

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Online, 31 May, 1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of Trade

Non-detriment findings

PUBLICATION OF A MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR RETICULATED PYTHON
(*MALAYOPYTHON RETICULATUS*) IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

1. This document has been submitted by Malaysia.*

Background

2. For the last 50 years, Malaysia has sustained a trade in the skins of reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*). This species remains common in Peninsular Malaysia, but the monitoring and management requirements needed to ensure international confidence in sustainable trade has increased.
3. The CITES Scientific and Management Authorities of Peninsular Malaysia have worked hard to improve monitoring and management systems for *Malayopython reticulatus* in Malaysia, which has resulted in the management system published here.

Objectives and overview of the Management System for *Malayopython reticulatus*

4. The management report provides precise information on the goals of management, the biological attributes that allow *M. reticulatus* to sustain harvesting, and the annual monitoring and management systems used to ensure harvesting is sustainable into the future.
5. The main specific objectives of the management report are:
 - a) To provide a tool to support wildlife management authorities in Malaysia in the application of CITES provisions such as Non-detriment findings (NDFs).
 - b) To foster sustainable harvesting of reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*) populations in Malaysia to ensure the benefits obtained by Malaysian citizens are sustainable while conserving the species from overexploitation.
 - c) To allow standardization of monitoring and data collection throughout the country.

* 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.

- d) To provide a model that can be replicated by other countries in the species' range, and for other species in different regions.
 - e) To generate feedback from interested Parties on the robustness of the management system for ensuring sustainability of trade in 121,000 skins per year (the defined sustainable level of offtake), and to help improve the management system to ensure sustainable harvesting in future.
6. The management report comprises five chapters:
- a) Chapter I provides background on the history of use, the legal frameworks governing use and trade, and describes Malaysia's management goals for this species.
 - b) Chapter II describes the distribution, general biology, population dynamics and conservation status of *Malayopython reticulatus* in Malaysia and Southeast Asia.
 - c) Chapter III describes Malaysia's early experimental attempts at monitoring, the challenges involved, and the rationale for implementation of new and better monitoring approaches.
 - d) Chapter IV describes the annual monitoring system in place to ensure sustainable harvesting of this species in Peninsular Malaysia, as well as the results of that monitoring.
 - e) Chapter V provides information on the harvest restrictions, management tools, technological advances, and illegal trade and enforcement related to the management and trade in *Malayopython reticulatus* in Malaysia.

Recommendations to the Animals Committee

7. The Animals Committee are invited to:
- a) Note the Management Report for reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*) in Malaysia;
 - b) Request the Secretariat to publish the Management Report in the section on NDFs on the CITES website;
 - c) Invite the Parties and other relevant stakeholders to review the Management Report and offer analysis on whether the systems in place provide confidence that the proposed quota (121,000 skins/year) is sustainable;
 - d) Invite the Parties and other relevant stakeholders to review the Management Report and offer informed thoughts to improve Malaysia's management systems.
 - e) Provide feedback to the Malaysian Scientific Authority: citesmalaysia@ketsa.gov.my; khadijah@wildlife.gov.my.