

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Include neotropical wood turtles of the genus *Rhinoclemmys* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II 2a and II 2b of the Convention.

B. Proponent

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama\*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Reptilia

1.2 Order: Testudines

1.3 Family: Geomydidae (Subfamilia Rhinoclemmydinae in Turtle Taxonomy Working Group (TTWG), 2017)

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year:

*Rhinoclemmys* spp. (Fitzinger, 1835)

The genus *Rhinoclemmys* currently includes the following species:

*Rhinoclemmys annulata* (Gray, 1860)

*Rhinoclemmys areolata* (Duméril & Bibron, 1851)

*Rhinoclemmys diademata* (Mertens, 1954)

*Rhinoclemmys funerea* (Cope, 1876)

*Rhinoclemmys melanosterna* (Gray, 1861)

*Rhinoclemmys nasuta* (Boulenger, 1902)

*Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima* (Gray, 1856)

*Rhinoclemmys punctularia* (Daudin, 1801)

*Rhinoclemmys rubida* (Cope, 1870)

1.5 Scientific synonyms: See Fritz & Havaš (2007) and TTWG (2017) for synonyms of family, genus, and species names.

1.6 Common names: English: Neotropical wood turtles  
French: rhinoclemmy de ponctuee commune

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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.

Spanish: tortuga de bosque, montañera, bambera, morrocoy, tortuga trueno mojina, inguensa, de monte mojina, negra; cabeza de cinta, chibigui, galápago, inguensa, hicootea palmera, orito, palmera, patiamarilla, etc.

1.7 Code numbers: *Rhinoclemmys*: 208659; *R. annulata*: 551854;

## 2. Overview

Along with Asian turtles that have been particularly affected by international trade, the collection of turtles for the international pet trade and consumption is a serious problem in North, Central, and South America (Stanford et al., 2020). "Trade in turtle species continues to follow a boom-and-bust pattern in which exploitation and trade shift from one species to another when: 1) a species becomes so depleted or rare that it is no longer commercially exploitable; or 2) a species becomes subject to stricter regulation and as such is less exploitable. Ultimately, Asian consumption (primary market) moves further outside the region to Africa, America and the Middle East in order to fill market demand" (CoP17 Prop. 36). This trade is increasingly reaching the American continent, home to the nine species of *Rhinoclemmys* that are the subject of the current proposal. *Rhinoclemmys* is the only genus in the family native to the Americas (Le & McCord, 2008). Legal and illegal international trade in these species is increasing. It is also the only one not currently included in the CITES Appendices, and interest in species of this genus appears to have increased dramatically in recent years as other geoemids become increasingly difficult to obtain.

Five *Rhinoclemmys* spp. have been formally assessed as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species<sup>1</sup>: *R. annulata* (Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle and Specialist Group [TFTSG], 1996a), *R. areolata* (van Dijk et al., 2007), *R. funerea* (TFTSG, 1996b), *R. nasuta* (TFTSG, 1996c) and *R. rubida* (van Dijk, Canseco - Marquez and Muñoz, 2007). None of these reviews is recent. *R. annulata*, *R. melanosterna* and *R. nasuta* are listed as Endangered (EN) on the Red List of Threatened Reptiles in **Ecuador** (Carillo et al., 2005; Torres-Carvajal, Pazmiño-Otamendi & Salazar-Valenzuela, 2019). *R. nasuta* is considered as Near Threatened nationally in **Colombia** (Vogt, Platt & Rainwater, 2009), and *R. diademata* is listed as Vulnerable in both **Colombia** and **Venezuela** (Bolivarian Republic of) (Rivas et al., 2007). This species has not been assessed by the IUCN, but the TFTSG has proposed to categorize it as Vulnerable (Armesto et al., 2014; TTWG, 2017). Macip-Rios et al. (2015) have recommended that the TFTSG update the status of *R. pulcherrima*, currently unclassified by the IUCN.

## 3. Species characteristics

### 3.1 Distribution

The genus *Rhinoclemmys* has a largely continuous distribution from northwestern **Mexico** to northeastern **Brazil** and the Pacific slope of **Ecuador**. The species are native to the following states: **Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France (French Guiana), Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**. The range States of the individual taxa of *Rhinoclemmys* are the following:

*R. annulata* : **Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama**

*R. areolata* : **Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico**

*R. diademata* : **Colombia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**

*R. funerea* : **Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama**

*R. melanosterna* : **Colombia, Ecuador, Panama**

*R. nasuta* : **Colombia, Ecuador**

*R. pulcherrima* : **Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua**

*R. punctularia* : **Brazil, France (French Guiana), Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**

*R. rubida* : **Mexico**

Though some species (e.g. *R. pulcherrima*, *R. punctularia*) have extensive ranges, others are quite local. *R. diademata* is endemic to the Lake Maracaibo basin in northeastern **Colombia** and northwestern **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**, where it is common (Rivas et al., 2007; Armesto et al., 2014), *R. nasuta* has a restricted distribution in the Chocóan rainforest on the Pacific coast of

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?query=Rhinoclemmys&searchType=species>, accessed 24 November 2020

**Colombia and Ecuador** ( Carr and Giraldo, 2009; Garcés-Restrepo, Giraldo and Carr , 2013), and *R. rubida* is restricted to a narrow area of deciduous scrub in the Pacific area of **Mexico** .

