

CoP17 Prop 46. [European Union] Inclusion of Banggai Cardinal Fish *Pterapogon kauderni* in Appendix II

The Banggai Cardinal Fish *Pterapogon kauderni* has a very restricted range and biological characteristics which make it vulnerable to overexploitation. It has been harvested in large numbers since the mid-1990s for the international aquarium fish trade. Available evidence indicates this has led to significant and continuing reductions in population density and overall size. The species can be bred relatively easily in captivity, although wild-caught fish are currently less expensive. The species is also affected by habitat loss and degradation. It would appear that the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) in that regulation of harvest is required to ensure that the wild population does not become threatened through continued harvesting or other influences.

There appears to be no effective long-term management in place. In Indonesia, a Banggai Cardinal Fish Action Plan (BCF- AP) was drawn up for the period 2007 to 2012, and included the establishment of the Banggai Cardinalfish Centre (BCFC) to co-ordinate conservation and management actions. Trade quotas were proposed by local stakeholders in 2010 but were not continued, mainly due to a lack of legal support. By 2012, there was reportedly still no effective long-term conservation, management or monitoring system in place. A marine protected area was established in 2007 in part to help conserve the species, but there has been no evidence of management of the area, and much of the protected area falls outside the range of the species.

A CITES Appendix II listing for the species should result in improved monitoring and reporting of catches in trade and ensure that wild caught individuals in trade are only from harvest which is sustainable through conducting non-detriment findings.

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