Ecuadorian population to Appendix II so as to facilitate international trade in woven products derived from it, with local communities being the beneficiaries of any commercialization. To be consistent with the listing of other populations currently in Appendix II, the proposal indicates that the products would be marked "VICUÑA-(Country of origin)-Artesanía" as required by the Vicuña Convention. However, the proposal does not include an annotation to this effect, nor does it provide details of the management measures that would be required to determine whether the precautionary measures in A2 c) of Annex 4 to *Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)* are met. A management plan was approved by the Ecuadorian Government in 2011 and it is recommended that this be made available to all CITES Parties.

Recommendation: ACCEPT IF details of the management plan are provided to the Conference of the Parties and an annotation is included consistent with those covering the Vicuña populations currently included in Appendix II.

CoP16 Prop 3. USA: *Ursus maritimus* (Polar Bear)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

There is an estimated global population of 20 000–25 000 Polar Bears *Ursus maritimus*, which range through Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, the Russian Federation and the USA. The majority of these animals—approximately 15 000— either occur entirely in Canada or are in populations shared with Denmark (Greenland) and the USA (Alaska). The global conservation status of Polar Bears was assessed in 2008 by IUCN as Vulnerable. Nevertheless, the global population of Polar Bears is not small and the species's area of distribution is not restricted. While the population is believed to be slowly declining, it has not undergone a marked rate of decline in the recent past. The projected rate of population decline as a result of climate change over the next three generations (taken as 45 years) is estimated to be more than 30% but less than 50%. If the guideline figures in Annex 5 to *Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)* for a marked recent rate of decline are applied to a projected future decline, then the Polar Bear does not appear to meet any of the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

While international transactions in scientific specimens of the species and some personal effects have increased since the 1990s, commercial trade has not increased and there has been relatively little change in the overall volume of reported trade in the past 25 years. Canada is the only country that currently allows commercial exports of Polar Bear parts and products—all of which result from aboriginal subsistence hunting. International trade does not appear to be the primary incentive for harvest of the species. Since the 1990s, 700 to 800 Polar Bears have been legally hunted each year with fewer than 400 (about 2% of the global population) represented in international trade annually. The primary threat to Polar Bears is the retreat of sea-ice habitat, driven by global climate change. Trade does not appear to be a significant threat to the species.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 4. Australia: *Pteropus brunneus* (Dusky Flying-fox)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

The taxonomic status of the Dusky Flying-fox *Pteropus brunneus* is unclear and it is very likely that *P. brunneus* never existed as a valid species. A single specimen was collected in 1859, although it is widely believed it was misattributed and is in fact a specimen of *P. scapulatus*. Even if *P. brunneus* is a valid species, there is no reason to assume that it would be affected by trade and commercial export, which would anyway be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Several *Pteropus* spp. currently listed in Appendix II may also have doubtful taxonomic status. Parties may consider directing the Animals Committee to examine this genus to determine their current status and make recommendations to amend the Appendices accordingly.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 5. Australia: *Thylacinus cynocephalus* (Tasmanian Tiger)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix I

The last recorded Tasmanian Tiger *Thylacinus cynocephalus* was captured in 1933 and died in 1936. It has been classified as Extinct by IUCN since 1982. In the highly unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume it would be affected by trade and commercial export, which would anyway be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 6. Australia: *Onychogalea lunata* (Crescent Nailtail Wallaby)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix I

The last reliable record of the Crescent Nailtail Wallaby *Onychogalea lunata* dates from 1956 and the species has been classified as Extinct by IUCN since 1982. In the highly unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume it would be affected by trade and commercial export, which would anyway be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 7. Australia: *Caloprymnus campestris* (Buff-nosed Rat-kangaroo)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix I

There have been no reliable records of the Buff-nosed Rat-kangaroo *Caloprymnus campestris* since 1935 and the species was classified as Extinct by IUCN in 2008. In the highly unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume it would be affected by trade and commercial export, which would anyway be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 8. Australia: *Chaeropus ecaudatus* (Pig-footed Bandicoot)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix I

The last confirmed record of the Pig-footed Bandicoot *Chaeropus ecaudatus* dates from 1907 and the species has been classified as Extinct by IUCN since 1982. In the highly unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume it would be affected by trade and commercial export, which would anyway be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 9. Australia: *Macrotis leucura* (Lesser Rabbit-eared Bandicoot)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix I

The last confirmed record of the Lesser Rabbit-eared Bandicoot *Macrotis leucura* dates from 1931 and the species has been classified as Extinct by IUCN since 1982. In the highly unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume it would be affected by trade and commercial export, which would anyway be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 10. Kenya: *Ceratotherium simum simum* (White Rhinoceros)

Proposal: Amendment of the annotation for *Ceratotherium simum simum* as follows: (added text underlined): “*Ceratotherium simum simum* (Only the populations of South Africa and Swaziland; all other populations are included in Appendix I. For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations and hunting trophies. Hunting trophies from South Africa and Swaziland shall be subject to a zero export quota until at least CoP18. All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly.)”

This proposal is to amend the annotation to White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum simum* applicable to the Appendix II populations of South Africa and Swaziland, by subjecting hunting trophies to a zero export quota until at least CoP18. The proponent cites evidence that, in recent years, legally-obtained sport hunting trophies have been illegally sold into commercial rhino horn trade, particularly in Viet Nam. Although pseudo-hunting practices have been documented in South Africa, Swaziland has never allowed sport hunting of White Rhinoceroses. The South African Government has acknowledged the pseudo-hunting issue and has imposed a progressive series of regulatory measures to address it, including suspending the issuance of permits to Vietnamese nationals, to ensure that sport hunting of White Rhinoceroses remains restricted to bona fide hunters.

South Africa has established an impressive rhino conservation record and today holds over 90% of the global population of White Rhinoceroses. Disallowing legitimate sport hunting would severely undermine incentives for rhino conservation in South Africa, diminishing revenues available to conservation authorities as well as private sector rhinoceros owners who own approximately 25% of the country's White Rhinoceroses. Further, the proposed amendment would effectively impose stricter export controls on South Africa and Swaziland compared to the other range States who would still be allowed to export White Rhinoceros hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes, even though such populations are in Appendix I. Acceptance of this proposal may also prompt countries to impose reservations on this listing, potentially weakening the Convention as it currently applies to this species.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 12. Burkina Faso and Kenya: *Loxodonta africana* (African Elephant)

Proposal: Amend the annotation for *Loxodonta africana* as follows (additional text underlined, deleted text struckthrough): h) no further proposals to allow trade in elephant ivory from any 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 14.77 and 14.78 (Rev. CoP15)*.