### 3.2 Habitat

*Rhinoclemmys* turtles mainly inhabit dry or humid forests. In **Costa Rica**, *R. funerea* is found on the shores of lakes and rivers with abundant flow and slow flow of the **Caribbean slope** (Savage, 2002; Muñoz, 2012; Leenders, 2019), from sea level to a height of 1,049 meters, while *R. pulcherrima* is found in typically terrestrial **dry forest habitats of the Western Central Valley and in the North Pacific** (Savage , 2002; Leenders, 2019) , at a maximum elevation of 1,400 meters (Merchan, 2003). *R. annulata* lives in tropical forests, gallery forests, and dry forests below 1,000-1,500 meters on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica (Savage, 2002; Muñoz, 2012; Leenders, 2019). It is entirely terrestrial, but will visit rain pools and approach the water to drink (Ferwerda, 2008; Giraldo, Garcés-Restrepo & Carr, 2013). *R. areolata* inhabits savannahs, thorny scrub forests, broadleaf forests, fallow farmland, and marshes. Some populations of *R. areolata* are primarily terrestrial, while a swamp-dwelling population in Tabasco, **Mexico** , has been described as “essentially aquatic” (Pérez-Higareda & Smith, 1988). In **Belize**, *R. areolata* is found primarily in pine areas (Legler and Vogt, 2013; Vogt, Platt, and Rainwater, 2009). It has been recorded making use of the burrows of nine-banded armadillos (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) (Platt, Rainwater & Brewer, 2004). *R. diademata* is primarily an aquatic species in permanent or seasonal rivers, streams, reservoirs, ponds, swamps, and lagoons in lowlands and foothills, but can be found on land (Pritchard and Trebbau, 1984; Rivas et al., 2007). It has been found at the Cúcuta airport (Norte de Santander, **Colombia**), after heavy rains (Armesto et al., 2014). *R. funerea* is semi-aquatic, found in and around rivers, swamps, ponds, and small streams (Willems, 2015), but also occupies terrestrial habitats, foraging in riparian areas at the water's edge or in adjacent floodplain areas (Folt , 2020). *R. melanosterna* is semi-aquatic (Avendaño, 2019), inhabiting fresh and brackish water environments. It prefers lentic bodies of water within forests, including rivers, streams, ponds, swamps, and small ponds. It may seek refuge in surrounding well-wooded areas with abundant vegetation and humidity (Avendaño, 2019). *R. nasuta* inhabits areas of tropical moist forest in the coastal plain and foothills, where it lives in a variety of aquatic habitats, including large rivers, small rivers, streams, and lagoons (Avendaño, 2019). *R. nasuta* inhabits tropical humid forest areas in the coastal plain and foothills, where it lives in a variety of aquatic habitats, including large rivers, small rivers, streams, and ponds or lakes. It is considered the most aquatic species of the genus (Carr , Giraldo & Garcés-Restrepo, 2017), and will apparently enter brackish water (Carr & Giraldo, 2009). *R. punctularia* is found in a wide variety of habitats, including swamps, wooded savannahs, forests, cultivated land, urban ditches, and possibly cerrado in northeastern **Brazil** (Pritchard and Trebbau, 1984; Wariss, Isaac, and Pezzuti, 2012; Pereira et al. 2013). It can survive in heavily disturbed habitats (Dornas, Malvasio & Pinheiro, 2011). *R. pulcherrima* thrives in neotropical deciduous forests and gallery forests, favoring muddy pools during the dry season, but can be found far from water during the rainy season (Legler & Vogt, 2013). *R. rubida* can be found on rocky slopes, near lowland streams, and in thorny thickets in different parts of its range (Legler & Vogt, 2013). It is a fully terrestrial inhabitant of seasonal tropical dry forests in western **Mexico** (Butterfield et al., 2018; Butterfield , Beck & Macip - Ríos, 2020).

### 3.3 Biological characteristics

Most *Rhinoclemmys* turtles are primarily diurnal, although *R. funerea* , *R. nasuta* , and *R. punctularia* are active primarily at night (Chung, 2014; Willems, 2015; Carr , Giraldo & Garcés-Restrepo, 2017). Their diet varies between species. *R. annulata* is apparently strictly herbivorous (Páez et al., 2012), feeding on ferns, herbs, seeds and fruits (Ferwerda, 2008). In **Belize**, *R. areolata* is primarily herbivorous in the dry season, but may eat animal matter at other times, including insects, snake skins, and animal droppings (Vogt, Platt, and Rainwater, 2009). *R. diademata* is omnivorous and feeds mainly on aquatic plants, insects, snails, worms, and other invertebrates (Armesto et al., 2014). Adults of *R. funerea* are mostly herbivorous, but juveniles feed primarily on insects and other invertebrates (Merchan-Fornelino , 2003). *R. melanosterna* feeds on aquatic plants, grasses, seeds and fruits (Páez et al., 2012). *R. nasuta* is mainly herbivorous, but can also ingest animal matter, mainly arachnids and insects, including hymenoptera and odonata (Carr and Giraldo, 2009; Herrera, 2015) and carrion (Carr et al., 2010; Carr, Giraldo and Garcés- Restrepo, 2017). *R. pulcherrima* is omnivorous, it feeds on a wide variety of plants and invertebrates such as snails (Legler & Vogt, 2013). In **Costa Rica**, they feed on the larvae of different insects, buzzing insects, earthworms, some vertebrates, flowers, stems, fruits, leaves and seeds (Corrales and Valenciano 2019). *R. punctularia* is a widespread omnivore, feeding both on land and in water (Pritchard and Trebbau, 1984). *R. rubida* has been observed eating fallen fruit, lettuce leaves, snails, and earthworms (Alvarado-Diaz et al., 2003).

*Rhinoclemmys* turtles show a typical pattern of several clutches of a few eggs per year (Moll & Legler, 1971). In **Costa Rica**, the oviposition of *R. funerea* takes place between May and October (Merchan, 2003) while *R. pulcherrima* nests from May to December (Monge et al 1988) and ***R. annulata* between March and August (Leenders, 2019)**. In **Guatemala**, Christensen (1975) reports up to 4 clutches per year (between 3 and 5 eggs) for *R. p. incised*. Most species lay one or two eggs per clutch, but clutches of up to three eggs have been reported for *R. diademata* (Armesto et al., 2014) and up to five for *R. areolata* (Legler & Vogt, 2013). In Costa Rica, *R. p. manni* has a number of eggs in a range between 1 and 6 eggs (Castillo (1986). *R. areolata* normally lays one and rarely two eggs per clutch and can lay up to four clutches during the nesting season from May to July in **Belize** (Vogt, Platt & Rainwater, 2009). *R. melanosterna* normally lays a single egg, but clutches of up to five eggs have been recorded. It may nest in any month of the year (Páez et al., 2012). *R. nasuta* apparently lays clutches of one or two eggs, particularly between January and March, this species is estimated to reach sexual maturity at 12 years (males) or 14 years (females) (Carr & Giraldo, 2009). On the Pacific coast of **Colombia**, they lay clutches between May and June and between October and December (Garcés-Restrepo et al., 2017). It has been reported that *R. pulcherrima manni* in captivity lays one egg every six weeks from October to April (Webb, 2010). *R. punctularia* nests in different months in different parts of its range. Clutches of one, two and three eggs have been reported (Cunha, Medeiros & Vogt, 2019; Soares, Cunha & Vogt, 2017). Mating behavior in *R. rubida perixantha* has been observed in August (Butterfield , 2015).

### 3.4 Morphological characteristics

*Rhinoclemmys* spp. are attractive turtles, with low, rounded shells mostly colored in warm shades of brown, and in some species with ornate patterns of red and yellow on the shell. Most species display bright colors on the head and limbs. They are not hinged at the plastron, but when a *Rhinoclemmys* withdraws its head, two folds of skin close over it like curtains, hiding it completely from view (Pritchard and Trebbau, 1984). The more terrestrial species (*annulata* , *areolata* , *rubida* , *pulcherrima*) have often well-sculpted shells, while the more aquatic species (*diademata*, *funerea*, *melanosterna*, *nasuta*, *punctularia*), like many other freshwater turtles, have low, streamlined shells with little relief and broad webbed toes (Orenstein, 2012; Pritchard & Trebbau, 1984; Legler & Vogt, 2013).

