

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



Seventy-first meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 16 August 2019

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX-II SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Animals Committee.\*
2. This addendum contains the observations and recommendations of the Committee on the species/range State combinations proposed in document SC71 Doc. 12 on the *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.

Comments and recommendations from the Animals Committee concerning fauna cases

3. Regarding ***Triceros melleri* from Mozambique**, the Animals Committee generally supports the recommendation of the Secretariat that the Standing Committee should urge Mozambique to implement recommendations a), c), e), f) and g) by 31 December 2019 so that the matter can be considered at SC73, along with reviews of the suspensions for *Smaug mossambicus*, *Cordylus tripodosternum* and *Cycas thouarsii* from Mozambique. However, given the financial, resource and technical challenges flagged by MZ as a barrier to implementing the recommendations so far, and in order to achieve substantial progress in implementing the remaining recommendations by the 31 December 2019 deadline, the Committee suggests that the SC may direct the Secretariat (in consultation with the AC), following SC72, to work with MZ, to (i) identify and agree what specific assistance is needed in order for them to comply with the recommendations and, (ii) to identify sources and a time line for these activities to take place .
4. Regarding ***Chelonoidis denticulatus* from Suriname**, the Animals Committee generally supports the recommendation of the Secretariat, but suggests that the recommendation be amended slightly, to make the next steps clearer. The proposed recommendations would read as follows:

*The Standing Committee should urge Suriname to:*

- a) *implement recommendations a) and b) by 16 September 2019 [by establishing, in agreement with the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat, a conservative quota for 2019 for live specimens of *Chelonoidis denticulatus* with a maximum straight carapace length (SCL) of 10 cm], and*
- b) *implement recommendations c) to g) by 31 December 2019 so that the matter can be discussed at SC73.*

*The Standing Committee is invited to agree that if Suriname fails to meet the deadline to implement recommendations a) and b) by 16 September 2019, it will request the Secretariat to publish a zero export*

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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.*

*quota as an interim measure, while encouraging Suriname to implement recommendations d) to g) by 31 December 2019 so that the matter can be discussed at SC73.*

5. Regarding ***Testudo graeca* from Jordan**, the Animals Committee supports the recommendation made by the Secretariat, and encourages Jordan to implement recommendations d) to f) by 22 September 2019, which was the original deadline for these long term actions. It views recommendation e) to be particularly important if trade in wild specimens resumes, as there are indications that large scale captive-breeding of this species is taking place of this species.
6. Regarding ***Varanus ornatus* from Togo**, the Animals Committee notes that Togo had proposed quotas of 200 wild live specimens and 1,500 ranched live specimens for 2019, which represents a reduction from quotas proposed by Togo in 2017 of 1,000 wild specimens and 7,000 ranched specimens. However, the Animals Committee does not see supporting information or scientific justification for the quotas proposed for 2019. The Committee further notes that based on an analysis of the CITES trade data, Togo had been informed on 21 November 2018 in a letter from the Secretariat, and following consultations with the Chair of this Committee, that quotas of 25 wild specimens and 350 ranched specimens would seem appropriate.

The Animals Committee is of the view that the Standing Committee could remove *Varanus ornatus* from Togo from the Review of Significant Trade, but only if Togo publishes interim quotas of 25 wild live specimens and 350 ranched live specimens, until such time as it can provide a sound scientific basis to support any increased quotas. The recommendations would read as follows:

*The Standing Committee is invited to:*

- a) *remove *Varanus ornatus* from Togo from the Review of Significant Trade, subject to the publication of export quotas of 25 wild live specimens and 350 ranched live specimens; and*
- b) *urge Togo to provide a justification, based on best available scientific information, for any proposed increases to these export quotas to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee for their approval.*

In order to assist Togo in addressing the concerns of the AC more precisely, it is suggested that Togo provide details of population estimates, the scientific methodologies used to make the estimates, an explanation of why the proposed offtake is considered not be detrimental to the survival of the species or details of any other means by which the offtake may be judged to be sustainable, such as the use of size limits or age specific limits of exported specimens. These comments should be included in the letter from the Secretariat to Togo that will follow this meeting.

Furthermore, although CITES currently recognises *Varanus ornatus* and *V. niloticus* as two separate species, there is an emerging view that *V. ornatus* is actually a colour variant of *V. niloticus* rather than a distinct species. In light of this taxonomic uncertainty, the Standing Committee is invited to note that the Animals Committee will examine the taxonomic issues concerning *Varanus ornatus* and *V. niloticus* between CoP18 and CoP19, and if appropriate, recommend changes to the standard taxonomic references for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

7. Regarding ***Amazona festiva* from Guyana**, the Animals Committee supports the recommendations made by the Secretariat to the Standing Committee.