This proposal is to amend the current annotation for *Loxodonta africana* which applies to the African Elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe in Appendix II. Focused upon paragraph h) of the existing annotation, the proposed amendments would, in the view of the proponents, preclude submission of any proposal to trade in elephant ivory from those countries whose elephant populations are currently listed in Appendix II, or any country whose elephant population subsequently became listed in Appendix II, until November 2017. However, as the annotation applies to countries whose elephant populations are already listed in Appendix II, it is not clear if the proposed amendment would indeed prevent any other elephant range State from exercising the rights conferred by Articles XV and XVI of the Convention permitting any Party to propose amendments to the CITES Appendices, both at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, or between the meetings (by postal procedure). Further, the Parties have considered the use of annotations in the Appendices in *Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP14)* and have recognized two kinds of annotation: reference annotations (i.e. those indicating that “one or more geographically separate populations, subspecies or species are in another Appendix”; “the annotation ‘possibly extinct’”; and “annotations relating to nomenclature”) and substantive annotations (i.e. those indicating “the inclusion or exclusion of designated geographically separate populations, subspecies, species, groups of species, or higher taxa, which may include export quotas”; and those specifying “the types of specimens or export quotas”). The suggested annotation does not appear to conform with either of the prescribed annotation types in *Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP14)*. Finally, Article XV allows any Party to place a reservation against any amendment to the Appendices within 90 days of its acceptance. If accepted, this amendment could potentially prompt countries to impose reservations to the listing of *Loxodonta africana*, which would have the effect of weakening the Convention as it currently applies to this species.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 13. Benin, Senegal and Sierra Leone: *Trichechus senegalensis* (West African Manatee)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The West African Manatee *Trichechus senegalensis* 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. 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.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 14. Mexico: *Caracara lutosa* (Guadalupe Caracara)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

The Guadalupe Caracara *Caracara lutosa* was endemic to Guadalupe Island, Mexico, where it is thought to have been extirpated in 1903 as a result of poisoning and hunting. It is considered extinct by IUCN and under Mexican legislation. There has been no recorded trade in this species since its listing in CITES in 1975. In the unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume that it would be affected by international commercial trade, which would anyway be prohibited under Mexican law.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 15. Switzerland*: *Gallus sonneratii* (Sonnerat's Junglefowl)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

Sonnerat's Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii* was listed in Appendix II in 1975. It has a large though fragmented range in India, with a population thought to be slowly declining, although the species is not considered threatened. The major use of the species internationally is to supply feathers for use in fly-fishing. It is easily bred in captivity and all legal supply of feathers is derived from birds

captive-bred outside the range State. The species is legally protected in India although subject to illegal harvest, primarily for local consumption, with evidence of some illegal export of feathers and skins. However, this is believed to be at a relatively low level. It is unlikely that deletion of the species from the Appendices would result in it qualifying for inclusion in the near future.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 16. Switzerland*: *Ithaginis cruentus* (Blood Pheasant)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

The Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* has a very large range within Asia and is thought to be locally common in parts of the continent. There has been very little reported trade since its inclusion in Appendix II in 1975. It does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 17. Switzerland*: *Lophura imperialis* (Imperial Pheasant)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix I

The Imperial Pheasant *Lophura imperialis*, known from just four records from Viet Nam, is a naturally-occurring hybrid of Silver *L. nycthemera* and Edward's Pheasants *L. edwardsi*. If deleted from the Appendices, specimens would still be treated as if included in Appendix I given *L. edwardsi* is listed there.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 18. Switzerland*: *Tetraogallus caspius* (Caspian Snowcock)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The Caspian Snowcock *Tetraogallus caspius* has a large range and a sizeable, though slowly declining, population. It would thus not appear to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I and no trade has been recorded since its inclusion in Appendix I in 1975. This and the following proposal appear to be submitted with the intention of eventually removing these species from the Appendices.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 19. Switzerland*: *Tetraogallus tibetanus* (Tibetan Snowcock)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

The Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus* has a very large range and a stable, sizeable population. It would thus not appear to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Almost no trade has been recorded since its listing in Appendix I in 1975. This and the preceding proposal appear to be submitted with the intention of eventually removing these species from the Appendices.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 20. Switzerland*: *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* (Attwater's Greater Prairie Chicken)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

In 2012, Attwater's Greater Prairie Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* numbered just 46 individuals in three widely separated populations. Although this subspecies would appear to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I, the other extant subspecies *T. c. pinnatus* is still relatively numerous and is not listed in the Appendices. *T. c. attwateri* is protected by domestic legislation in its native USA. The current listing is inconsistent with recommendations set out in *Resolution Conf. 9.24. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 3*, which advise that split-listings placing some populations in the Appendices, and the rest outside, should normally not be permitted. The proposal appears to be submitted with the intention of eventually removing the subspecies from the Appendices to comply with the guidance on split-listings.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 21. Mexico: *Campephilus imperialis* (Imperial Woodpecker)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix I

The last confirmed record of the Imperial Woodpecker *Campephilus imperialis*, once found throughout the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico, was in 1956. The species has been considered extinct under Mexican law since 2001. In the unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume that it would be affected by international commercial trade, which would anyway be prohibited under Mexican law.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 22. New Zealand: *Sceloglaux albifacies* (Laughing Owl)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

Although unconfirmed sightings persisted until the 1960s, there seems little doubt the Laughing Owl *Sceloglaux albifacies*, a species endemic to New Zealand, is extinct. There have been no credible records of the species in trade since it was included in the CITES Appendices in 1979. In the unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume that it would be affected by international commercial trade, which would anyway be prohibited under New Zealand legislation.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 23. Colombia: *Crocodylus acutus* (American Crocodile)

Proposal: Transfer of the population of the Bay of Cispatá, municipality of San Antero, Department of Córdoba, Republic of Colombia, from Appendix I to Appendix II

The American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus* is widely distributed in the New World and was assessed by IUCN in 2012 as Vulnerable. In Colombia, it is found in several mangrove swamps and river deltas. The proposal applies to the population in Cispatá Bay only, where conservation efforts for this species are under way; the proposal also states an intention to submit a ranching proposal to CITES CoP17.

Around 14 km² of the mangroves in Cispatá Bay mangroves are considered suitable habitat for *Crocodylus acutus*. Population surveys between 2003 and 2010 recorded between 67 and 122 animals, with no obvious trend, and a survey in 2011 recorded just over 200 individuals, with no indication of an increase in the number of nesting females, despite considerable management efforts. It would therefore appear that the population still meets the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

Adoption of the proposal would result in the split-listing of Colombia's population of *Crocodylus acutus* and it is unclear whether precautionary measures regarding transfer of species from Appendix I to Appendix II as set out in paragraph A2 of Annex 4 of *Resolution 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)* have been met in this case. The species is in demand for trade, with export of skins of captive-bred *C. acutus* from Colombia recorded up to 2011. The proposal is not a ranching proposal, and no export quota or other special measure has been proposed. Management measures are set out in general terms in the supporting statement but enforcement controls, such as the tagging of skins for export, are not specified. It is thus not clear how skins from this source might be distinguished from those of other wild *C. acutus* in Colombia, which would remain in Appendix I. The basis for the suggested productivity of the population in supplying skins for export is not clear. **Colombia is encouraged to consider the merits of submitting a ranching proposal for its entire population for CITES CoP17.**

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 24. Thailand: *Crocodylus porosus* (Saltwater Crocodile)

Proposal: Transfer of the population of Thailand from Appendix I to Appendix II with a zero quota for wild specimens

The wild Thai population of Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* was once feared extinct but is now reportedly found in low numbers at scattered locations. It has been suggested that the population could number 200 or more, mostly within protected areas. Thailand has captive populations of *C. porosus* numbering in the thousands and international demand for skins is currently being met by long-established registered captive breeding facilities. Thailand reportedly exported 1850 skins annually from captive sources between 2006 and 2010. With populations remaining fragile and fragmented, it would appear that Thai populations of the species still meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 25. Thailand: *Crocodylus siamensis* (Siamese Crocodile)