*Rhinoclemmys* turtles are sexually dimorphic, with females larger than males (Páez and Restrepo 2012). *R. areolata* probably reaches sexual maturity at 9-10 years (Legler & Vogt, 2013). Males of *R. nasuta* are believed to reach the minimum size of sexual maturity at 12 years (Páez and Restrepo 2012; Carr , Giraldo & Garcés-Restrepo, 2017).

### 3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

In **Costa Rica**, at Tortuguero, juveniles of *R. funerea* often take refuge in floating water hyacinths as a defensive strategy against their many predators ( Merchan , 2003). *R. annulata* can be consumed by birds of prey (Páez and Restrepo 2012). *R. nasuta* is preyed upon by crocodiles and possibly opossums, and young animals can be eaten by snakes (Carr and Giraldo, 2009; Garcés-Restrepo, Carr, and Giraldo, 2019). An adult *R. areolata* had been found killed and partially eaten by a big cat (either a jaguar or a puma) (Vogt, Platt, and Rainwater, 2009). In the pine forests of **Belize**, *R. areolata* may be an important seed disperser of *Byrsonima crassifolia* and possibly other woody shrubs (Legler and Vogt, 2013; Vogt, Platt, and Rainwater, 2009). In **Costa Rica**, the habit of *R. funerea* of emerging from the water to defecate on riverbanks may aid in seed dispersal of riparian plants such as *Dieffenbachia longispatha* and *Ficus glabrata*, while defecation by terrestrial *R. annulata* while foraging in treefall areas may contribute to the distinctive flora of these habitats (Moll & Jansen, 1995). This species can help control populations of flies and other insects in banana plantations by eating fallen fruit (Giraldo, Garcés-Restrepo & Carr , 2013). *R. rubida perixantha* can be an important seed disperser of *Guapira* spp., *Ficus* spp. and *Opuntia* spp. in dry forest on top of a hill (Butterfield & Rivera - Hernandez, 2014), and could be important to maintain the composition of the forest structure (Butterfield, Beck & Macip - Ríos, 2020).

## 4. Status and trends

### 4.1 Habitat trends

The habitats of *Rhinoclemmys* spp. are threatened in many parts of their range. Torrential rains and floods can remove individuals of *R. nasuta* from streams and alter the nature of their habitats (Garcés-Restrepo, Carr & Giraldo, 2019). Changes in land use and logging have contributed to the loss of streams where populations of these species once existed (Páez and Restrepo., 2012; Carr , Giraldo & Garcés-Restrepo, 2017). **Belize** – Lowland pine areas inhabited by *R. areolata* are under pressure

from logging and conversion to agriculture (Legler and Vogt, 2013; Vogt, Platt, and Rainwater, 2009). **Brazil:** Man-made fires and drought may affect mortality rates of *Rhinoclemmys* turtles in southeastern Brazil (Oliveira et al., 2019). **Venezuela** (Bolivarian Republic of): The habitats of *R. diademata* are considered endangered (dry forests of Maracaibo) and critically endangered (humid forests of Catatumbo) (Rivas et al., 2007).

#### 4.2 Population size

There is little quantitative information on the size and structure of the populations of most *Rhinoclemmys* species (Butterfield, Beck & Macip - Ríos, 2020). **Belize:** Based on surveys conducted between 1992 and 2000, "*R. areolata* is widespread and abundant in northern Belize, particularly in lowland pine habitats where preliminary estimates suggest densities of 5-6 turtles per ha". Survey data from other parts of its range are lacking, but based on the presence of suitable undisturbed habitat, it may be common in southern Belize (Vogt, Platt and Rainwater, 2009). **Mexico:** *R. areolata* is frequently seen in Tabasco and Quintana Roo, with the largest and densest population on Isla Cozumel, but may be found only sporadically elsewhere (Legler & Vogt, 2013). It is seen more frequently in the rainy season and may aestivate at other times (Artnier, 2009). **Colombia:** *R. nasuta* has been described as "abundant" in the rivers of the department of Chocó (Carr & Giraldo, 2009). The population density on a protected island site, Isla Palma, on the Pacific coast, has been estimated at 1,428 individuals per hectare of stream (ibid). Garcés-Restrepo (2015) found similar population densities at this site and lower densities of 325 individuals per hectare at another. The population of Isla Palma shows signs of inbreeding (Castillo Cutiva, Barreto & Giraldo, 2014), and its high population density may reflect the protected status of the island, the absence of predators such as large mammals and crocodiles, and a lower diversity of snakes than on land (Garcés-Restrepo, Giraldo & Carr, 2013). **Ecuador:** Population densities appear much lower, with only 4.6 individuals per hectare in the Canandé Reserve (Herrera, 2015). **Mexico:** A mark-recapture study of a population of *R. rubida perixantha* in the Chamela-Cuixmala Biosphere Reserve in Jalisco (Butterfield, Beck & Macip-Ríos, 2020) found that these subspecies are abundant in suitable habitats (hills in dry forest), with an estimated population density of about 43 individuals per hectare.

#### 4.3 Population structure

The population structure of *Rhinoclemmys* has been studied for only a few species. **Costa Rica:** Males outnumbered females (1M: 0.56F) in a population of *R. funerea* studied at La Selva Biological Station. Males occupied much larger home ranges than females and appeared to be permanent residents, while females appeared to occupy smaller home ranges for short periods of time before migrating to other habitats such as open rivers, which may be more suitable for nesting (Folt, 2020). **Brazil:** Females dominated (but not significantly) the sex ratio in a population of *R. punctularia* studied in Pará (Wariss, Isaac & Pezzuti, 2012). **Colombia:** A study of *R. melanosterna* suggested that populations in freshwater ecoregions are isolated from each other, with limited gene flow between gene pools in each ecoregion (Avendaño, 2019). Garcés-Restrepo (2015) found male/female sex ratios of 39:61, 27:73, and 40:60 in *R. punctularia* at study sites in Colombia (see also Giraldo et al., 2012; Garcés-Restrepo, Giraldo & Carr, 2014). **Ecuador:** In a study of *R. nasuta* in the Canandé Reserve, almost 70% of the population sampled were juveniles and the sex ratio was dominated by females (Herrera, 2015). **Mexico:** The sex ratio in the population of *R. rubida perixantha* was biased in favor of males (1.5:1). However, the captured turtles were almost entirely adults, suggesting that the population may not be stable or that the juveniles use a different type of habitat (Butterfield, Beck & Macip -Ríos, 2020), although a similar dominance of adults was reported in other *Rhinoclemmys* populations. (Giraldo et al., 2012; Wariss, Isaac and Pezzuti, 2012; Garcés-Restrepo, Giraldo and Carr 2014).

