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

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Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade

IDENTIFYING SPECIES LIKELY THREATENED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE ON THE IUCN RED LIST CAN INFORM CITES TRADE MEASURES

1. This document has been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) in relation to item 60 of the agenda*.

2. Aligning with the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2023, and in particular, Goal 2, to ensure Parties' decisions are supported by the best available science and information, a new methodology has been developed to support CITES Parties with the first step in identifying species that are likely threatened by international trade and that are not currently listed in the CITES Appendices. The methodology, developed jointly by the University of Oxford, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and ZSL, amongst others, is published in an open access scientific paper entitled "Identifying species likely threatened by international trade on the IUCN Red List can inform CITES trade measures" in the journal *Nature, Ecology and Evolution*.

3. The full text of the paper and its supplementary information are accessible via: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-023-02115-8.

4. The methodology piloted in this paper (Challender *et al.* 2023) provides a firm foundation for supporting CITES Parties with the identification of species at risk of extinction that are not yet regulated under CITES. The methodology presented in the paper classifies all species with published IUCN Red List assessments that are categorised as either globally threatened (Vulnerable, Endangered and Critically Endangered) or Near Threatened (>38,000 species were assessed in total) as either 'likely' or 'unlikely' to be threatened by international trade, or to have insufficient information to make the classification, following a decision tree approach. This makes use of multiple categorical and free text data fields included in the species' IUCN Red List assessment. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is updated annually with new species added and updated assessments for previously published taxa. It will be possible to reproduce the analysis on a regular basis (e.g. after each CoP) using an automated approach piloted in the paper that incorporates all new and revised Red List assessments.

5. The initial output from this paper provides Parties with a long list of ~900 species that are likely to be threatened by international trade that were not yet CITES-listed species at CoP19 (see Figure below). These species may merit further scrutiny, including the use of supplementary and appropriate data sources, to determine if they would meet the CITES listing criteria. The long list includes ~370 Endangered / Critically Endangered species such as: *Chloropsis sonnerati* (Greater Green Leafbird), *Epinephelus striatus* (Nassau grouper), six species

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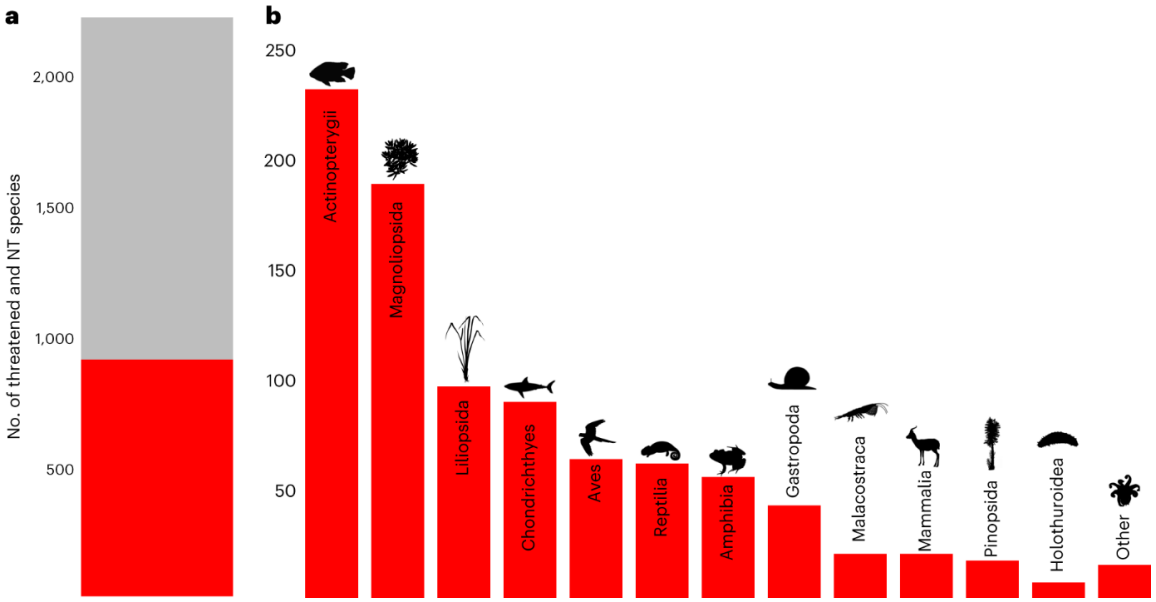
* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers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

of *Tylomelania* (Rabbit snails) and 16 species of *Shorea* (Meranti), a genus of tropical hardwood trees native to southeast Asia. The full list of the ~900 species can be found in Supplementary Table 1.



a, Number of threatened and Near Threatened (NT) species on the Red List likely to be threatened by international trade included (grey; 1,307 species) and not included (red; 904) in CITES. **b**, Number of threatened and Near Threatened species on the Red List that are likely to be threatened by international trade but are not included in CITES (904), by class. 'Other' includes classes with fewer than seven species. Credit for *Gazella gazella* image: Rebecca Groom, under a Creative Commons license CC BY 3.0 (without changes).

6. The paper's methodology also identifies CITES-listed species that are in Appendix II, but that are globally threatened and likely to be threatened by international trade. These species may also require further scrutiny to determine if they merit an Appendix I listing. Both aspects provide valuable information to Parties as a starting point for identifying species at potential risk from international trade.

7. The results are also not limited to identifying species in need of greater trade regulation. They can also help identify species that have improved in status and can potentially be traded sustainably.

8. It is important to note that those species that are not yet assessed by the Red List or that are assessed as Data Deficient would not be included in this methodology. Similarly, older Red List assessments included in this methodology may no longer be representative of a species' current status. The Red List is by no means the only important source of information, but it is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative source on extinction risk and threats to species globally.

9. The automation of this methodology allows for future outputs to include new and updated assessments following a repeatable approach. Outputs based on the most up-to-date Red List assessments could then be considered at the Animals and Plants Committee meetings following the Conference of the Parties to help inform future decision making.

10. In addition to supporting Parties to identify species that may merit listing in the Convention, the methodology developed could also provide a useful tool for supporting Parties to track progress towards the CITES Strategic Vision (e.g., objectives 1.4 and 1.5, as well as the proposed indicator 1.4.2 recommended for consideration in document SC77 Doc. 16), as well as the global commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (e.g., Targets 4 and 5 on extinction risk and ensuring trade is sustainable).