Proposal: Transfer of the population of Thailand from Appendix I to Appendix II with a zero quota for wild specimens

Formerly widely distributed in South-East Asia, the wild population of the Siamese Crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis* was severely depleted due to hunting for skins and today comprises fewer than 1000 mature individuals. The Thai population is estimated at up to 200 individuals in scattered localities, and would appear to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Thailand also has a large captive population of *C. siamensis* numbering about 600 000 and international demand for skins is currently being met by long-established registered captive breeding facilities that reportedly exported 33 000 skins annually between 2006–2010 as well as live animals. With populations remaining fragile and fragmented, it would appear that Thai populations of the species still meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 26. New Zealand: *Naultinus* spp. (New Zealand green geckos)

[NB the proponents place this genus in the family Diplodactylidae, but this is not in accordance with the standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties]

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Naultinus geckos are endemic to New Zealand, and all species, especially the Jewelled Gecko *N. gemmeus*, are sought after in the international hobbyist trade and believed to be slowly declining. *N. gemmeus* is proposed for Appendix II listing under the criteria in Annex 2a paragraph B of *Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)*, while the other members of the genus are proposed for look-alike

reasons. *Naultinus* species resemble each other, and appear to be relatively easily distinguishable as a group from other geckos. The proponent suggests that some other species may also meet the criteria in Annex 2a paragraph B. While domestic law prohibits collection from the wild and commercial use, their main population strongholds have been targeted by poachers in recent years. It is thought that wild populations are in slow decline but it is not clear from currently available information that any of the species meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. However, a listing could provide support for range State enforcement through strengthened international co-operation in addressing illegal trade and provide a stronger legal basis (in at least some countries) to address illegal trade in *Naultinus* geckos outside New Zealand.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 27. China: *Protobothrops mangshanensis* (Mangshan Pit-viper)

[NB According to the standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties, this species is named *Trimeresurus mangshanensis*]

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

The Mangshan Pit-viper *Protobothrops mangshanensis* is a snake endemic to south China with a restricted range. The population is thought to be fewer than 500 individuals and probably decreasing. While collection is prohibited in two Nature Reserves within its range, the species does not appear to have been afforded any national level trade restrictions or national protection and there is international demand for the hobbyist trade. The species already appears to meet the biological criteria for Appendix I listing and therefore likely meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 28. USA: *Chelodina mccordi* (Roti Island Snake-necked Turtle)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The Roti Island Snake-necked Turtle *Chelodina mccordi* was listed in Appendix II in 2004. It has an extremely restricted range in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, and its habitat is limited and fragmented. The population is declining, due largely to illegal harvest for international trade. It is bred in captivity in low numbers in Europe and North America. Illegal harvest continues, and laundering of wild-caught specimens through captive-breeding facilities in Indonesia appears to be a method by which specimens continue to enter international trade. Inclusion in Appendix I may assist in preventing laundering of and international trade in wild-caught specimens. The species is not formally protected by law in Indonesia.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 29. USA: *Clemmys guttata* (Spotted Turtle)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Populations of Spotted Turtle *Clemmys guttata* are estimated to be 2000 in Canada and between 10 000 and one million individuals in the USA. Although widespread, the species has been extirpated from some of its original range, and is in slow overall decline, mostly due to habitat destruction. The species is taken from the wild for the domestic and international commercial pet trade primarily destined for Asia. In Canada, evidence suggests this species is also harvested for food and traditional medicinal uses. However, it is not clear if collection from the wild is a significant threat. While exports have shown a rising trend in the past decade, the majority of recent exports have been declared as captive bred, with fewer than 100 declared annually as wild-collected or of unknown origin.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 30. USA: *Emydoidea blandingii* (Blanding's Turtle)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

The global population of Blanding's Turtle *Emydoidea blandingii* is believed to exceed 140 000 individuals, although it is thought to be in slow decline throughout its range States of Canada and the USA due to habitat decline, over-exploitation and increased predation. *Emydoidea blandingii* was listed by IUCN as Endangered in 2011. It is traded commercially for the pet trade, consumption and use in traditional medicines. Exports from the USA are relatively low, at around 80 individuals per year in 1999–2010, of which fewer than 10% were declared as wild caught. Commercial trade is prohibited in Canada. It is unlikely that the current levels of harvest from the wild for international trade would reduce the wild population to a level at which its survival might be threatened or it becomes eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 31. USA: *Malaclemys terrapin* (Diamondback Terrapin)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

The Diamondback Terrapin *Malaclemys terrapin* was historically abundant in the USA but became popular as a gourmet food in the late 19th century, resulting in the population declining greatly through over-harvesting. There is no current range-wide population estimate, but the species is believed to number in the hundreds of thousands. However, since the 1980s, there has been an

increase in demand for the meat, both domestically and internationally, particularly in Asia. *Malaclemys terrapin* is also harvested for the domestic and international pet trade. Exports increased markedly after 2000, peaking to over 6000 in 2006, which led to the permanent closure of the terrapin fishery in Maryland in April 2007. While the great majority of exports since then have been declared as captive-bred, a notable number of exports in the most recent year (2012) are of wild or undeclared origin. If a significant proportion of these recent exports are indeed of wild origin, and given the relatively high mortality rates reported from other causes, it is conceivable that the species might meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 32. China and USA: *Batagur borneoensis*, *B. trivittata*, *Cuora aurocapitata*, *C. flavomarginata*, *C. galbinifrons*, *C. mccordi*, *C. mouhotii*, *C. pani*, *C. trifasciata*, *C. yunnanensis*, *C. zhoui*, *Cyclemys* spp., *Geoemyda japonica*, *G. spengleri*, *Hardella thurjii*, *Heosemys annandalii*, *H. depressa*, *Mauremys annamensis*, *M. japonica*, *M. nigricans*, *Melanochelys trijuga*, *Morenia petersi*, *Orlitia borneensis*, *Sacalia bealei*, *S. quadriocellata* and *Vijayachelys silvatica* (Freshwater box turtles)

Proposal (part 1): Inclusion of *Cyclemys* spp., *Geoemyda japonica*, *G. spengleri*, *Hardella thurjii*, *Mauremys japonica*, *M. nigricans*, *Melanochelys trijuga*, *Morenia petersi*, *Sacalia bealei*, *S. quadriocellata* and *Vijayachelys silvatica* in Appendix II

The proposal would have the effect of listing essentially all valid Asian species of Geoemydidae in CITES except for two farmed species (*Mauremys reevesii* and *M. sinensis*). The proponents appear to take a family-level approach in making a case for this proposal, rather than a species-by-species approach. However, the criteria for listing species in the Appendices are designed to be applied to individual species and there are no criteria to judge a whole family or sub-set of a family of species. The following recommendations are therefore made after examining the species in this proposal individually.