#### 4.4 Population trends

Little quantitative information exists on population trends for *Rhinoclemmys* spp. As noted above, IUCN assessments only exist for five species, and they are out of date. Given the increased development of its habitat and increased commercial interest in the genus over the last decade, local populations of some species are likely to have declined.

#### 4.5 Geographic trends

Regarding population trends, the available information is limited. Increased pollution of river systems may result in the loss of local populations of most aquatic species in the future, if it has not already happened.

## 5. Threats

*Rhinoclemmys* turtles are slow-growing species with a low reproductive rate (Carr, Giraldo & Garcés-Restrepo, 2017) and have been described as “at great risk because of exploitation for the pet trade and of habitat destruction” (Murphy, 2016). Low population density, low fertility and slow growth increase the vulnerability of species such as *R. annulata* to overexploitation and habitat loss (Giraldo, Garcés-Restrepo & Carr, 2013). *R. annulata* and *R. melanosterna* are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation (Carvajal-Cogollo, Rojas-Murcia & Cárdenas-Arévalo, 2020), and *R. annulata* is even more threatened by contamination of waterways due to the extraction of gold, the construction of highways and ensuing land development and occupation. (Ferwerda, 2008). *R. diademata* is threatened by habitat loss due to agriculture and possibly oil extraction (Armesto et al., 2014). In **Costa Rica**, fluvial traffic as a result of increased ecotourism may disturb the rest of *R. funerea*, possibly resulting in negative effects including decreased body temperature and increased stress-related hormones (Willems, 2015). On the other hand, legal and illegal international trade in these species is increasing (see section 6).

## 6. Utilization and trade

### 6.1 National utilization

*Rhinoclemmys* turtles are eaten by rural and indigenous peoples in many parts of their range and are used as a source of traditional medicine in some areas. Local trade, including sale as pets or as tourist souvenirs, has been recorded for several species. **Belize**: Rastafarian bands “occasionally use intact *R. areolata* shells as percussion instruments” (Vogt, Platt & Rainwater, 2009). **Brazil**: *R. punctularia* is eaten “wherever it is found” (Pritchard and Trebbau, 1984) and is among the species recorded as being hunted by indigenous peoples in **Brazil** (De Souza- Mazurek et al., 2000). Its fat is used in **Brazil** as a source of traditional medicine for the treatment of wounds, tumors, erysipelas, earache and rheumatism (Alves et al., 2009; Alves, Oliveira & Rosa, 2013). In Belém, the ritual use of heads of this species “to calm a person” has been recorded (Alves et al., 2012). *Rhinoclemmys* spp. “have not been a component of the common wildlife trade in southeastern Brazil” (Siciliano et al., 2014). *R. punctularia*, according to a study, is not destined for the pet trade in Brazil (Do Valle, Marques & Tinôco, 2016); However, this statement is based on data from 2001 and may not reflect the current situation. **Colombia**: *R. diademata* is hunted for meat and occasionally kept as a pet in **Colombia** (Armesto et al., 2014). *R. funerea* is one of the species hunted with dogs by the indigenous Mayangna and Miskito communities in Nicaragua (Koster, 2008). *R. melanosterna* is prized as food on the Pacific coast, and younger individuals may be kept as pets before being eaten. In some communities it is used in traditional medicine, and eating its raw heart is believed to give children strength, courage, and the ability to swim. *R. annulata* and *R. nasuta* are consumed as a source of protein and are used in traditional medicinal practices and in the production of alcoholic beverages. They are also frequently kept as pets, and their shells are used to make decorative items (Carr & Giraldo, 2009; Giraldo, Garcés-Restrepo & Carr, 2013; Carr, Giraldo & Garcés-Restrepo, 2017). *R. melanosterna* is frequently taken to supply the pet trade and has been reported, along with *Kinosternon leucostomum* (Kinosternidae), as one of the most trafficked turtles in the Pacific coast of Valle del Cauca (Carr et al., 2014). Their shells are used to make handicrafts for sale to tourists (Páez and Restrepo, 2012). **Costa Rica**: Wild-caught *R. pulcherrima manni* have been traded as pets (Drews, 2001). **Ecuador**: *Rhinoclemmys* turtles (unidentified species) were the animals most frequently trapped by Afro-Ecuadorian subsistence hunters in the community of Playa del Oro in northwestern Ecuador (Gast, 2016). Carr et al. (2014) found that *R. annulata*, *R. melanosterna* and *R. nasuta* were captured for food by rural Afro-Ecuadorian and Chachi inhabitants of the Cayapas-Santiago river basin in Esmeraldas province. Almost all of the captured turtles were eaten, mainly as a soup or stew, although *R. melanosterna* was sometimes sold in the town of La Tola where there were no local populations of freshwater turtles. **Mexico** – The indigenous peoples of Tabasco, Yucatán, and Quintana Roo often keep pens of *R. areolata* as an alternative source of protein, but this species is apparently not sold as food in markets or served in restaurants in either Mexico or Belize (Legler & Vogt, 2013). “It is often sold as tourist curios, stuffed and assembled to play guitars or other musical instruments” (Vogt, Platt, & Rainwater, 2009), and *R. rubida*, which is not used for food, is nonetheless sought after for the pet trade. *R. pulcherrima* is eaten and kept as a pet by indigenous peoples in Guerrero and was reportedly sold in markets in El Salvador during the 1960s (Legler & Vogt, 2013). **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**: *R. diademata* is, or was, consumed quite frequently, and was sometimes collected by rural residents of the state of Zulia for consumption during Holy Week (Pritchard and Trebbau, 1984). It is the most consumed freshwater turtle in the Maracaibo basin (Rivas et al., 2007).

## 6.2 Legal trade

In the past, *Rhinoclemmys* spp. were considered difficult to keep in captivity, particularly in Europe (Wilke, 2002), in part because animals entering the pet trade were often in very poor health (Hofstra, 2002). Pritchard (1979) noted that “mature females of all captive *Rhinoclemmys* species appear to be very prone to egg attachment, often leading to death within about a year”. However, *Rhinoclemmys* spp. have been reported in the pet trade in Texas (Ceballos & Fitzgerald, 2004). *R. pulcherrima* was described in 2003 as “widely available through the reptile trade in recent years” in the **United States of America**, where individuals were “easily and cheaply purchased from dealers, breeders, and even chain grocery stores, “mass-market pets,” and as “not hard to find”. “They stay in good health, provided the proper adaptations and diet are provided” (Weiss, 2003). Individuals of *R. pulcherrima* and *R. punctulata* have been found to have escaped or have been released into the wild in Florida (Krysko et al., 2011; Powell, 2020).

