

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

SELECTION OF SPECIES FOLLOWING COP14

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*, the Conference of the Parties:

DIRECTS the Animals and Plants Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat and experts, and in consultation with range States, to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade, to identify problems and solutions concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a)....

3. In accordance with paragraph a) of that Resolution, under 'Regarding conduct of the Review of Significant Trade', the Secretariat requested UNEP-WCMC to produce a summary from the CITES database of annual report statistics showing the recorded net level of exports for Appendix-II species over the five most recent years. This summary was presented at the 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC23, 19-24 April 2008, Geneva, Switzerland) (see Annex to the document AC23 Doc. 8.5).
4. Paragraph b) of the same section of the Resolution directs the Animals Committee *inter alia* to select species of priority concern for review (whether or not such species have been the subject of a previous review).
5. At AC23, the Animals Committee examined a summary of annual report statistics. On the basis of this and other information available to the Committee, a number of species of priority concern were selected for review in accordance with paragraph b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) (see Table 1).
6. From 20 to 23 May 2008, the Secretariat notified range States of the species selected, providing an explanation for this selection and requesting comments regarding possible problems of implementing Article IV identified by the Committee. Range States were given 60 days to respond.
7. A summary of responses from the range States is provided in the Annex to the present document. Copies of the responses from affected range States (in the language in which they were received) were forwarded to the members of the Animals Committee 45 days before the meeting.

8. At AC23, the Animals Committee decided not to retain certain species in the Review of Significant Trade, but asked for additional information, on the basis of which the Committee will re-consider these species at its 24th meeting (see paragraphs 9 to 13 of the present document).
9. The Animals Committee decided to include *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *Hippocampus spinosissimus*, *Hippocampus kuda* and Corals in the International Expert Workshop on Non-detriment Findings (NDF workshop). Based on the outcome of the workshop, these species may be included in the Review of Significant Trade at AC24. Findings of the NDF workshop are presented in document AC24 Doc. 9.
10. Regarding *Saiga tatarica*, the Animals Committee asked the Secretariat to correspond with China in order to clarify specific questions (permit category, size of stocks, origin of stocks) and to report at AC24. The Secretariat wrote to China on 13 August 2008, and China responded on 29 October 2008. A copy of its response was forwarded to the members of the Animals Committee 45 days before the meeting in the language in which it was submitted.
11. Regarding *Orlitia borneensis*, the Animals Committee asked the Secretariat to contact the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam to seek information concerning trade in this species between the two States. The Secretariat wrote to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam on 13 August 2008. No reply has been from these two States.
12. Regarding *Huso huso*, the Animals Committee decided to re-discuss this species at AC24 and asked the Secretariat and the range States to provide a document at AC24 with detailed information on which to base a decision (see document AC24 Doc. 7.5).
13. Regarding *Pandinus imperator*, the Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to make the report on its missions to the range States on that subject available to the AC. The missions had been carried out by the French *Muséum national d'histoire naturelle* and the resulting report is still under discussion between the author and the range States concerned. Once finalized, the report will be published on the CITES website.

Table 1: Species selected for trade reviews following CoP14

Species selected	Recommendation
<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	To be retained due to declining populations as well as considerable and increasing trade. All range States will be contacted, excluding the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.
<i>Heosemys annandalii</i>	To be retained, excluding the population of Malaysia (which confirmed a zero export quota). Large export numbers, considered endangered due to trade.
<i>Heosemys grandis</i>	To be retained, excluding the population of Malaysia (which confirmed a zero export quota). Large export numbers, considered endangered due to trade.
<i>Heosemys spinosa</i>	To be retained, excluding the population of Malaysia (which confirmed a zero export quota). Large export numbers from Indonesia, considered critically endangered.
<i>Indotestudo forstenii</i>	To be retained. Species considered endangered. Indonesia reduced the quota to 270 for 2008. A population survey is being conducted. Indonesia will report at AC24 on the results of this survey.
<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	To be retained. Species is heavily traded. Mainly adult specimens are found in trade. With the exclusion of China, all range States will be contacted.
<i>Amyda cartilaginea</i>	To be retained. Only Indonesia will be contacted and requested to demonstrate its non-detriment finding.
Genus <i>Uroplatus</i>	To be retained. Madagascar is requested to present data on the non-detriment finding.
<i>Brookesia decaryi</i>	To be retained.
<i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> , population of Niger	To be retained. There are large discrepancies between quotas set and exports realized.

