

**CoP17 Prop 2. [The European Union and Georgia] Inclusion of Western Tur *Capra caucasica* in Appendix II, with a zero quota for wild-taken *Capra caucasica caucasica* exported for commercial purposes or as hunting trophies**

The CITES standard nomenclature recognizes three subspecies within *Capra caucasica* (*C. c. caucasica*, *C. c. cylindricornis* and *C. c. severtzovi*), although there is considerable taxonomic debate, with some recognizing *Capra caucasica* and *C. cylindricornis* as separate species. *Capra caucasica* has an extensive range, and a relatively large and overall increasing population. There does not appear to be significant international trade in the species although trophy hunting in the Russian Federation is reported to be undertaken, mainly by foreign visitors. It would not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

With regard to the proposal for a zero quota for wild-taken specimens of *C. c. caucasica* exported for commercial purposes or as hunting trophies, there are no guidelines or criteria in Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) for assessing such a proposal. Assessment against the Appendix I criteria may be considered appropriate given the implications of this proposal. The population does not have a restricted range but is reported to be relatively small and declining and may meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. However, no harvest of *C. c. caucasica* is permitted in its range States and there is no evidence it is significantly affected by trade. Furthermore, Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) indicates that split-listing should generally be avoided and when it does occur, it should be on the basis of national or regional populations, rather than subspecies. This proposal does not adhere to that recommendation.

**The criteria for inclusion of the species in the Appendices do not appear to be met. It is not clear what the conservation benefit of a CITES listing would be for the species and the proponents are urged to provide further clarification on the purpose of and justification for this proposal.**