

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Trichechus senegalensis from Appendix II or transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROFONENT

The Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mammalia
12. Order: Sirenia
13. Family: Trichechidae
14. Species: Trichechus senegalensis
15. Common Names: English: West African manatee
French: lamantin d'Afrique
Spanish: Manatí del Senegal
16. Code Numbers: 117.002.001.003 (ID Manual)

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zaire.

22. Population: Rated vulnerable by the IUCN Red Data Book (1978).

Cameroon: Rare, population trend unknown, occurring localized at a few sites.

Chad: Rare, population stable, occurring at one site only.

Gabon: Rare.

Gambia: Rare, population stable, distribution scattered.

Ghana: Very rare, decreasing, localized to one site.

Liberia: Status unknown, localized at a few sites.

Nigeria: Status unknown, localized at a few sites.

Senegal: Rare, decreasing, distribution scattered.

There are no captive specimens recorded by the International Zoo Yearbook Vol. 24/25.

23. Habitat: Rivers and costal waters. Occurs as far as 2,000 km up the Niger River and in tributaries of Lake Chad. Seems to prefer large, shallow estuaries and weedy swamps. Considered stable in Cameroon, Chad, Togo; changing but not negatively affecting the species in Gabon; deteriorating in Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal; status unknown in Nigeria.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Subsistence hunting in Liberia. Poaching in Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, occasionally Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal. Contrary to T. inunguis, the African manatee has never been subject to commercial hunting.

32. Legal International Trade: Has never been recorded in trade since 1975.

33. Illegal Trade: No evidence.

34. Potential Trade Threats: None.

4. Protection Status

African Convention (1969) List A. Totally protected in Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo. Unprotected in Liberia.

CITES history: Listed at Washington, D.C., 1973, following a proposal by the United States of America, stating "decline of the species in all areas due to slaughter for human consumption."

5. Information on Similar Species

None in Africa. In the Americas: Trichechus inunguis and manatus.

There are no ID Manual data sheets on Trichechus spp. available.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

All states having returned the questionnaire (Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo) agree that the species is not threatened by international trade. Main threats are (illegal) subsistence hunting (Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, occasionally Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal), loss of habitat (Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal), environmental pollution (Togo), and drowning in nets (Gambia). The tentative view of the range states regarding a delisting is not necessarily consistent with these findings: Only one state is in favour of a delisting. Two are indifferent, four oppose it, and two feel the species should be included in Appendix I.

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

Nowak, R.M. & J.L. Paradiso, 1983. Walker's Mammals of the World, Volume 2. Baltimore and London.