

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHAMBERED NAUTILUS LISTING PROPOSAL

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America*, in relation to amendment Proposal CoP17 Prop. 48 on Inclusion of the Family Nautilidae in Appendix II.
2. On behalf of the co-proponents, we are pleased to provide the fact sheet annexed to this document (provided in English, Spanish, and French), which further supports our position to include these species in CITES Appendix II.
3. We would also like to draw your attention to the review made by the FAO Advisory Panel ([CoP17 Doc. 88.3 Annex 3](#)), which concluded that chambered nautilus meet the CITES Appendix-II listing criteria because of their low productivity and major declines at locations where long-term fishing has occurred.
4. In addition, the United States would like to reiterate that drift shells, those that wash up on beaches as a result of natural mortality, make up a very small part of the shell trade in these species. Drift shells would be unable to satisfy the U.S. demand for shells and current volume of trade, much less global demand. In addition, these shells are often broken or damaged and not as valuable in trade. TRAFFIC's study of trade of chambered nautilus showed that the majority of harvest is from targeted fishing to catch live specimens with intact, whole shells (see [CoP17 Inf. 2](#)).
5. Thus, while we believe that drift shells do not make up a large portion of the trade, to the extent they are in trade, the use of drift shells resulting from natural mortality is thought to have minimal impact on wild nautilus populations. As such, the United States considers that making a non-detriment finding for drift shells should be relatively simple, provided the relevant CITES authorities are satisfied that the material was derived from drift shells.
6. The United States will work with other range and consumer States, the Secretariat, FAO, and organizations as appropriate to explore capacity building opportunities to help ensure that range States have assistance with implementation of the listing, for example, in making non-detriment findings, facilitating management of these species, and developing identification material.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*