***Cyclemys* spp.:** The *Cyclemys* complex is a poorly known group, with low levels of reported trade, likely due to their not being CITES listed. *Cyclemys dentata* is very heavily traded from South-East Asia to supply demand for meat in China. Many species within this group are range-restricted. Species identification is a major obstacle for enforcement agencies regulating the trade. CITES-listed species of other genera, such as *Notochelys platynota* and *Heosemys spinosa* are known to be illegally exported from South-East Asia to China, falsely declared as *Cyclemys* spp. to avoid CITES restrictions.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Ryukyu Black-breasted Leaf Turtle *Geoemyda japonica*: A range-restricted species threatened largely by habitat loss and fragmentation, and to a lesser extent, by illegal collection to meet international demand for the pet trade.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Black-breasted Hill Turtle *Geoemyda spengleri*: Collection of this species both for food and for the pet trade appears to have caused a significant decline in some populations.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Crowned River Turtle *Hardella thurjii*: This species occurs widely in the Indian subcontinent. It is common or fairly common in Bangladesh but populations appear to have declined in India, probably because of the long-standing heavy exploitation for food. International demand exists, including consumption in mainland China, trade in dried meat between India and Bangladesh, and medicinal use in Taiwan. Hatchlings have been exported from Bangladesh for the pet trade.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Japanese Pond Turtle *Mauremys japonica*: Endemic to Japan, this species is threatened by land use changes and competition with introduced species. Some populations are known to be in decline or depleted. Small numbers of captive-bred specimens have appeared in the international pet trade but there is no evidence this trade is significant.

Recommendation: REJECT

Red-necked Pond Turtle *Mauremys nigricans*: In great demand for the international pet trade, wild populations appear to have crashed in recent decades, and biologists in southern China have not located wild animals for several years.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Indian Black Turtle *Melanochelys trijuga*: This species is widespread in South and South-East Asia, where some populations appear to be threatened by trade and habitat degradation. It is traded internationally as live animals and plastrons, mainly to meet demand in China. There is also evidence of trade between India and Bangladesh in dried meat.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Indian Eyed Turtle *Morenia petersi*: This species has a restricted range in north-east India, Bangladesh and probably Nepal. It is heavily exploited to meet international demand for food in south China, and as a result populations have declined.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Beal's Eyed Turtle *Sacalia bealei*: Assessed by IUCN as Critically Endangered, this species is reportedly uncommon and declining in its restricted range. The species was formerly common in trade, but is now rarely seen.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Four-eyed Turtle *Sacalia quadriocellata*: Illegal trade is a threat to this species in its restricted range within China, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. Trade from Lao PDR and Viet Nam is largely to supply international demand.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Cochin Forest Cane Turtle *Vijayachelys silvatica*: Generally rare and infrequently encountered, although highly cryptic and seasonal in appearance. Local indigenous communities consider the species not uncommon and not declining. While a few specimens have appeared in the European pet trade since the late 20th century, there is no evidence this trade is significant.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 32. Proposal (part 2): A zero quota on wild specimens for commercial purposes for *Batagur borneoensis*, *B. trivittata*, *Cuora aurocapitata*, *C. flavomarginata*, *C. galbinifrons*, *C. mccordi*, *C. mouhotii*, *C. pani*, *C. trifasciata*, *C. yunnanensis*, *C. zhoui*, *Heosemys annandalii*, *H. depressa*, *Mauremys annamensis* and *Orlitia borneensis*

A zero quota for wild-caught specimens is proposed for 15 geoemydid species currently listed in Appendix II. Almost all are categorized by IUCN as Critically Endangered. Most have restricted ranges in China and South-East Asia, some extremely so. They are widely used for food; some, particularly the rare or attractively marked *Cuora*, are also subject to intense demand for the pet trade. Legal trade reported to CITES has been mainly at low to moderate levels.

Given all are either Critically Endangered or Endangered, and the majority are highly threatened by over-exploitation, proposals to include most of these species in Appendix I would have been far more effective and practical given many of the species are found in range States with low levels of wildlife law enforcement that are known to be experiencing high levels of laundering of wild-caught specimens through captive-breeding facilities (but with little capacity to regulate captive-breeding production, monitor wild populations and effectively manage quotas). It is not clear whether the zero quota is intended to cover ranched specimens or if a zero quota on these species could be effectively monitored or enforceable.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 33. Viet Nam: *Cuora galbinifrons* (Indochinese Box Turtle)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The Indochinese Box Turtle *Cuora galbinifrons* occurs in southern China, Viet Nam, Lao PDR and possibly Cambodia. Intensively collected for food, populations are reportedly in severe decline, and the species was classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN in 2000. CITES Parties recommended suspension of trade in this species with Lao PDR and Viet Nam in 2009 as a result of a Review of Significant Trade.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 34. Japan: *Geoemyda japonica* (Ryukyu Black-breasted Leaf Turtle)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II with a zero annual export quota with primarily commercial purposes for wild-caught specimens

The Ryukyu Black-breasted Leaf Turtle *Geoemyda japonica*, restricted to three islands in the Okinawa group, is under threat largely from loss and fragmentation of habitat, and to a lesser extent, by illegal collection to meet international demand for the pet trade. Commercial collection and export is banned under Japanese legislation but it is believed that illegal exports are still taking place. It is not clear if the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II but listing would provide a stronger legal basis (in at least some countries) to address illegal trade outside Japan.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 35. Viet Nam: *Mauremys annamensis* (Annam Leaf Turtle)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The Annam Leaf Turtle *Mauremys annamensis* is endemic to Viet Nam. Large areas of its former habitat have been converted to cultivation or urban use. Assessed by IUCN in 2000 as Critically Endangered, the species has been rarely documented in the wild and a capture in 2006 was the first ever confirmed wild capture of the species since 1939. The species is in demand nationally and in China for medicinal use, and there is also some demand in the international pet and Asian food trades. The species is very rare and appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 36. USA and Viet Nam: *Platysternidae* (Big-headed turtles)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

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.**

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 37. USA: *Geochelone platynota* (Burmese Star Tortoise)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

The Burmese Star Tortoise *Geochelone platynota* is endemic to central Myanmar where populations have reportedly been severely reduced, mainly due to collection to meet international demand for meat and medicine, as well as for the international pet trade. Nearly 800 captive-bred specimens and 500 ranched specimens have been exported from Myanmar since 2005, with an additional 2500 live specimens recorded in trade from non-range States (half of which were reported as wild or with no origin stated). It was classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN in 2000 and it has been speculated that no viable wild populations currently exist. It would appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 38. China and USA: *Aspideretes leithii*, *Chitra chitra*, *C. vandijki*, *Dogania subplana*, *Nilssonina formosa*, *Palea steindachneri*, *Pelodiscus axenaria*, *P. maackii*, *P. parviformis* and *Rafetus swinhoei* (Softshell turtles)

Proposal: Inclusion of *Aspideretes leithii*, *Dogania subplana*, *Nilssonina formosa*, *Palea steindachneri*, *Pelodiscus axenaria*, *P. maackii*, *P. parviformis* and *Rafetus swinhoei* in Appendix II. Transfer of *Chitra chitra* and *C. vandijki* from Appendix II to Appendix I

With the exception of *Palea steindachneri*, *Pelodiscus maackii* and *Pelodiscus parviformis*, 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: *Dogania subplana* 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 *Amyda cartilaginea* (currently listed in Appendix II) falsely declared as *D. subplana*. These species are exceptionally difficult for enforcement officers to differentiate from one another, and therefore including all of them in this proposal on look-alike reasons is warranted.

