

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Orycteropus afer from Appendix II.

B. PROPONENTS

Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mammalia
12. Order: Tubulidentata
13. Family: Orycteropodidae
14. Species: Orycteropoda afer (Pallas, 1766)
15. Common names: English: aardvark, antbear
French: oryctélope
Spanish: Cerdo hormiguero
German: Erdferkel
16. Code number: A-114.001.001.001

2. Biological data

21. Distribution: Antbears occur throughout Africa south of the Sahara except for the forested areas of Central and West Africa and the Namib desert in the south west (Dorst and Dandelot, 1972). There seems to be little difference between the historical and current distributions of the species (Smithers, 1983).
22. Population: Antbears have apparently never been abundant although actual numbers were, and are unknown (CITES, 1987). It is thought that there may have been a decline in numbers with increased crop production but also a possible increase in areas where cattle numbers have increased leading to increased abundance of termites.
23. Habitat: Antbears are found over a wide range of habitats and utilize both sandy and heavier soils. Their main foods are termites and ants which they obtain by digging. Expanding human populations and urban development must lead to loss of habitat but within their range, there are vast areas of suitable habitat outside Protected Areas that are sparsely inhabited by people. Their nocturnal habits and ability to spend the day in deep burrows affords them a considerable degree of protection.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: They are considered to be very palatable by indigenous people and in Zimbabwe they also have ritual significance. Their nocturnal habits make them difficult to hunt however and they are little utilized. There is no significant trade within the country.
32. Legal International Trade: Antbears were listed in Appendix II of CITES in 1975. The level of international trade, if any, before that date is unknown. During the period 1983-1985 import/export of 12 specimens was recorded by CITES Parties, the main exporting country being Kenya (CITES, 1987).
33. Illegal Trade: There is no known illegal trade in antbears.
34. Potential Trade Threats:
 341. Live Specimens: There is no evidence to suggest that trade was or is likely to be a threat to the survival of the species.
 342. Parts and Derivatives: Since antbears are widespread there appears to be little incentive to trade internationally in their parts.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Antbears have no special protection status in Zimbabwe.
42. International: Antbears are listed in Appendix II of CITES.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Nil.

5. Information on Similar Species

Antbears form an Order on their own and are endemic to Africa. In habits they show some similarity to the pangolins (Manis species).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

CITES, (1987). Mammal identification manual. Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dorst, J. and Dandelot, P. (1972). A field guide to the larger mammals of Africa. Collins, London.

Smithers, R.H.N. (1983). The mammals of the Southern African Subregion. University of Pretoria, South Africa.