

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



Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee
Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

REPORT OF THE AMPHIBIAN TRADE WORKSHOPS

1. This information document has been submitted by the United States on behalf of the Amphibian Survival Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife and Animal Welfare Institute, in relation to agenda items 7 and 9^{*}.
2. The United States participated in an amphibian trade workshop held in Washington, DC on March 12-13, 2015 to identify amphibian species of priority concern and to develop conservation actions needed to conserve the species. A second workshop was held on the same dates in Singapore and was hosted by the Singapore Zoo. The workshops were organized and funded by the Amphibian Survival Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife, the Animal Welfare Institute, and the Singapore Zoo.
3. A number of amphibian experts from academia, government, and non-governmental organizations participated in the workshops. The experts reviewed a list of amphibian species, compiled from the IUCN Red List, the UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade databases, and with input from the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group to identify species most at risk from trade (domestic and international). Those species with the highest priority conservation needs were selected and relevant conservation actions were assigned to each priority species or taxa.
4. The priority species identified included several frogs, toads, caecilians, salamanders, and newts. Some were primarily affected by local, regional, or international trade for meat (i.e., bushmeat or for the frog leg trade) or for the pet trade; two forms of exploitation that have been identified as depleting wild amphibian populations. Other species, which may or may not be affected by trade, were identified as priority concern due to their role as vectors of disease transmission or due to their susceptibility to such diseases including ranaviruses, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, and *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.
5. Conservation actions identified by workshop participants to address the threats to priority species including the development and implementation of stronger national laws and regulations, enhancement in law enforcement capacity, listing or up-listing in the CITES appendices, improved compliance with existing international trade standards for species already CITES-listed, and the need for improved or ongoing monitoring of trade trends and impacts. For priority species affected by disease, conservation actions include the implementation of enhanced veterinary health protocols to identify diseased animals prior to export and stricter measures, including quarantine and disease testing, to assess the health of imported amphibians. Efforts to implement these conservation actions are currently being undertaken by workshop participants and other amphibian experts around the world.

^{*} *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.*