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

Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

The proponents propose the transfer of *Geochelone elegan*s (Indian Star Tortoise), from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1, of the Convention. Specifically, this species meets the biological criteria found in paragraphs C i) and ii) of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16), Annex 1, due to a marked decline in population sizes in the wild observed as ongoing or inferred or projected on the basis of levels or patterns of exploitation, and a high vulnerability to intrinsic (i.e. late maturity, low reproductive output, long generation time and low population recovery potential) and extrinsic (i.e. a decrease in the area and quality of habitat) factors, and a reduction in recruitment due to indiscriminate off take.

B. Proponent

Bangladesh, India, Senegal and Sri Lanka*:

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Reptilia (Laurenti, 1768)

1.2 Order: Testudines (Batsch, 1788)

1.3 Family: Testudinidae (Batsch, 1788)

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff, 1795). Taxonomy follows the standard nomenclatural reference for Turtles (Fritz & Havas, 2007).

1.5 Scientific synonyms: *Testudo elegans* Schoepff, 1795; *Testudo stellata* (Schweigger, 1812);*Testudo actinodes*(Bell, 1828);*Testudo actinoides*(Bell in Gray, 1844);*Testudo megalopus*(Blyth, 1853);*Peltastes stellatus*(Gray, 1870); *Peltastes stellatus seba*(Gray, 1870).

1.6 Common names:
English : Indian star tortoise, star tortoise
French: Tortue étoilée de l'Inde
Spanish: Tortuga estrellada de la India

1.7 Code numbers: ITIS number 551777.

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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.*

2. Overview

Figure 1: Adult Indian Star Tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*). The unique pattern of its shell has made it a target for criminal actors involved in the international illegal wildlife trade for use as exotic pets.

The Indian Star Tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*) is a medium sized tortoise endemic to parts of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.This species can be distinguished from other tortoises of the region by the pattern of light radiating lines on the otherwise dark carapace of their shells (Moll, 1989). Their biological attributes make them extremely vulnerable to over-exploitation by humans because they are easily hunted, have a low reproductive rate, potentially occur at low densities, and do not survive or breed readily in captivity (Anand 2005; Vyas, 2010; Nijman and Shepherd, 2015a).*G. elegans*is is in rapid decline due to heavy poaching pressure, particularly for use in the international live trade for use as exotic pets (Choudhury and Bhupathy, 1993;D'Cruze et al., 2016).

To safeguard wild populations, all range states have chosen to adopt strict domestic legislation that prohibits commercial utilization of the species. For example, the species was placed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972of India,and for over 38 years it has been illegal to hunt and commercially trade this species either within or from India . Similarly, in Sri Lanka this species is protected under the Sri Lanka Fauna and Flora Ordinance (1993);in Pakistan, the Forest, Environment and Wildlife Department of the Government of Sindh, through a notification issued on September 2014, included *G. elegans* along with other chelonian species of Pakistan in Schedule II (Protected Animals) of the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972.However, this strict national legislation in all three range States has not been sufficient to stop illegal trade due to the ongoing demand for the international pet trade, and inadequate enforcement by transit and importing States. The species qualifies for Appendix I, which would both strengthen international cooperation of enforcement authorities and result in higher and more deterring fines and penalties.

Numerically, *G. Elegans*is the single most seized species of tortoise or freshwater turtle worldwide and is thought to represent around 11% of global seizures involving these taxa (van Dijk, pers. comms. 2016). For example, between 2000 and 2015, at least 34,080 live individuals were recorded as seized by wildlife and customs authorities during 118 different enforcement actions internationally (CITES, 2017).A separate analysis of seizure events in India reported by the media between 2011 and 2015 revealed that at least 8,533 individual live specimens were seized and that this species occurred in at least 23% of all such seizure events (223) reported during this time period (Mendiratta *et al.*, 2017). In Sri Lanka, unpublished data provided by Customs Department and other enforcement officials (including the Navy, Police and Flying Squad) states that at least 3,130 individual specimens were seized between 2015 and 2017 alone (Malsinghe et al., 2017; de Silva pers. comms. 2017).

In Thailand, *G. elegans* was also the most frequent illegally traded tortoise seized by enforcement authorities between 2008 and 2013 (5,966 individuals during 15 cases) and is the most commonly observed tortoise at the Chatuchak Market in Thailand (Chng 2014). Additional seizures of Indian Star Tortoises occurred in Germany, Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Slovakia, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, in most cases from air travellers arriving from Asia, as well as some from express mail parcels sent from Asia (CITES, 2017). However, studies have shown that these seizures represent only the tip of a far larger iceberg (D'Cruze et al., 2015; CITES, 2017). D'Cruze *et al*. (2015) reported the illegal collection of at least 55,000(mostly juvenile) specimens from just one location (comprising 16 villages) from the state of Andhra Pradesh in India over a period of one year. This figure is three to six times larger than the 10,000–20,000 individuals previously estimated to be poached throughout the entire range of this species each year (Sekhar *et al*. 2004).