In **Mexico**, no legal exports of *Rhinoclemmys* were recorded between 2000 and 2012, but increasing numbers, mainly of *R. areolata*, have been exported in the years since:

Table 1. Reported exports of *Rhinoclemmys* spp. of Mexico 2000 -2021<sup>2</sup>

Year	Species	Quantity
2000-2012		0
2013	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	60
2014	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	84
2015	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	72
2016	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	102
2017	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	100
2018	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	200
2019	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	8
	<i>Rhinoclemmys blonde</i>	68
	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	49
2020	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	118
	<i>Rhinoclemmys blonde</i>	19
	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	32
2021	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	170
	<i>Rhinoclemmys blonde</i>	193
	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	45

In 2021, **Mexico** registered an import of 2,000 *Rhinoclemmys* spp. (SEMARNAT, 2022). In 2005, imports of *Rhinoclemmys* spp. to Europe have reportedly increased, presumably as “a relatively cheap alternative to protected turtle species from other parts of the world, for which trade is illegal” (Rotmans, 2005). *R. pulcherrima* has been described as the most common species, with *R. p. manni* as the most common (and most colorful) subspecies in trade (Hainz, 2006; Spinner, 2011).

A survey (September 2017-September 2018) for the German Ministry ENVI on trade in reptiles, amphibians and mammals for the pet trade recorded seven species of *Rhinoclemmys* being offered for sale on European online platforms and Facebook groups. These included *R. annulata* (6, reported as captive bred [cb]), *R. areolata* (5 cb), *R. diademata* (3 cb, 11 of unknown origin), *R. funerea* (2 cb, 14

<sup>2</sup> SEMARNAT 2018-2019 Official Letter No. SEMARNAT/UCPAST/UT/304/18. 29 January 2018 and Official Letter No. SEMARNAT/UCPAST/UT/2725/19. 20 August 2019; SEMARNAT 2022 Official Letter No. SEMARNAT/UCPAST/UT/676/2022 folio number 330026722000581 March 16, 2022

of unknown origin) *R. pulcherrima* (18 cb , 6 wild, 53 of unknown origin), *R. punctularia* (7 of unknown origin and *R. rubida* (number of individuals not recorded) *R. rubida* was the most expensive species in trade (€500), followed by *R. p. pulcherrima* (€300), a Mexican endemic subspecies with no records of legal exports from **Mexico** before 2019. Other species ranged from €50 to €120 Some traders offered “*R. incisa*” as a species rather than a subspecies of *R. pulcherrima* (Altherr in litt.; detailed results from Altherr, Freyer and Lameter, 2020).

Substantial quantities have been imported into the **US in recent years** and a **California**-based website<sup>3</sup> now describes *R. pulcherrima* as “one of the most common wood turtles seen in the pet trade,” noting that “they have been imported in large numbers in recent years” and that *R. p. manni* and *R. funerea* “have proven easy to breed.” This site also notes that the animals “often arrive at importers with a few scratches and cuts, the most serious problems being shell rot and lack of scales.”

According to LEMIS data, the **United States of America** imported 57,426 *Rhinoclemmys* specimens in the five years between 2011 and 2016, almost all of them as live animals. 53,216 of these were *R. pulcherrima*, mostly animals declared as captive-bred specimens from **Nicaragua**. The other specimens included nearly 3,500 *R. punctularia* , including wild-caught specimens from **Guyana** and **Suriname** and some reported as captive-bred in **Nicaragua**, 602 *R. diademata*, including 600 from **Nicaragua**, again reported as captive-bred (Nicaragua is not a range State of *R. punctularia* or *R. diademata*), 34 *R. funerea* from Costa Rica and Nicaragua, also reported as captive bred, and 14 *R. rubida*, reported as captive bred, from Europe (**Germany** and **Czech Republic**).

*R. punctularia* has been offered for sale in **Taiwan** according to a 2004-2005 survey (Shiau et al., 2006). *R. punctularia* and *R. pulcherrima* has been reported in pet stores in the **Republic of Korea** (Kim et al., 2016). *R. pulcherrima* has been advertised for sale on a Facebook group in the **Philippines** (Sy, 2018).

### 6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

International trade in *Rhinoclemmys* is primarily in live individuals for the pet trade, although there may be cross-border trafficking in artifacts made from *Rhinoclemmys* spp. for sale to tourists, and perhaps for meat for sale in local markets within the species' range.

### 6.4 Illegal trade

**Mexico:** PROFEPA (Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection) confiscated 649 specimens of *R. areolata*, 484 specimens of *R. pulcherrima* and 33 specimens of *R. rubida* between 1999 and 2021. *R. rubida* has been registered for sale online in Europe (Altherr, Schuller, & Fischer, 2016; Altherr & Lameter, 2020). There has been a general upward trend in the number of seizures in Mexico in recent years, as the graph below indicates.<sup>4</sup>:

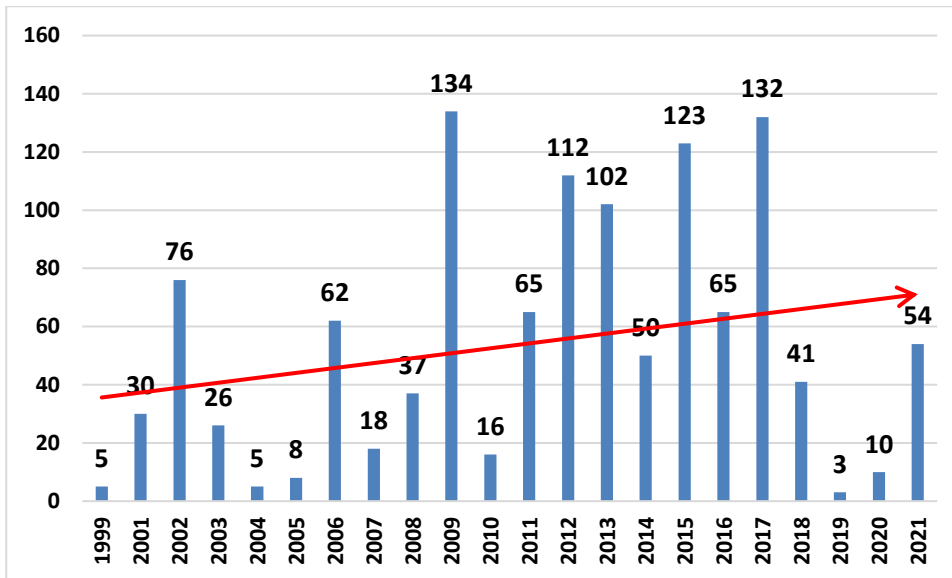
Graph 1

Seizures of *Rhinoclemmys* in Mexico

<sup>3</sup> <https://animal-world.com/encyclo/reptiles/turtles/OrnateWoodTurtle.php>; accessed 26 December 2020.

