

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE
TELMATOBIUS CULEUS

This document has been submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), in relation to proposal for amendment of Appendices I and II CoP17 Prop.40 on *Telmatobius culeus**.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Telmatobius culeus

Range States for this species, Bolivia and Peru, are proposing to list *T. culeus* in Appendix I (Prop. 40).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS A COMPOUNDING FACTOR FOR A POPULATION THAT ALREADY IS SEVERELY IMPACTED BY INTERNAL FACTORS; TRADE NUMBERS ARE NOW LOW BUT A SEVERE TO THE STATUS OF THE SPECIES

THE PROPONENT COUNTRIES URGE THE PARTIES TO APPLY THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE BY INCLUDING THIS SPECIES IN APPENDIX I





USE AND TRADE

T. culeus is listed as Critically Endangered in Bolivia and Peru, as well as by the IUCN. This species is protected in both range States and thus all national and international trade is illegal.

Country	Trade Figures
Bolivia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27,000 specimens consumed on an annual basis locally • 12,780-21,600 specimens used for frog juice
Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9,500 specimens seized between 2012-2015 • Imports from Bolivia for frog juice possibly number in the thousands
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 specimens for sale in a pet shop in 2009
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imports legs of this species for consumption
United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leather goods sell for \$70-120 • Imports of meat for exotic delicacies
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imports of frog legs
Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live specimens sold on the Internet • Illegal exports occur to France (meat) and Western Europe
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imports of frog legs
Italy	http://cangurettorosa.com/product/608

In Peru, *T. culeus* is used whole or dehydrated, made in to flour or creams, and leather products are used for export to the United States. Official seizure records indicate the 9,500 specimens were seized from 2012-2015.

In Bolivia this species is extracted from the wild for various uses, including medicinal and consumption. Twenty-eight communities living in the vicinity of Lake Titicaca alone, consume more than 27,000 specimens annually. Additionally, *T. culeus* is used to make gourmet dishes for tourists with each dish requiring approximately eight specimens. Furthermore, an estimated 12,780-21,600 specimens annually are used for the frog juice market. *T. culeus* skin is also found in the leather trade. On a number of occasions, individuals have come to the Lake Titicaca region seeking *T. culeus* specimens for the international pet trade.

Internationally, *T. culeus* is known to be exported in high volumes to the United States and France as an exotic delicacy. Additional reports of takes of *T. culeus* for illegal export, mainly of the legs, to the United States, Canada and Western Europe, have also been noted. It is know that large numbers of illegal frog leg exports occur to Brazil and Japan. In 2006, in the region, more than 15,000 specimens were used for the frog



leg trade. Additional trade for frog juice, are said to occur from Bolivia to Lima, Peru, possibly numbering in the thousands.

In 2008, *T. culeus* was offered for sale in Europe on the Internet as part of the live pet trade. In early 2009, thirteen specimens were offered for sale in a pet shop in Quito, Ecuador. Leather products made from *T. culeus* is also sold to the United States for USD 70-120.



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25 July 2016

For the attention of the Parties to the Convention

Letter of support for the proposal by Bolivia and Peru to list the Titicaca water frog *Telmatobius culeus* in Appendix I at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The Titicaca water frog *Telmatobius culeus* is endemic to Lake Titicaca in Bolivia and Peru and is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, as well as Critically Endangered at the national level within both range states. This is due to an observed population decline of over 80% over the last three generations.

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust is an international conservation NGO dedicated to saving species from extinction and is working with the Bolivian Amphibian Initiative to aid conservation efforts for *T. culeus* in the wild.

A 2010 workshop to establish a conservation strategy for *T. culeus* identified over-exploitation as a major threat to the species, with trade also occurring across international borders. In 2015 the first International Amphibian Trade Workshop identified *T. culeus* as a priority species for listing on CITES, meeting the criteria for Appendix I under Annex 1c (Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16)).

Durrell would like to request that all Parties pay close consideration to the proposal being put forward by Bolivia and Peru and support their call to list the species on Appendix 1 of CITES. This will be an important step in helping save this iconic species from extinction as it will support measures to tackle harvesting and trade being implemented at a national and bi-national levels, and give recognition for the need for further cooperation to protect this species from international trade.

Yours sincerely,

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Management Authorities
CITES Parties

June 2nd, 2016

Dear CITES Parties,

The Denver Zoo appeals CITES member states to support the proposal to include *Telmatobius culeus* (Titicaca water frog) in Appendix I at the next Conference of the Parties which will take place in September 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Denver Zoo has worked toward the conservation of this species in-situ and ex-situ since 2007.

The proposal has been submitted jointly by the two range states after various regional and international meetings to decide the next steps to conserve the species. The species is categorized by both range states as Critically Endangered at the national level. Additionally the species has been categorized as Critically Endangered (IUCN) globally since 2004.

T. culeus meets the criteria for listing in Appendix I (RC 9.24 (Rev. CoP16)), Criterion Annex 1c as it has a marked decline in the population size in the wild. After several measures have been adopted by Peru and Bolivia at the national, and binational level, they are now requesting the support of the international community to implement their measures.

International trade was recognized as a specific threat to the species from various studies, reports and meetings.

The Denver Zoo requests your close consideration of the proposal and your support for Peru and Bolivia to include *T. culeus* in Appendix I as a necessary measure at the international level and as a need of cooperation to conserve the species from international trade.

Sincerely,

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