Species selected	Recommendation
<i>Chamaeleo feae</i>	To be retained. Export figures have increased. There are doubts concerning the non-detriment finding in Equatorial Guinea.
<i>Cordylus mossambicus</i>	To be retained. Data are requested concerning this endemic species of Mozambique, whose distribution is restricted and whose populations are presumably small, to determine the basis for the quota setting.
<i>Gongylophis muelleri</i>	To be retained. Only Ghana will be contacted.
<i>Scaphiophryne gottlebei</i>	To be retained. Madagascar is asked to provide additional data on the population estimates in order for the AC to reconsider its status at AC24.

14. The Committee is invited to consider replies received from affected Parties and eliminate species where it appears that Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 are being correctly implemented. For those species not eliminated from the review, the Secretariat will proceed with the compilation of information regarding the species for later consideration by the Committee.

Summary of responses from the range States

Range State	Comment
<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	
Angola	No response (non-Party, no competent authority details communicated to the Secretariat within the last two years).
Benin	No response.
Botswana	Believe Article IV being correctly implemented. Protected under Wildlife Conservation Policy. No commercial trade, rarely killed as problem animal.
Burkina Faso	No response.
Burundi	Informed the Secretariat that there are no implementation problems of Article IV with regard to this species.
Cameroon	No response.
Central African Republic	No response.
Chad	No response.
Congo	Fully protected, very attentive of its conservation.
Côte d'Ivoire	No response.
Equatorial Guinea	No response.
Eritrea	No response.
Ethiopia	No response.
Gabon	No response
Gambia	No response
Ghana	The species is fully protected and no trade is allowed.
Guinea	Informed the Secretariat that Article IV is being correctly implemented.
Guinea-Bissau	Informed the Secretariat that there are no implementation problems of Article IV with regard to this species.
Kenya	No response
Liberia	No trade, fully protected, except for scientific purposes. Liberia would appreciate any assistance to facilitate the implementation of Article IV.
Malawi	There has been no trade in <i>H. amphibius</i> over the past two years, except for personal effects. Trade not detrimental to the survival of the species. A study on biological status of <i>H. amphibius</i> in some major habitats in Malawi is provided.
Mali	No response.
Mauritania	Only found in the south-west. <i>H. amphibius</i> has a particular status due to the fact that its habitat is on the Mauritania-Senegal border. Due to measures taken with regard to hydro-agricultural installations, etc in the fight against poverty and famine, the population of this species has fallen abruptly. No commercial trade for years, certainly since the Mauritians have taken in hand the management of the species.
Mozambique	No response.
Namibia	No response.
Niger	No response.
Nigeria	No response.
Senegal	No response.
Sierra Leone	Numbers fairly high, but population unknown. No quota established, no domestic trade. Cannot comment on problems/constraints encountered in implementation of Article IV regarding <i>H. amphibius</i> . Probably only management problem is protection from poachers since carvers use hippo teeth as substitute for African elephant ivory to supply curio shops. Sierra Leone is also working hard to counter activities of poachers and carvers.
Somalia	No response.
South Africa	No response.
Sudan	No response.