<sup>4</sup> PROFEPA 2019 Official Letter PFFPA/1.7/12C.6/02176/19. NOV 29 2019; CONABIO Official Letter DGCII-079/2022 Mexico City, May 27, 2022





*R. areolata* has been reported to be rare in captivity as a result of trade bans from **Mexico** (Artner, 2009), although the species also occurs in **Belize**. The source or founding stock of the specimens in the European collections is probably unknown, although Artner (op . cit.) purchased specimens from a collector in the **United States of America** in 1998. **Colombia**: *Rhinoclemmys* is one of the five most traded turtle genera (the others are *Trachemys*, *Chelonoidis*, *Kinosternon* and *Podocnemis*). *Rhinoclemmys* turtles appear in 2.9% of the 5,882 seizure records between 2005 and 2009. More significantly, the number of *Rhinoclemmys* seizures increased 22-fold during this period. Turtle trafficking was directed mainly to Andean markets, mainly within the same department of the country, and the role of **Colombia** in the international turtle trade remained uncertain (Arroyave Bermudez et al., 2014). **Ecuador**: *Rhinoclemmys* spp. were among the most common illegally traded turtles. Most went to larger cities like Quito and Guayaquil, but this trade declined after a public campaign to stop wildlife trafficking in the late 1990s (Cisneros-Heredia, 2006). According to Carr and Giraldo (2009), *R. nasuta* "almost never enters the international pet trade", but Carr noted a case of importation "several years ago" into the **United States of America** from **Peru**, a country outside the range of the species, suggesting that the species could be laundered for trade through neighboring countries.

#### 6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

Trade impacts on *Rhinoclemmys* spp. have not been studied, but can be expected to increase as overharvesting and habitat loss reduce the availability and affordability of Asian Geoemydidae .

### 7. Legal instruments

#### 7.1 National

**Mexico**: *R. areolata* and *R. pulcherrima* are included in Category A (Threatened) and *R. rubida* in Category Pr (Under Special Protection) in the List of Species at Risk of Mexico (NOM-059-Semarnat-2010)<sup>5</sup> (Macip - Ríos et al., 2015). Pursuant to article 420 of the Federal Penal Code, "A penalty of one to nine years in prison and the equivalent of three hundred to three thousand day-fines will be imposed on anyone who illegally carries out any activity for the purpose of trafficking, or who captures, possesses, transports, collects, introduces into the country or extracts from it, any specimen, its products or by-products and other genetic resources, of a species of wild, terrestrial or aquatic flora or fauna during closed season, considered endemic, threatened, in danger of extinction, subject to special protection, or regulated by an international treaty to which Mexico is a party, or damages any specimen of the species of wild, terrestrial or aquatic flora or fauna indicated in the previous section. An additional penalty of up to three more years in prison will be applied and up to an additional one thousand day-

<sup>5</sup> Federal Official Gazette DOF 11/14/2019 MODIFICATION of Normative Annex III, List of species at risk of the Official Mexican Standard NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, Environmental protection-Mexican native species of wild flora and fauna-Risk categories and specifications for its inclusion, exclusion or change-List of species at risk, published on December 30, 2010; [http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle\\_popup.php?codigo=5578808](http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle_popup.php?codigo=5578808).

finer, when the behaviors described in this article are carried out in or have an impact on a protected natural area, or when they are carried out for commercial purposes." <sup>6</sup> Vogt, Platt & Rainwater (2009) "recommend that the uncontrolled sale in Mexico of curios made with *R. areolata* be prohibited". *R. nasuta* "undoubtedly benefits from general measures against commercial-scale collection of wildlife for export in Colombia and Ecuador" (Carr & Giraldo, 2009).

## 7.2 International

None of the *Rhinoclemmys* species are currently subject to species-specific international regulation or protection.

## 8. Species management

### 8.1 Management measures

Little information is available on the population management of or trade in *Rhinoclemmys* spp. in its various range States. Ignorance of aspects of the natural history of *R. diademata* has prevented the evaluation of its conservation needs and the development of management tools, and a protected area for this species has not yet been proposed. (Armesto et al., 2014).

### 8.2 Population monitoring

No information is available, indicating that apart from occasional scientific surveys at specific sites, there are no population monitoring programmes in place.

### 8.3 Control measures

#### 8.3.1 International

No information available

#### 8.3.2 Domestic

No information available

### 8.4 Captive breeding and artificial propagation

**Brazil:** *R. punctularia* has been bred in Brazilian zoos, notably the Belém Zoo, which maintained a population of over 200 specimens in the 1990s (Molina, 1999). **Mexico:** There are 18 Management Units for the Conservation of Wildlife (UMA) in Mexico that maintain *Rhinoclemmys* spp., including the three Mexican species (*R. areolata*, *R. pulcherrima* and *R. rubida*). Some of these units raise turtles for the trade.<sup>1</sup> *R. areolata* is bred in captivity at the UMA Granja de Tortugas, a turtle breeding center in Nacajuca, Tabasco, and there is a not-for-profit breeding colony of *R. rubida* at the Mexican Center, Turtle in Mazunte, Oaxaca (Gómez Márquez, 2011; Legler & Vogt, 2013). In 2005, 90% of the captive colony at Mazunte was stolen, presumably to supply the pet trade. (Legler & Vogt, 2013).

### 8.5 Habitat conservation

According to Vogt, Platt & Rainwater (2009), "*R. areolata* is probably found in most protected areas throughout its range". *R. nasuta* is known from the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve in Ecuador, and possibly occurs in the Sanquianga and Utría National Natural Parks in Colombia (Carr & Giraldo, 2009). *R. pulcherrima* is present but uncommon in Carara National Park, Costa Rica (Laurencio & Malone, 2009) and occurs in several protected areas in Mexico.

Observation: It is definitely not surprising that *R. pulcherrima* is uncommon in the Carara National Park, since it is even considered that its distribution reaches the Tárcoles River, as indicated by Federico Muñoz (National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio), Costa Rica, (2013) *Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima*, accessed via <http://www.crbio.cr>).