Rafetus swinhoei 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 *Chitra* species, *C. chitra* and *C. vandijki*, are seriously threatened by illegal and unsustainable harvest, for local consumption and to meet international demand for meat and eggs. *Chitra chitra* is currently assessed in the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered, *C. vandijki* 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.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 39. Ecuador: *Epipedobates machalilla* (Machalilla Poison Dart Frog)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

The Machalilla Poison Dart Frog *Epipedobates machalilla* occurs in lowland forests of Ecuador and is reportedly not rare within its range although populations are believed to be declining due to habitat loss. It was assessed by IUCN in 2004 as Near Threatened. There is no indication of international demand for the species in trade. The species is proposed for inclusion in Appendix II for look-alike reasons as it resembles *E. boulengeri*. However, trade in *E. boulengeri* is reportedly low, most apparently in captive-bred animals.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 40. Australia: *Rheobatrachus silus* (Southern Gastric-brooding Frog)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

The last record of the Southern Gastric-brooding Frog *Rheobatrachus silus* in the wild was in 1981 and the species has been classified as Extinct by IUCN since 2002. In the highly unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume it would be affected by trade and commercial export, which would anyway be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 41. Australia: *Rheobatrachus vitellinus* (Northern Gastric-brooding Frog)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

No specimens of the Northern Gastric-brooding Frog *Rheobatrachus vitellinus* have been found since 1985 and the species has been classified as Extinct by IUCN since 2002. In the highly unlikely event of its rediscovery, there is no reason to assume it would be affected by trade and commercial export, which would anyway be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 42. Brazil, Colombia and USA: *Carcharhinus longimanus* (Oceanic Whitetip Shark)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: The entry into effect of the inclusion of *Carcharhinus longimanus* in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues

The Oceanic Whitetip Shark *Carcharhinus longimanus* is widely distributed but heavily exploited throughout its range because of the strong international demand for its fins. The species is inherently vulnerable to over-exploitation and there is evidence demonstrating declines in most monitored populations.

Fins from the species are reported to be highly distinctive and easily identifiable by non-specialists. While some countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations have established regulations on the catch or finning of sharks, it is not clear how effective the implementation of these measures is or their measurable conservation benefit.

The species appears to meet the criteria for listing in Appendix II based on its decline in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (where regulation of trade is required to ensure the species does not become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I (*Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2a Criterion A*)) and its decline in the Indian Ocean (where regulation of trade is required to ensure its harvest from the wild is not reducing the population to a level where its survival might be threatened (Criterion B)).

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 43. Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark[†], Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico: *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. mokarran* and *S. zygaena* (Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, Great Hammerhead Shark and Smooth Hammerhead Shark)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: The entry into effect of the inclusion of these species in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues

The Scalloped Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna lewini*, Great Hammerhead Shark *S. mokarran* and Smooth Hammerhead Shark *S. zygaena* are species inherently vulnerable to over-exploitation. In addition to catches of adults, newborn and juveniles are captured in nursery zones throughout most of their ranges and their aggregatory behaviour permits greater targeting by fisheries. All three are targeted due to the strong demand and high value of their fins. They are also caught as a secondary catch in other fisheries, with both their fins and meat entering international trade. Hammerhead shark fins, while difficult to distinguish at the species level, as a whole are reported to be distinctive from those of other sharks and identifiable by non-specialists through the use of available identification guides. While some countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations have established regulations on the catch or finning of sharks, it is not clear how effective the implementation of these measures is or their measurable conservation benefit. Regulations will also need to deal with mitigation and avoidance of catch as these experience high at-vessel mortality with limited post-release survivorship. Only the Scalloped Hammerhead is proposed for listing under *Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2a Criterion A*, but it appears that all three species meet the decline criteria for Appendix II, with regulation required to ensure they do not become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I. Some populations appear already to meet the decline criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. The Great Hammerhead and Smooth Hammerhead are proposed for listing owing to look-alike issues as the fins of all three species are often traded with no sorting. Based on this and the difficulty of distinguishing the fins of the three species from each other, the Great Hammerhead and Smooth Hammerhead meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II (*Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2b Criterion A*). However, similar problems in distinguishing specimens in trade at the species level occur with other species of the Sphyrnidae family not listed in CITES. **It is recommended that a Decision of the Parties at CoP16 directs the Animals Committee to examine the merits of listing other species of hammerhead sharks due to the difficulties in discerning the species in trade and therefore qualifying for inclusion in Appendix II for look-alike reasons (*Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2b Criterion A*).** This could include species such as Winghead Shark *Eusphyrna blochii*, Mallethead Shark *Sphyrna corona*, Scoophead Shark *Sphyrna media*, Bonnethead Shark *Sphyrna tiburo* and Smalleye Hammerhead *Sphyrna tudes*.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 44. Brazil, Comoros, Croatia, Denmark[†] and Egypt: *Lamna nasus* (Porbeagle Shark)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: The entry into effect of the inclusion of *Lamna nasus* in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve related technical and administrative issues

The Porbeagle Shark *Lamna nasus* is widely distributed and its life history characteristics make it highly vulnerable to over-exploitation. This species has suffered declines as a direct result of long-term harvest for its highly valued meat and the species continues to be taken as a secondary catch, with both meat, and to a lesser extent fins, being retained for trade. Due to the serial depletion and closure of fisheries in the North Atlantic, Porbeagles in the Southern Hemisphere are likely to become more targeted to meet future demand. They are smaller, slower growing and longer lived than those in the North Atlantic, and are intrinsically more vulnerable to exploitation. These stocks are subject to fishing that is not regulated in at least some places. While some

countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations have established regulations on the catch or finning of sharks, it is not clear how effective the implementation of these measures is or their measurable conservation benefits, particularly with regard to Porbeagle. Fins from the species are reported to be identifiable but, for the effective implementation of the listing, the degree to which it is possible by non-specialists needs to be clarified. The species appears to meet the criteria for Appendix II, with regulation required to ensure the species does not become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future (*Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2a Criterion A*). There are cases of dramatic localized depletions of the species that would already appear to meet the decline criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 45. Australia: *Pristis microdon* (Freshwater Sawfish)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

All sawfish from the family Pristidae were included in Appendix I at CITES CoP14, except for the Freshwater Sawfish *Pristis microdon*, which was included in Appendix II, but restricted to allow only international trade for display purposes. This was based on the proponent, Australia, at the time considering its population could support such harvest. However, Australia no longer considers it is possible to make a non-detriment finding which can conclude that any harvest for export purposes would not be detrimental to the survival or recovery of the species. This is based on serious declines in abundance and overall distribution, with recent genetic analysis suggesting there are distinct sub-populations within Australia. The species appears to meet the criteria for inclusion within Appendix I and its transfer there would ensure easier enforcement of all listings of this family and reduce the possibility of look-alike issues or illegal trade.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 46. Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador: *Manta* spp. (Manta rays)

[NB the proponents place this genus in the family Mobulidae, but this is not in accordance with the standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties]