Range State	Comment
Swaziland	No response.
Togo	Informed the Secretariat that there are no implementation problems of Article IV with regard to this species.
Uganda	Total ban on hunting. Curio shops have been closed since 1978/1979. Large stocks of teeth have been accumulated by National parks, Game Dept. and Uganda Wildlife Authority. Very suitable habitat for <i>H. amphibius</i> in Uganda (extensive open water). Problems due to land use and demand for meat. Decision to license hippo teeth collection and export due to large stocks. Species conservation and socio-economic factors are taken into account. Species is considered nationally strategic to implement programmes that add value to species through generation of benefits. Uganda developed database system directly linked to species management. Information is recorded regularly in the Management Information System (MIST) which is similar to the system that MIKE is adopting in African elephant range States.
United Republic of Tanzania	Believe Article IV being correctly implemented. In December 2001, the United Republic of Tanzania submitted a report on survey of <i>H. amphibius</i> . The report depicts the minimum number of specimens on which annual catch quotas are based. It also gives information on policy, legislation, establishment and management of annual export quotas and conservation and trade status of <i>H. amphibius</i> .
Zambia	Believe Article IV requirements are met. Provided summary information on trade in <i>H. amphibius</i> . Total population estimated to be over 30.000 and the species is found in all major rivers in the country. Off-take is done through the quota system. Quotas are set below 2,5 % of the population where populations are stable or show upward trend. Export permit is processed only with evidence of the original hunting licence. Reintroduction of <i>H. amphibius</i> is greatly encouraged in Zambia.
Zimbabwe	No response.
<i>Heosemys annandalii, H. grandis and H. spinosa</i>	
Brunei Darussalam	No response.
Cambodia	No response.
Indonesia	Requested extended deadline for response until 21 September 2008 due to collection of data and development of a report. On 19 September 2008, Indonesia sent detailed information on the application of Article IV for <i>H. spinosa</i> . The species is traded for the pet market and is mostly exported to the USA and Japan. All specimens in trade originate from the wild. Some breeding operations have been breeding this species, but so far the number of captive-bred specimens is quite low. Also breeders show little interest in breeding <i>H. spinosa</i> because of its relatively low market price. From 2001 until 2007, the export quota for this species was set at 1,800 specimens and was reduced in 2008 to 450 specimens.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	No response.
Myanmar	Myanmar Fisheries legislation prohibits collection, transportation and market in endangered species. <i>H. grandis</i> and <i>H. spinosa</i> are not included in the list of exported species according to "Export Statistics of Fish and Fishery products of Myanmar" published annually by the Department of Fisheries.
Philippines	<i>H. spinosa</i> is included in national list of threatened species and Philippines sent a copy of relevant Administrative Order no. 9147 of 2001. Believe Article IV being correctly implemented.
Thailand	<i>Heosemys annandalii, H. grandis</i> and <i>H. spinosa</i> are protected from any exploitation in Thailand under Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2535 (1992). There has been no export permit issued for these species. Thailand also provided more detailed information on each species (not available in working languages of the Convention).
Viet Nam	No response.

Range State	Comment
<i>Indotestudo forsteni</i>	
Indonesia	Requested extended deadline for response until 21 September 2008 due to collection of data and development of a report. On 19 September 2008, Indonesia sent detailed information on the application of Article IV for <i>I. forsteni</i> . The species is rare and endemic, with a very low distribution in Sulawesi Island. It is very popular as a pet in the international market and its population in the wild has declined considerably. Specimens are usually collected from the wild with the help of dogs. Due to the taxonomic dispute, in the past nearly all specimens of the genus <i>Indotestudo</i> imported into the United States were identified as <i>I. Elongata</i> or <i>I. Travancorica</i> . Export destinations for <i>I. forsteni</i> are the United States (75%) and Japan (25%). In 1993, Indonesia set an export quota for this species at 1,500 specimens. For the period from 2000 to 2008, the quota was set between 450 and 500 specimens, while in 2008 it was further reduced to 270 specimens. Consequently, the number of companies that export this species has also reduced. Breeding operations for <i>I. forsteni</i> in Indonesia have been established since 1996. Currently there are four operations that breed this species. Indonesia will continue research to ensure sustainability of this species in the wild.
<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	
Afghanistan	No response.
Armenia	Not a Party at the time the letter from the Secretariat was sent (the Convention entered into force in Armenia on 21.01 2009).
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan responded that they are not a range State for this species (according to competent SA – Institute of Zoology)
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	No response.
Kazakhstan	Consider that regarding <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> Article IV is being completely implemented. Kazakhstan's Institute of Zoology prepared a brief report on the status of this species indicating that <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> has been in decline over the past few decades. Currently, there is no authorised capture or export of this species from Kazakhstan.
Kyrgyzstan	Species was included in Red List of Kyrgyzstan. A brief report about the status of <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> was provided by the Institute of Biology and Theologies of the National Academy of Science. A sharp decline in this species has been observed in the country for which commercial export seems to be one of the major causes. <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> is currently not protected in Kyrgyzstan and there are no captive breeding/ranching operations.
Pakistan	No response.
Russian Federation	No response.
Tajikistan	No response.
Turkmenistan	No response (non-Party, no competent authority details communicated to the Secretariat within the last two years).
Uzbekistan	In response to Secretariat's letter, a report on status and trade in <i>T. horsfieldii</i> has been submitted (prepared by the Scientific Authority of Uzbekistan). Commercial international trade is one of the crucial factors affecting this species in Uzbekistan. Harvest and export quota is set by an interdepartmental commission which includes CITES Scientific and Management Authorities. In 2008, export quota of 22,000 specimens was established. Importance of ranching in supplying demand is growing. Each year the export of ranched specimens is increasing (more than 17,000 in 2008).
<i>Amyda cartilaginea</i>	
Indonesia	Requested extended deadline for response until 21 September 2008 due to collection of data and development of a report. On 19 September 2008 Indonesia sent detailed information on the application of Article IV for <i>A. cartilaginea</i> . It is a common species that inhabits a variety of freshwater