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/9\\_190221.pdf](http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/9_190221.pdf)

## 8.6 Safeguards

### 9. Information on similar species

As more and more Asian turtles, including Geoemydidae, have been listed on the CITES Appendices, declines in the volume of trade in these species have been accompanied by strong increases in the volume of trade in non-listed species exported to Asian markets (IUCN/SSC Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group [TFTSG], 2010 at p. 12). The data registered by the TFTSG correspond to the exports of species from the United States of America (*Chelydra serpentina*, *Apalone ferox* and *A. spinifera*), but the recent increase in exports of *Rhinoclemmys* spp. likely reflects a similar shift from listed to unlisted species as listed species become less available, as a result of increased exploitation as well as reduced populations and as a result of overexploitation. In addition, traders prefer to trade in non-listed species, as this avoids the administrative requirements and costs of processing CITES permits. This trend suggests that although no *Rhinoclemmys* species is currently known to be endangered primarily as a result of overexploitation through international trade, the situation could change rapidly, especially for range-limited species such as *R. diademata*, *R. nasuta* and *R. rubida*.

### 10. Consultations

See Annex 1

### 11. Additional remarks

Antibodies against leptospirosis, a zoonosis capable of being transmitted to various animal species, including humans, have been detected in a captive population of *R. punctularia* in **Brazil** (De Souza Rocha, 2019). *Salmonella* spp. have been isolated from pet specimens of *R. areolata* and *R. pulcherrima* in Guatemala City, **Guatemala** (Guerra-Centeno et al., 2020).

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**Consultas:****México****Carlos Mario Orrego Vázquez****Autoridad Administrativa CITES****MINAE-SINAC****Costa Rica**

PRESENTE:

**Estimado Sr. Orrego:**

Me refiero a su oficio SINAC-SE-CSBSE-102 de fecha 1º de marzo de 2022 en el que nos solicita comentarios e invita a ser co-proponentes de la propuesta para la inclusión al Apéndice II de la CITES de las nueve especies del género *Rhinoclemmys*.

Al respecto, a nombre de las Autoridades Administrativa (DGVS-SEMARNAT) y Científica (CONABIO) de México y en seguimiento a la después de revisar el borrador de propuesta y sus anexos les compartimos las siguientes sugerencias sobre la información de los diferentes apartados:

- 1. Taxonomía:** solo se hace referencia a la taxonomía para las sinonimias. Recomendamos colocar la referencia de respaldo (la cita TTWG cuenta con una versión 2021, sugerimos actualizar).
- 2. Visión general:** el borrador de propuesta considera nueve especies a incluir en el Apéndice II de la CITES, pero no se menciona el cumplimiento de ninguno de los criterios de los Anexos 2a y 2b de la Resolución Conf. 9.24 (Rev.CoP17) para las distintas especies. Asimismo, sugerimos colocar la información de listados de riesgo nacionales en la sección de Instrumentos Jurídicos.
- 3. Estado y tendencias:** los apartados de Tendencias del hábitat y Tendencias geográficas contienen información sobre amenazas que recomendamos mover a las secciones asignadas, y complementar el campo con la información correspondiente.
- 4. Amenazas:** información de otros campos en la propuesta puede ser trasladada a esta sección; independientemente de ello, no se detalla el nivel de amenaza a las especies y las principales fuentes de presión.
- 5. Utilización y comercio:**
  - Sobre la información puntual presentada para México sobre comercio legal y exportaciones, sugerimos tomar en consideración la información (actualización), proporcionada por la PROFEPA en el **Cuadro 1** en el anexo (actualizada a mayo de 2022).
  - La información sobre comercio ilícito en México en la propuesta también requiere aclarar si los decomisos/aseguramientos se realizaron a nivel nacional o en puntos de salida del país (puertos, aeropuertos y fronteras). Sugerimos tomar en consideración la información proporcionada por la PROFEPA (Autoridad CITES de Aplicación de la Ley en México) sobre aseguramientos en el periodo 2017-2021 (**Cuadro 2** en el anexo); cabe destacar que un aseguramiento es la retención precautoria mientras se demuestra legal procedencia, por tanto, no necesariamente refleja eventos de comercio ilegal.
  - Efectos reales o potenciales del comercio: a pesar de la descripción de los usos nacionales y el comercio nacional/internacional, no hay información sobre el efecto real

o potencial del comercio sobre las especies (p.e. evaluar si el número de ejemplares extraídos para comercio internacional podría afectar a sus poblaciones silvestres de acuerdo a los tamaños, densidades o tendencias registrados y su biología reproductiva).

**6. Instrumentos jurídicos y medidas de gestión:**

- Para México únicamente se menciona la NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010 como listado de especies en riesgo, y al artículo 420 del Código Penal Federal. Sin embargo, sugerimos indicar que la gestión de las especies silvestres se realiza en el marco de la Ley General de Vida Silvestre (LGVS), a través del esquema de Unidades de Manejo para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre (UMA) y de los Predios e Instalaciones que Manejan Vida Silvestre (PIMVS).
- Cría en cautiverio: aunque se menciona el número de individuos exportados de Nicaragua (originados de la cría en cautiverio) a los EUA para varias especies, no se presenta información sobre cría en cautiverio en dicho país, por lo que sugerimos complementar este apartado.

**7. Información sobre especies similares:** sugerimos trasladar la información a la sección sobre efectos reales o potenciales del comercio e incluir información en este apartado sobre especies similares, cómo diferenciar el género de otros, o entre las especies del mismo género.

Tomando en cuenta lo anterior, no nos será posible ser co-proponentes, pero podríamos apoyar la propuesta que se presente a la CoP19 si se fortalece con información adicional que muestre el cumplimiento de los criterios de inclusión en el Apéndice II de la Resolución Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

Esperamos que la información y sugerencias sean de utilidad.

Sin más por el momento reciba un cordial saludo.

