

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Mantella aurantiaca in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Kingdom of the Netherlands.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Amphibia
12. Order: Anura (Salienta)
13. Family: Ranidae (Mantellinae)
14. Species: Mantella aurantiaca Mocquard, 1900
15. Common Names: English: golden frogs
French:
Spanish:
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Only known from one small, isolated location: Antanditra, 150 km. from Antananarivo, next to the railway line to Tamatave, 12 km. North-East of Andasibé (Périnet) in the great eastern forest, at an altitude of 926 m. The railroad, constructed in 1930, cuts the primary forest in two and permits an easy access to the frogs' biotope. The area would otherwise be inaccessible, because of the vast swamps of Panadus. *Madagascar*
22. Population: No population data are known to proponent. The area where they occur is small and vulnerable. On one hand, they show a tendency to hide themselves, on the other hand, their bright red colour makes it easy to census the frogs between the humus and the green leaves.
23. Habitat: The area where the species occurs is very rainy, and the climate is mild. They live in primary forest in small colonies in the humid, deepest parts of river valleys. They are terrestrial and diurnal, and show a tendency to hide themselves in the humus.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: No national utilization of the species is known to proponent.
32. Legal International Trade: Since the mid-1960's, specimens of Mantella aurantiaca are regularly imported in large quantities from Madagascar. Also, currently, the species is on sale in larger quantities in western European pet shops and offered for

sale in terrarium magazines. Recent offers are recorded in the Federal Republic of Germany (H. Meier, K. Klemmer), the United Kingdom (J. Burton), Belgium (T. de Meulenaer) and the Netherlands (pers. observ.). A recent application for 50 specimens to be imported captive bred from Mauritius, has not yet been granted. Captive breeding of the species, although already described in 1965, is extremely difficult and occurs only rarely (Meier, 1986).

33. Illegal Trade: Export of wild caught specimens of Mantella aurantiaca from Madagascar is prohibited by law. Therefore, all import of wild caught Mantella aurantiaca must be considered to be against Malagasy national law.

A number of articles in herpetological- and terrarium magazines mention that their material was obtained wild caught and imported from Madagascar, sometimes large quantities are concerned (Busse, 1981; Wolpert and Müller, 1980).

34. Potential Trade Threats: The area where the species occurs is small and easily accessible, and the species must be considered to be the most endangered frog of Madagascar (Meier, 1986). The frogs are bright yellow, orange to red and publications in western European terrarium magazines and the relatively high prices which are paid for the frogs indicate their value to terrarium fanciers. Reproduction capacity is low. Hence, the species is very vulnerable to mass captures for trade purposes and/or to destruction of its biotope.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Protected by law in Madagascar. Export of wild caught specimens is prohibited.
42. International: None.
43. Additional Protection Needs:

5. Information on Similar Species

There is no look-alike problem. Within the genus, Mantella aurantiaca is the only species which is uniformly coloured. The genus Mantella consists of three other species (M. betsileo, M. laevigata and M. madagascariensis), all are endemic to Madagascar. The other species are also found in international trade, but are considered to be less vulnerable, because of their greater distribution and their lesser attractiveness for the terrarium trade.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

Dr. Charles Blanc (Director of Laboratoire de Zoogéographie, Univ. de Montpellier, France) urges that Dyscophus antongili and Mantella aurantiaca (see proposal to include also this species in Appendix I of the Convention) require extremely strict protection to ensure their survival. Moreover, also on the scientific level all research should be strictly controlled (Blanc, in litt., 1986).

8. References

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- Arnoult, J., 1965. Contribution à l'étude des batraciens de Madagascar. Ecologie et développement de *Mantella aurantiaca*. *Bull. du Mus. Nat. d'hist. Nat. 2e. Série.* 37(6): 931-940.
- Bloomers-Schlösser, R.M.A., 1980. Biosystematics of Malagasy frogs. PHD thesis, Amsterdam.
- Busse, K., 1981. Revision der Farbmuster Variabilität in der Madagasischen Gattung *Mantella*. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 2: 23-42.
- Guibé, J., 1978. Les batraciens de Madagascar. *Bonn. Zool. Monogr.* 11: 1-141.
- Meier, H., 1986. Neues für den Terrarianer über die Gattung *Mantella*. *Herpetofauna* 8 (41):9-14.
- Wolpert, K. und H. Müller, 1980. Frösche der Gattung *Mantella*. *Herpetofauna* 7: 15-16 and *Herpetofauna* 8: 21-23.