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Manta rays, genus *Manta*, are slow growing with low productivity making them particularly susceptible to over-exploitation. Manta rays also congregate at well-known aggregation sites and follow migratory pathways which allows for greater targeting of the species. Manta species are targeted predominantly for their highly valued gill plates, which are traded internationally, and also retained as valuable secondary catch for meat and skins. While there is limited catch and trade information available at the species level, there are indications of declines in sub-populations. The species appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in that regulation of trade may be required to ensure that harvest from the wild is not reducing the population to a level at which its survival

might be threatened by harvesting or other influences (*Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2a Criterion B*). Manta gill plates are also traded under common trade names and in amalgamated shipments with those of mobula rays *Mobula* spp., which like manta rays are from the family Mobulidae. While there are guides that may assist non-specialists in identifying manta ray gill plates, implementation of the listing would require attention due to the nature of the products of the two genera being combined in trade. **It is recommend that a Decision of the Parties at CoP16 directs the Animals Committee to examine the merits of listing other devil rays from the family Mobulidae in the Appendices, including the listing of the mobula rays *Mobula* spp., due to the difficulties in distinguishing their traded gill plates from those of manta rays.**

Recommendation: ACCEPT

Introduction for Proposals CoP16 Prop 47 & CoP16 Prop 48. Freshwater rays:

At the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC24), following the convening of a South American freshwater stingray workshop (pursuant to Decision 14.110), recommendations to range States were made for the improved collection of information on the impacts on freshwater stingrays from trade and habitat degradation. AC24 also recommended that range States improve their regulations for management of trade and harvest and consider the use of Appendix III “to support domestic management measures for species entering international ornamental trade and to improve and enhance trade data collection.” It is unclear as to what extent any of the recommendations have been acted upon by range States. **It is recommended that a Decision of the Parties at CoP16 directs the Animals Committee to consider how the range States of freshwater stingrays in South America have implemented the relevant recommendations of AC24 and provide further recommendations and support, where appropriate.**

CoP16 Prop 47. Colombia: *Paratrygon aiereba* (Ceja River Stingray)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: The entry into effect of the inclusion of *Paratrygon aiereba* in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues

The Ceja River Stingray *Paratrygon aiereba* is widely distributed within rivers of South America. It is targeted for international and domestic trade of its meat and live specimens for aquaria. While there are concerns of population declines, there is limited information to support this. However, tens of thousands of stingrays from the family Potamotrygonidae (of which this species is a member) are exported from Brazil and Colombia annually, with concerns that there may be illegal trade occurring from Brazil where trade in live specimens is banned. There is not sufficient information to determine if the species meets the criteria for listing in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 48. Colombia and Ecuador: *Potamotrygon motoro* and *P. schroederi* (Ocellate River Stingray and Rosette River Stingray)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: The entry into effect of the inclusion of *Potamotrygon motoro* and *Potamotrygon schroederi* in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues

Found in South America—the Ocellate River Stingray *Potamotrygon motoro* widely distributed and the Rosette River Stingray *P. schroederi* more restricted, but still with an extensive range—both species are targeted for the ornamental fish trade. While there are some indications of local declines of the species, there is little quantitative information available; insufficient to determine if the species meet the criteria for listing in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 49. Denmark†: *Papilio hospiton* (Corsican Swallowtail Butterfly)

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II

Endemic to the islands of Corsica (France) and Sardinia (Italy), the Corsican Swallowtail *Papilio hospiton* was once considered one of the rarest European butterflies, but available evidence suggests it is reasonably widespread and locally abundant on both islands. The population is thought to be stable or increasing and faces no known major threats. The species does not appear to be in significant demand for international trade and it is legally protected under the EU Habitats Directive and protected nationally in both its range States. It therefore no longer appears to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 50. Mexico: *Yucca queretaroensis* (Queretaro Yucca)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Yucca queretaroensis is endemic to Mexico. Its low reproductive success rate, low regeneration rate, long generation length, specialized habitat and specialized pollination make it highly vulnerable to the extraction of mature individuals for international trade, which is considered to be a significant threat. The species appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II under the criterion outlined in *Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2a Criterion B*. Because it can also be confused with other species of the same genus and other morphologically similar species of different genera, effective implementation of an Appendix II listing would require the availability of specific identification materials to facilitate enforcement.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 51. Madagascar: *Operculicarya decaryi* (Jabihy)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Jabihy *Operculicarya decaryi*, known commonly as “elephant plant” is a widespread and locally abundant tree in southern Madagascar that can grow up to 9 m in height. It has been exported in the low thousands for the horticultural plant trade in the relatively recent past, although no exports have been reported since 2006. The species is widely available as an artificially propagated plant. Based on available information, this species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 52. Botswana, Namibia and South Africa: *Hoodia* spp. (Hoodia)

Proposal: Amendment of annotation #9 related to *Hoodia* spp. to read as follows, for the purpose of clarification: All parts and derivatives except those bearing a label: Produced from *Hoodia* spp. material obtained through controlled harvesting and production in terms of an agreement with the relevant *CITES Management Authority of [Botswana under agreement no. BW/xxxxxx] [Namibia under agreement no. NA/xxxxxx] [South Africa under agreement no. ZA/xxxxxx]*

This species, commonly known in the industry generically as “hoodia”, is grown and harvested in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa for primarily medicinal purposes. The genus of 14 species was listed in Appendix II with annotation #9 at CITES CoP13. This annotation amendment proposal aims to change the existing annotation to clarify the intent of the original proposal, allowing each of the three countries above individually to enter into commercial agreements with producers in their respective countries and issue their own product labels that would exempt the products from CITES provisions. This proposal should have no other effects.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 53. USA: *Panax ginseng* and *P. quinquefolius* (Ginseng)

Proposal: Amendment of the annotation to the listings of *Panax ginseng* and *Panax quinquefolius* included in Appendix II. Amendment of annotation #3 with the addition of the underlined text: “Designates whole and sliced roots and parts of roots, excluding manufactured parts or derivatives such as powders, pills, extracts, tonics, teas and confectionery.”

Ginseng *Panax ginseng* and *P. quinquefolius* are medicinal plants whose roots yield the herbal medicine ginseng. *Panax quinquefolius* is native to Canada and the USA; *P. ginseng* is native to China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation. This amendment proposal aims to address confusion caused by the original listing regarding

whether manufactured products are subject to CITES provisions and proposes changing the existing annotation #3 applied to these two species from “whole and sliced roots and parts of roots.” to include the additional text clarifying exemptions as follows: “whole and sliced roots and parts of roots excluding manufactured parts or derivatives such as powders, pills, extracts, tonics, teas and confectionery”. The proposal’s wording appears to clarify what products are included and what is not included under the listing of these species.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 54. Brazil: *Tillandsia kautskyi* (Kautsky’s *Tillandsia*)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

Kautsky’s *Tillandsia* *Tillandsia kautskyi* is a rare epiphytic bromeliad known from only a few specimens collected in Espírito Santo in Brazil. It has a restricted range and is unlikely to be able to withstand large scale harvest for export. However, while demand for this species by enthusiasts continues, artificial propagation is reportedly the only source of specimens now in trade. No reported exports of wild harvested plants have taken place since the species was listed in Appendix II in 1992 and there is no evidence of ongoing wild collection or illegal trade.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 55. Brazil: *Tillandsia sprengeliana* (Sprengel’s *Tillandsia*)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