Atentamente,



M. en C. Sol Guerrero Ortiz

Subcoordinadora de la Autoridad Científica CITES

Firma en Ausencia del Biól. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz

Director General de Cooperación Internacional e Implementación

GLS/SGO/LGML

C.c.e.p. Biól. Roberto Aviña Carlin. - Director General de Vida Silvestre. - SEMARNAT Mtro. Maxime Le Bail.- Director de Cooperación Internacional.- PROFEPA

**Cuadro 1. Ejemplares de *Rhinoclemmys* spp. verificados exportados desde México (2018-2022; DGIAPAF-PROFEPA).**

TRÁMITES	AÑO	NO. DE TRAMITES	CANTIDAD	DESTINO	FINALIDAD
Exportación	2018	1	36 cabezas	China	Comercialización
Exportación	2019	10	181 cabezas	China, Alemania y Corea del Sur	Comercialización
Exportación	2020	4	41 cabezas	Alemania y EUA	Comercialización
Exportación	2021	6	104 cabezas	EUA, China y Japón	Comercialización
Exportación	2022	1	70 cabezas	China	Comercialización

**Cuadro 2. Ejemplares de *Rhinoclemmys* spp. asegurados, de 2017-2021.**

Año	Entidad	Municipio	Nombre común	Nombre científico	Cantidad asegurada
2017	Campeche	Seybaplaya	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	103
2017	Distrito Federal	Nezahualcóyotl	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	1
2017	Quintana Roo	Othón P. Blanco	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	10
2017	Yucatan	Mérida	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	10
2017	Tabasco	Centro	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	2
2017	Chiapas	Arriaga	Tortuga-De Monte Pintada, Tortuga Sabanera	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	1
2017	Sinaloa	Mazatlán	Tortuga Mojina O De Monte	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	5
2018	Veracruz	Tlacotalpan	Tortuga-De Monte	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	1

			Pintada, Tortuga Sabanera		
2018	San Luis Potosi	Soledad de Graciano Sánchez	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	18
2018	Distrito Federal	Naucalpan de Juárez	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	4
2018	Distrito Federal	Naucalpan de Juárez	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	2
2018	Quintana Roo	Tulum	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	5

2018	Yucatan	Motul	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	2
2018	Baja California Sur	La Paz	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	4
2018	Guanajuato	Salamanca	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	1
2018	Distrito Federal	Atizapán de Zaragoza	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	1
2018	Distrito Federal	Naucalpan de Juárez	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	2
2018	Distrito Federal	Naucalpan de Juárez	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	1
2019	Distrito Federal	Naucalpan de Juárez	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	1
2019	Distrito Federal	Tlalpan	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	1
2019	Yucatan	Mérida	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	1
2020	San Luis Potosi	Soledad de Graciano Sánchez	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	7
2020	Distrito Federal	Naucalpan de Juárez	Tortuga Dragon	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	3
2021	Yucatan	Mérida	Tortuga Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys</i>	1

				<i>areolata</i>	
2021	San Luis Potosi	Soledad de Graciano Sánchez	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	10
2021	Yucatan	Mérida	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	1
2021	Distrito Federal	Naucalpan de Juárez	Tortuga-De Monte Payaso	<i>Rhinoclemmys rubida</i>	1
2021	San Luis Potosi	Soledad de Graciano Sánchez	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	1
2021	Morelos	Cuautla	Tortuga-De Monte Payaso	<i>Rhinoclemmys rubida</i>	3
2021	Distrito Federal	Venustiano Carranza	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	1
2021	Quintana Roo	Benito Juárez	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	25
2021	Distrito Federal	Ecatepec de Morelos	Tortuga-De Monte Pintada, Tortuga Sabanera	<i>Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima</i>	2
2021	San Luis Potosi	Soledad de Graciano Sánchez	Tortuga-De Monte Mojina	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	8
2021	Yucatan	Mérida	Tortuga Mojina O De Monte	<i>Rhinoclemmys areolata</i>	1

**Colombia:**

De: FARYDE CARLIER GONZALEZ <faryde.carlier@cancilleria.gov.co>

Enviado el: jueves, 2 de junio de 2022 19:50

Para: Carlos Mario Orrego vasquez <corrego@minae.go.cr>

Asunto: CITES - Comentarios Colombia- Propuesta Centrolenidae y Rhinoclemmys

Respetados colegas:

Atentamente nos permitimos referirnos a las propuesta de enmienda para incluir en el Apéndice II de la CITES la familia Centrolenidae y las tortugas montañeras neotropicales del género *Rhinoclemmys* en la CoP 19.

Al respecto, el gobierno de Colombia agradece y destaca el liderazgo del gobierno de Costa Rica reflejado en la presentación de estas propuestas de enmienda dirigidas a la protección de las especies compartidas, que enfrentan amenazas por cuenta de su uso comercial y tráfico ilegal.

Colombia comparte esa preocupación y con el ánimo de lograr ese propósito compartido quiere presentar las siguientes consideraciones:

En cuanto a la inclusión de las tortugas montañeras neotropicales del género *Rhinoclemmys* identificamos que la propuesta tiene mérito para adopción durante la próxima CoP en la medida que se cuenta con información de comercio y tráfico que refleja una problemática creciente en este grupo. Por lo tanto Colombia estaría en posición de apoyarla, para lo cual agradeceríamos confirmar si se cuenta con una versión actualizada de la propuesta para revisión por parte de nuestras Autoridades científica y Administrativa.

Con respecto a la versión recibida, encontramos que desde la propuesta se hacen referencia a la publicación del 2012. (V. Biología y Conservación de las tortugas continentales de Colombia. Serie Recursos Hidrobiológicos y Pesqueros continentales de Colombia <http://repository.humboldt.org.co/handle/20.500.11761/31366>. Paez et al 2012. Al respecto, sugerimos muy comedidamente que se hagan las citaciones de las fichas de cada una de las especies además de la publicación general para dar los créditos correspondientes.

Quedamos muy pendientes de sus comentarios sobre estas sugerencia y manifestamos nuestra disposición para apoyar la incorporación de las mismas según lo estimen pertinente.

Atentamente,

Faryde Carlier González

Directora de Asuntos Económicos, Sociales y Ambientales

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**Costa Rica:**

***Consejo de Representantes de Autoridades Científicas CITES (CRACCITES).***

CRACCITES-03-2022

7 de marzo 2022

**Señor:**

**Carlos Mario Orrego**

**Autoridad Administrativa CITES CR  
SINAC**

Estimado señor Orrego:

Reciba nuestros atentos saludos. En la sesión realizada el día 6 de junio 2022, el Consejo de Representante de Autoridades Científicas CITES Costa Rica conoció y discutió las propuestas que se nos han presentado para enviar a la sede CITES, respecto a cambios en la clasificación de especies en los diferentes apéndices. En términos generales para algunas de las propuestas hace falta información sobre estado de poblaciones y elementos relacionados al comercio de las especies, por lo que es importante que en conjunto, el CRACCITES y la autoridad administrativa promuevan ante los investigadores la ejecución de estudios que permitan dar un mayor sustento a las propuestas que se llevan a la COP.

Por la necesidad de actuar antes de que se produzcan afectaciones mayores, se apoyan las propuestas de inclusión en un apéndice de mayor protección y vigilancia del comercio internacional de las especies propuestas.

según lo acordado por el CRACCITES traslado lo referente a cada caso valorado

Respecto a la propuesta sobre *Rhinoclemys* se incluyen observaciones en el texto para mejorar la propuesta, se recomienda que Costa Rica apoye la propuesta.

Ana Cecilia Chaves Quirós  
Coordinadora

CRACCITES