

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

ADDITIONAL TRADE AND DECLINE INFORMATION  
IN SUPPORT OF COP 19 PROP. 39 (FRESHWATER STINGRAYS)

1. This document has been submitted by Brazil in relation to CoP19 proposal 39.\*
2. *Potamotrygon leopoldi* and *Potamotrygon wallacei* are endemic low-productivity species of Neotropical stingrays (Potamotrygoninae) restricted to two tributaries of the Amazon River basin. The look-alike species included in the proposal are also Brazilian endemics.

The species proposed have shown population declines in their core habitat of at least:

- *Potamotrygon leopoldi*: 30-60 % in the past 3 generations (21 years), with a population decline of 3.5 - 5% and target ornamental fisheries CPUE decline of 3.5% per annum (Charvet, 2022; Santana & Charvet, in prep.).
- *Potamotrygon wallacei*: 38% in the past 10 years and a predicted decline of 87% for the next 10 years, with a reduction in population growth of 3.3 - 4.1%/ year (Araújo & Lessa, 2015; Araújo, 2022).

Therefore, the inclusion of *P. leopoldi* and *P. wallacei* in CITES Appendix II is essential to avoid them becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future, considering Criteria A of Annex 2a (Conf. 9.24, Rev. CoP17).

3. Freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae) were listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix III in 2017 (CITES, 2017) but this did not provide accurate trade data and did not prevent unregulated ornamental trade from continuing, despite effort by the range State and other neighboring Parties.
4. An Appendix II listing is proposed in order to:
  - significantly improve trade data and compliance with domestic management measures (quotas and fishery prohibitions in protected areas);
  - reduce ongoing international unregulated species trade, which has not ceased despite captive bred specimens now supplying part of the ornamental market and partially diminishing the demand for wild caught specimens (Charvet et al., 2022);
  - provide valuable support for the management and enforcement capacities of sub-regional and national fisheries and environment management agencies.

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\* 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.

5. The two proposed species for inclusion in Appendix II (*P. leopoldi* and *P. wallacei*) and their look-alikes (*Potamotrygon henlei*, *P. albimaculata*, *P. jabuti*, *P. marquesi* and *P. signata*) are all Brazilian endemics that can be identified mainly from disc dorsal color patterns with minimum staff training. Many of these species have only been described in the past two decades, including *P. wallacei*, previously designated incorrectly as *Potamotrygon* cf. *histris* or *P. histris* (Carvalho et al., 2016).

## References

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