Sprengel’s *Tillandsia* *Tillandsia sprengeliana* is an epiphytic bromeliad known from four Brazilian States. It is found in a variety of habitats and although demand continues, artificial propagation is reportedly the only source of specimens now in trade. No reported exports of wild harvested plants have taken place since the species was listed in Appendix II in 1992, there is no evidence of ongoing wild collection or illegal trade and several sub-populations are found in protected areas.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 56. Brazil: *Tillandsia sucrei* (Sugar Tillandsia)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

Sugar Tillandsia *Tillandsia sucrei* is a rare epiphytic bromeliad known from the State of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. This species has a very restricted range and is unlikely to be able to withstand large scale harvest for export. However, while demand for this species by enthusiasts continues, artificial propagation is reportedly the only source of specimens now in trade. No reported exports of wild harvested plants have taken place in the 20 years since the species was listed in Appendix II in 1992 and there is no evidence of ongoing wild collection or illegal trade.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 57. USA: *Dudleya stolonifera* and *D. traskiae* (Laguna Beach Live-forever and Santa Barbara Island Live-forever)

Proposal: Deletion from Appendix II

Succulent plants endemic to the USA, there has been no recorded export of either *Dudleya stolonifera* or *D. traskiae* since they were listed in Appendix I in 1983 or in Appendix II in 2000. Given the National and State laws that protect the species in the USA, their remote relatively inaccessible locations and evidently low international demand, wild-collection of specimens for international trade is considered very unlikely. It is also unlikely that removal from the CITES Appendices will stimulate trade. The species no longer appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 58. Madagascar: *Diospyros* spp. (Malagasy ebony)

Proposal: Inclusion of the populations of Madagascar in Appendix II, and limited to logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets by an annotation

Malagasy ebonies *Diospyros* spp. have been subject to intense levels of uncontrolled and illegal international trade in recent years, despite the introduction by Madagascar of legislation banning the export of precious woods in 2010. Some species are known to have restricted distributions and one, *D. perrieri*, is thought to have disappeared from western Madagascar. Given the large scale deforestation occurring in Madagascar, apparently high rates of harvesting of ebony-producing trees and the generally long generation times of ebony-producing trees, it is possible that some species meet the criteria for listing in Appendix II. There is a convincing case that listing would greatly strengthen Madagascar's efforts to reduce trade threats.

Accurate methods to identify Malagasy ebony at species level are not yet available and the listing of the whole genus would facilitate implementation of an Appendix II listing. Nevertheless, effective implementation of this listing would require the development of identification manuals for the species and capacity building for countries trading the genus. Madagascar

would also require substantial assistance to ensure that it has a consistent legislative framework and adequate monitoring and enforcement capacity to implement the listing.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 59. Brazil: *Aniba rosaeodora* (Brazilian Rosewood)

Proposal: Amend the annotation #12 to “Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood and extracts”

Brazilian Rosewood *Aniba rosaeodora* is a tree species occurring in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. It was included in Appendix II in 2010 largely because of concerns regarding harvest for export of its oil and associated products. The listing has annotation #12 “Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood and essential oil (excluding finished products packaged and ready for retail trade).” This amendment proposes changing the annotation to “Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood and extracts”. However, this amendment would have the effect of including finished products in CITES provisions, which does not appear to be the intent of the proponent.

Recommendation: ACCEPT IF clarifying text is added as follows “logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywoods and extracts, excluding finished products packaged and ready for retail trade”

CoP16 Prop 60. Thailand and Viet Nam: *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* (Thailand Rosewood)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: #5 Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets

Found in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, export of Thailand Rosewood *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* is prohibited in all range States, but illegal harvesting and heavy international trade continue. Demand has risen markedly in recent years, particularly in China. The species has a fragmented distribution and is found at relatively low densities. Classified as Vulnerable by IUCN, its populations are declining across its range. The timber is highly valued and coupled with other threats, such as habitat destruction and degradation, the species appears to meet the criteria for listing in Appendix II.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 61. Belize: *Dalbergia retusa* and *D. granadillo* (Black Rosewood and Granadillo Rosewood)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

The habitat for the Central American tree species *Dalbergia retusa* is over-exploited, degraded and fragmented. There is great demand for the timber and the species may already be commercially extinct in some of its range. It is listed as Vulnerable by IUCN. Demand for international trade is now also being met by harvest from plantations and private farms, although it is not clear how significant trade levels are compared to trade from wild populations. Although current trade threats are hard to discern, there is sufficient concern to justify listing.

The wood of *Dalbergia granadillo* is considered to be indistinguishable from that of *D. retusa* and is traded under the same name. If *D. retusa* were to be listed in Appendix II, implementation of such a listing would be greatly facilitated by the inclusion of *D. granadillo* in Appendix II.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 62. Belize: *Dalbergia stevensonii* (Honduras Rosewood)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Honduras Rosewood *Dalbergia stevensonii* has a highly restricted distribution concentrated in southern Belize, where commercial stocks are declining rapidly. It is threatened by habitat degradation, fragmentation and illegal logging. There is high international demand for its timber, in the manufacture of musical instruments and furniture. Demand for rosewood in general has grown significantly in recent years, particularly in Asia. Despite a moratorium on felling and export in Belize, illegal felling continues and harvesting has reportedly increased markedly in recent years. It would appear the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. For the effective implementation of this listing, Belize may require international assistance and support to enhance its enforcement capacity.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 63. Madagascar: *Dalbergia* spp. (Malagasy rosewood)

Proposal: Inclusion of the populations of Madagascar in Appendix II, and limited to logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets by an annotation

Malagasy rosewoods *Dalbergia* spp. are threatened by habitat destruction, degradation and illegal harvesting. The Government of Madagascar issued a Decree in 2010 which unconditionally banned all harvest, transport or export of rosewood in Madagascar for the next 2–5 years. It is unclear if this ban is still in place. The timber from some species is highly valued and international trade has risen dramatically over recent years. In 1998, IUCN considered 36 of the 43 Malagasy *Dalbergia* species as threatened. Some rosewood-bearing *Dalbergia* species are known to have

restricted distributions in areas that have been subject to intensive logging in recent years. Given the large increases in exports and the generally long-generation time of these trees, it is likely that some species at least meet the criteria for listing in Appendix II. There is a convincing case that listing would greatly strengthen Madagascar's efforts to reduce trade threats. Methods to identify Malagasy rosewood to species level are not yet available and the listing of the genus will facilitate implementation, as well as addressing the current taxonomic confusion over the species. Nevertheless, effective implementation of this listing would require the development of identification manuals for the species and capacity building for countries trading the genus. Madagascar would also require substantial assistance to ensure that it has a consistent legislative framework and adequate monitoring and enforcement capacity to implement the listing.