Range State	Comment
	habitats in Indonesia. Estimation of its population number is not available. It is harvested for consumption and for the pet market. trade. Its parts and derivatives are also utilized in traditional medicine. Currently all specimens designated for pets are taken from the wild. Indonesia is one of the major exporters of <i>A. cartilaginea</i> . From 2005, when the species was listed in Appendix II, the export quota was set at 27,000 specimens and then 25,200 for 2008/2009. Since 2007, the Indonesian Management Authority has introduced a policy that allows export of specimens that are in their low or unproductive stage (less than 5 kg and more than 15 kg). Indonesia also decided to maintain an alternate cyclic quota to allow recovery of the wild population. International demand for pet trade in <i>A cartilaginea</i> seems to be quite stable and in balance with the current export quota. However, demand for this species for the consumption tends to increase over time. Despite some attempts for captive breeding, there are currently no registered breeders of <i>A cartilaginea</i> in Indonesia.
<i>Uroplatus spp.</i>	
Madagascar	All species of <i>Uroplatus</i> spp. are protected under national legislation. <i>U. alluandi</i> is strictly protected (taking from the wild and trade in this species is strictly prohibited). For other species from genus <i>Uroplatus</i> , taking from the wild is regulated on the basis of permit. Madagascar also provided information on quotas for <i>Uroplatus</i> spp. for the period 2000 – 2007 and indicated that an urgent study would be required for these species.
<i>Brookesia decaryi</i>	
Madagascar	Protected under national legislation. Taking of this species from the wild is regulated on the basis of permits. Madagascar also provided information on quotas for <i>Brookesia decaryi</i> for the period 2000 – 2004.
<i>Chamaeleo africanus</i>	
Burkina Faso	No response.
Cameroon	No response.
Chad	No response.
Djibouti	No response.
Egypt	No response.
Eritrea	No response.
Ethiopia	No response.
Gabon	No response.
Greece	There is a small population of <i>C. africanus</i> on the island of Peloponnesus. The species is strictly protected in Greece and no collection of specimens from the wild for commercial purposes is permitted. No export permits for this species have been issued in Greece during the last five years.
Mali	Mali indicated that their Scientific Authority has no resources to undertake a study.
Niger	No response.
Nigeria	No response.
Somalia	No response.
Sudan	No response.
<i>Chamaeleo feae</i>	
Equatorial Guinea	No response.
<i>Cordylus mossambicus</i>	
Mozambique	No response.
<i>Gongylophis muelleri</i>	
Ghana	No response.
<i>Scaphiophryne gottlebei</i>	
Madagascar	<i>S. gottlebei</i> is protected under national legislation. Taking of this species from the wild is regulated on the basis of permits. Madagascar also provided information on quotas for the period 2000 – 2007.