

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 13-17 July 2020

Species specific matters

TITICACA WATER FROG (*TELMATOBIUS CULEUS*)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.281 to 18.285 on *Titicaca water frog* (*Telmatobius culeus*) as follows:

18.281 Directed to the range States of the Titicaca water frog (*Telmatobius culeus*)

Range States are encouraged to collaborate and:

- a) *conduct studies aiming to:*
 - i) *estimate population size of the Titicaca water frog; and,*
 - ii) *identify and monitor all international illegal trade of specimens of Titicaca water frog;*
- b) *strengthen international cooperation mechanisms for the conservation of the Titicaca water frog, and combat its illegal trade;*
- c) *develop and implement additional demand reduction strategies;*
- d) *continue to raise awareness on the importance of the conservation of the Titicaca water frog, its ecological role, cultural value, and threats, particularly the illegal trade; and*
- e) *report on implementation of paragraphs a) through d) above to the Animals Committee.*

18.282 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting relevant information as per Decision 18.281, paragraph a), and compile responses and provide them to the range States.

18.283 Directed to Parties and others

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) *provide financial and technical assistance to support the implementation of Decision 18.281; and,*
- b) *provide relevant information as requested in the Notification mentioned in Decision 18.282 with a view to complement Decision 18.281, paragraphs a) through d).*

18.284 Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall consider any report submitted by Parties as per Decision 18.281, paragraph e) and develop recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee or the Conference of Parties, as appropriate.

18.285 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider any report submitted by the Animals Committee as per Decision 18.284 and report to the Conference of Parties, as appropriate.

3. As directed in Decision 18.282, the Secretariat published Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/012](#) on 19 February 2020, requesting Parties to submit to the Secretariat information relevant for conducting studies to estimate the population size of the Titicaca water frog, and information on international illegal trade in specimens of this species. In accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 18.283, Parties and other stakeholders were also encouraged to submit relevant information that may complement the efforts by range States of the Titicaca water frog in implementing paragraphs a) through d) of Decision 18.281.
4. By the deadline of 15 April 2020, two responses had been received. These submissions were from New Zealand and the International Union for Conservation of Nature – Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) Amphibian Specialist Group and they are presented in the Annex to this document in the language and format in which they were received.
5. Early in March 2020, the Secretariat wrote to Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which are the only range States for the Titicaca water frog, reminding them of Notification to the Parties No. 2020/012 and requesting that they submit their reports on the implementation of Decision 18.281, paragraphs a) to d), by 14 May 2020. At the time of writing, no such report had been received from either Party.
6. The response to the notification from IUCN makes reference to two projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that could be of particular relevance to the conservation and monitoring of the Titicaca water frog. The first project concerns studies on subaquatic habitat characterization, and assessments of the population status and genetic makeup of the Titicaca water frog. The second project concerns the “Water Resource Integrated Management in the Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopó-Salar de Coipasa (TDPS) System”, which covers watershed management, reforestation and biodiversity in the habitat of the Titicaca water frog. The Secretariat contacted UNDP for further information on the status and expected timeframe and outcomes of these projects.
7. UNDP did not provide additional information concerning the studies on subaquatic habitat characterization, and assessments of the population status and genetic makeup of the Titicaca water frog. Concerning the project on “Water Resource Integrated Management in the Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopó-Salar de Coipasa (TDPS) System”. UNDP explained that this is a project for international waters between Peru (lead country) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This project aims to be a catalyst that will contribute to build a common vision based on Integrated Water Resources Management; establish common planning to guide actions at the binational, national, and local levels; and mobilize and involve key stakeholders for the integrated management of the system. It aims to generate practical learning on managing TDPS resources by means of eleven pilot projects and to consolidate a comprehensive monitoring programme for the region. The project started in November 2016 and is expected to be completed by the end of August 2021.

Recommendations

8. The Animals Committee is invited to take note of this document.

Responses to Notification to the Parties No.2020/012
on Titicaca water frog (*Telmatobius culeus*)

1. Response from New Zealand

New Zealand response (submitted by New Zealand CITES Management Authority)

No illegal or legal trade has been recorded by New Zealand of *Telmatobius culeus*.

New Zealand is not a range, transit or known consumer state of *Telmatobius culeus*.

Under New Zealand's Biosecurity Act 1993, the importation of live specimens of this species is prohibited.

Contact details: New Zealand CITES Management and Scientific Authorities
Department of Conservation, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington 6011, New Zealand
Email:

2. IUCN Amphibian specialist group

IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group input into "Notification to the Parties concerning Implementation of Decisions 18.281 to 18.285 on Titicaca water frog (*Telmatobius culeus*)" 13 March 2020

The IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) has sought input from members that are directly involved with research and conservation of the Titicaca water frog.

As CITES may already know, both governments of Peru and Bolivia drafted a binational action plan in 2018 with the aim being "To conserve the populations and habitats of the Lake Titicaca frog, also known as the Titicaca water frog (*Telmatobius culeus*) and the Titicaca grebe (*Rollandia microptera*), promoting sustainable activities for local communities." The development of both monitoring protocols for the Lake Titicaca frog population and the generation and implementation of mechanisms of regular reporting and a database to record illicit events and incidental catch of the Lake Titicaca frog are contemplated in the action plan, together with other priorities.

One of our members, Roberto Elías, has indicated that after official signing of the plan, he organized a binational meeting to develop the protocols mentioned in the plan. The UNDP issued a procurement notice for studies on subaquatic habitat characterization, an assessment of the population status and the genetic makeup of the Titicaca water frog. Centro K'ayra (Bolivia, also with the participation of Roberto Elías from Peru) have applied and are currently awaiting results.

Another ASG member and regional co-chair for Bolivia, Arturo Muñoz, has mentioned that he has been in touch with government representatives from Bolivia. Where species monitoring is concerned, he has been told that they were waiting to hear back news on the Water Resource Integrated Management in the Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopó-Salar de Coipasa (TDPS) System project. This project covers the entire Titicaca watershed and includes a variety of approaches, such as watershed management, reforestation, and biodiversity. With regards to biodiversity, resources have been made available in the form of consultancies focused on the Titicaca water frog, the Titicaca grebe and fishes of the genus *Orestias*. It was thus understood that this project would enable an assessment of the population status of the Titicaca water frog. Arturo and his team put forward a proposal for this bid, but unfortunately did not hear back on this.

As far as we understand it, there are no new data on international trade, although it is unclear how much the respective governments have looked into this particular issue.