Recommendation: ACCEPT

CoP16 Prop 64. Madagascar: *Senna meridionalis* (Taraby)

[NB the proponents place this species in the order FABACEAE, but this is not in accordance with the standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties]

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Senna meridionalis, commonly known as Taraby, occurs in southern Madagascar, where it is estimated to be locally common. It is offered for sale in various parts of the world, but generally in low volumes. The plants offered for sale range from small individuals grown from cuttings, to larger individuals of unknown origin. Some wild collection is known to have taken place in the early 2000s. No exports have been reported from Madagascar since 2006. Given the distribution of the species and the absence of any reported recent trade from the range State, the species would not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 65. Madagascar: *Adenia firingalavensis* (Lokoranga)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Adenia firingalavensis, known commonly as Lokoranga or Bottle Liana, is a succulent shrub endemic to Madagascar. It is reportedly widespread and common. Its habitat is affected by factors including agricultural expansion, bushfires and charcoal production. The species appears in international trade as live mature plants with a developed caudex stem, small plants and seeds. Propagation from seed is reported to be easy but slow, and propagation from cuttings is possible. Although there has been some collection from the wild, overall demand appears to be relatively low, with no exports reported since 2006. The species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 66. Madagascar: *Adenia subsessifolia* (Katakata)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Katakata *Adenia subsessifolia* is a succulent plant endemic to Madagascar. It occurs in the southern part of Madagascar and is reported to be relatively widespread within its range. Its habitat is affected by clearance for agriculture and charcoal production, and by fire. The species, including wild plants, is traded in low volumes in international trade as a horticultural plant, although no export has been reported since 2006. It is reportedly very difficult to extract mature wild plants intact from the limestone in which they grow; in contrast, artificial propagation is said to be easy. The species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 67. Madagascar: *Uncarina grandidieri* (Uncarina)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Uncarina grandidieri has a wide distribution in south and south-west Madagascar. It is in cultivation, and is reportedly easy to propagate. Recent trade outside Madagascar appears to be largely in seeds or in propagated plants. Export of plants, some or all of which are presumed wild-collected, has taken place in the past, although there is no indication of ongoing export from the range State. The scale of the reported trade is small compared with the likely population of the species based on observed densities. Based on available information, this species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 68. Madagascar: *Uncarina stellulifera* (Uncarina)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Uncarina stellulifera has a relatively wide distribution in south-west Madagascar. It is in cultivation, and is reportedly easy to propagate. Recent trade outside Madagascar appears to be largely in seeds. Some export of plants, presumed wild-collected, has taken place in the past, although there is no indication of ongoing export of wild-collected plants. The scale of the reported trade is very small compared with the likely population of the species based on observed densities. Based on available information this species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 69. Kenya: *Osyris lanceolata* (East African Sandalwood)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

East African Sandalwood *Osyris lanceolata* is reportedly exploited in East Africa for production of oil and associated products, apparently leading to population declines in Kenya and Tanzania. However, the species is widespread and at least locally common outside Kenya and Tanzania, with no evidence of large-scale exploitation elsewhere. Based on available information, this species does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in Appendix II.

Kenya and Tanzania could consider Appendix III listings for their respective populations. It is also recommended that both countries continue establishing certification measures for sustainable harvesting of *O. lanceolata*. National sustainable harvesting programmes should also take into consideration the impact of harvest on hemi-parasite host plants including *Rhus natalensis* and *Carissa spinarum*.

Recommendation: REJECT

CoP16 Prop 70. China, Indonesia and Kuwait: *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp. (Agarwood)

Proposal: Deletion of the annotation to the listing of *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp. in Appendix II, and replacement with a new annotation with a new number, as follows:

All parts and derivatives, except: a) seeds and pollen; b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers; c) fruits; d) leaves; e) mixed oil containing less than 15 % of agarwood oil, attached with labels of following words: "Mixed oil containing xx% of agarwood obtained through controlled harvesting and production in collaboration with the CITES Management Authorities of XX (name of the State)"; samples of the labels and list of relevant exporters should be communicated to the Secretariat by States and then all Parties through a Notification; f) exhausted agarwood powder, including compressed powder in all shapes; g) finished products packaged and ready for retail trade, this exemption does not apply to beads, prayer beads and carvings

Agarwood-producing genera *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* are threatened by over-exploitation in the wild to supply international demand in the Middle East and East Asia. Many countries now have cultivated agarwood plantations, which are beginning to supply the market with all forms of agarwood products that are being reported in trade as artificially propagated (source code A). The issue of artificial propagation is being addressed in a draft resolution at this meeting of the CoP (see CoP16 Doc 67.2). This amendment proposal aims to simplify the implementation and enforcement of agarwood trade controls, and is supported by a Glossary of Agarwood Products compiled in CoP16 Inf. 3. However, it is not clear if the intent of some elements of this proposal addresses the principles that are provided as guidance in *Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP15)* regarding annotations for medicinal plants, viz. controls should concentrate on those commodities that first

appear in international trade as exports from range States; these may range from crude to processed material; and controls should include only those commodities that dominate the trade and the demand for the wild resource, viz. woodchips, powder and oil. The proposal will need to address a number of challenges likely to be faced by enforcement officers, such as distinguishing between mixed oils of less than 15%, and agarwood oil of higher concentrations up to 100% purity, and distinguishing between agarwood powder and “exhausted powder”.

Recommendation: ACCEPT IF i) there is a streamlining of this amendment proposal, and its revised annotation so that it is in alignment with and does not contradict the proposed amendment to *Resolution Conf 13.7 (Rev. CoP14)* in CoP16 Doc. 47 regarding personal effects exemptions specific to agarwood products. ii) Paragraph e) incorporates text that will eliminate any potential loopholes that would allow higher concentrations of oil to be misdeclared as “mixed oils of less than 15%”, with respect to the amount of agarwood needed to produce each litre of pure oil. iii) Paragraph f) incorporates text that will provide clear specifications to prevent agarwood powder being misdeclared as “exhausted powder”, either at point of export from range States or point of import. This should also be related to quantities and forms specified under any export quota from range States. In addition, the paragraph could specify “100% exhausted powder” to avoid shipments of mixed pure and exhausted powder being exempted. iv) Paragraph (g) regarding finished products specifies what kind of products the exemption will apply to, in addition to what it does not apply to.

CoP16 Prop 71. Madagascar: *Cyphostemma laza* (Laza)

Proposal: Inclusion in Appendix II

Laza *Cyphostemma laza* is widespread in Madagascar; its overall population is estimated to be large or very large. The species is in cultivation and has been collected from the wild and exported in some quantity. It is assumed that most, if not all, exported plants were wild-collected. However, no export from the range State has been reported since 2006. Although collection for export may well have led to local depletions, the impact on the total national population would seem to be negligible, given its very extensive range. Based on available information, this species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Recommendation: REJECT

[†] Denmark on behalf of the European Union Member States acting in the interest of the European Union

* CoP16 Prop 15 to CoP16 Prop 20 inclusive are proposed by Switzerland as the Depositary Government, at the request of the Animals Committee

Scientific name	Page	Scientific name	Page	Scientific name	Page	Scientific name	Page	Scientific name	Page
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<i>Chaeropus ecaudatus</i>	4	<i>Dudleya stolonifera</i>	26	<i>Nilssonia formosa</i>	17	<i>Sceloglaux albifacies</i>	9		
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<i>Cuora mouhotii</i>	13, 15	<i>Hoodia</i> spp.	24	<i>Pelodiscus parviformis</i>	17	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>			
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The IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/speciesour_work/species_and_policy/iucn_traffic_analyses_of_proposals_cites_cop16/
or <http://www.traffic.org/cop16>

Summaries of the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
<http://www.traffic.org/cop16>

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
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