

**CoP17 Prop. 40. [Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru] Inclusion of *Telmatobius culeus* (Titicaca Water Frog) in Appendix I**

The Titicaca Water Frog *Telmatobius culeus* occurs in Bolivia and Peru at Lake Titicaca and a few nearby water bodies. Estimates of its overall population vary widely but its population is clearly not small. There are indications of declines.

Threats include habitat degradation, pollution, introduced species and emerging infectious diseases. *T. culeus* is protected in both range States. However, it is regularly harvested for human consumption (as meat, traditional medicine, flour, frog extracts and juices claimed to have aphrodisiac effects), for local religious purposes and for its leather. The bulk of demand and trade is domestic, with international trade mainly restricted to some transboundary trade between Bolivia and Peru and reports of very limited trade to Argentina, Chile and Japan while unknown quantities of leather have been traded to the USA and Canada. With the exception of very limited demand in Japan, private pet collectors have little interest in *T. culeus*.

There is, overall, insufficient information to determine whether the species meets the decline criteria for inclusion in Appendix I and the conservation benefit of listing the species in the CITES Appendices is unclear, since most trade is domestic and to a lesser extent between the two range States where legal protection is already provided. It appears the main conservation action needed is for the two range States to include *T. culeus* in current bilateral efforts towards biodiversity conservation, including strengthening enforcement of harvesting prohibitions.

**REJECT: unless the proponents provide clearer indications of how this listing would provide an essential enhancement to their bilateral efforts to reduce illegal harvest and local trade.**