While some small-scale captive breeding may be occurring at some zoos and with some private keepers, few of the offspring are traded internationally, and no large-scale commercial captive production facilities are known to exist (CITES, 2017).

Habitat loss is also occurring throughout *G. elegans* range; in particular scrub forest habitat is being converted to orchards and cash crop agriculture, leading to reduction of available area of the preferred habitat type (Vyas, 2006, 2010; de Silva, 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016). Although it is a relatively adaptable species, able to tolerate anthropogenically-altered habitat, continued habitat loss is likely to further impact wild numbers (Vyas, 2006; de Silva, 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016). Locally, in rural areas, *G. elegans* are sometimes eaten for subsistence and kept in households for spiritual use (Anand, 2005; D'Cruze et al., 2015). Additional documented threats faced by *G.elegans* include accidental mortalities, via road kills, agricultural equipment (such as 'brushmovers' and discarded fishing nets (de Silva, 1996, 2003; 2015; Ekanayake et al., 2004; Jayawickrama et al., 2010), and deliberate mortalities to protect crops (de Silva, 2003, 2015).

For many years, freshwater turtles and tortoises have been the subject of significant CITES attention and action because of their exceptionally high risk of overexploitation associated with international and illegal

trade (CITES, 2017). The Indian star tortoise was recognized as a species of conservation concern in the 1970's when CITES was first established and has been included in CITES Appendix II since 1975 (CITES, 2017).

A review of the best available information on the trade and status of *G. elegans* shows that this species is significantly affected by illegal trade, and that it meets the biological criteria for transfer to Appendix I in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.24 Annex 1, Criterion C i) and ii) based on the following:

1. [Criterion C i)] Observed on-going decline in population size due to a dramatic increase in international trade in live Indian star tortoise specimens in the last 15 years [see Table 1 and sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4]. Also noting that the > 30% population decline recently determined by the IUCN (D'Cruze et al., 2016) is possibly an underestimate since there is incomplete information on wild population densities[see section 4.4].

2. [Criterion C ii)] An inferred decrease in recruitment due to the indiscriminate removal of juvenile and adult Indian star tortoises from the wild over multiple generations for exploitation in domestic and international trade [see sections 5 and 6].

3. [Criterion C ii)] A high intrinsic vulnerability of the species to overexploitation due to late onset of reproduction and slow reproductive rate, behavioural traits that allow ease of capture, and specialized niche requirements (i.e. diet and habitat)[see section 3.3].

4. [Criterion C ii)] A high vulnerability to extrinsic factors, specifically a decrease in area and quality of habitat due to deforestation and land conversion for agriculture, and a high threat of accidental mortalities, via road kills, agricultural equipment and deliberate mortalities to protect crops in converted habitats [see sections 4.1, 5.3 and 5.4].

In 2016, the IUCN assessed the conservation status of *G. elegans* and found it to have a decreasing population trend and to be threatened with extinction (D'Cruze et al., 2016). Based on recent documented levels of seizures, illegal trade and the suspected future reduction in population size that could occur because of this activity, an IUCN listing of Vulnerable A4cd has been given based on concerns that population reductions of >30% are likely to occur if this exploitation continues or expands (D'Cruze et al., 2016). This echoes separate earlier national CAMP workshop assessments of Indian (Molur and Walker, 1998) and Sri Lankan (de Silva et al., 2000) populations.

3. Species characteristics

3.1 Distribution

The Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*) is native to India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In India it occurs in two main disjunct areas, in the north-western states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, and in the southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Tamil Nadu. In Pakistan the species is limited to south-eastern Sind. The species occurs throughout Sri Lanka in lowland areas up to about 270 meters altitude (D'Cruze et al., 2016; TTWG, 2017).

3.2 Habitat

G. elegans is primarily an inhabitant of open dry scrublands. However, this species also occurs in scrub forests, grasslands and some coastal scrublands of arid and semi-arid regions throughout its range. It is somewhat adaptable to human dominated landscapes including agricultural fields, hedgerows and plantations if left undisturbed by deliberate off take and accidental killings by humans (D'Cruze et al., 2016).

3.3 Biological characteristics

Similar to other tortoises belonging to the genus *Geochelone*, *G. Elegans*has a slow life history, being long-lived with a low reproductive rate (TTWG, 2017). Data on key life-history parameters in wild populations are incomplete, however mature females are known totypically produce two clutches (exceptionally up to four clutches), each comprising on average between 2-10 eggs per year (Deraniyagala, 1939; Whelen and Coakley, 1982; Vyas 2005).Generation length has been estimated as approximately 10 years, based on studies focused largely on growth and maturity of specimens in captivity (Frazier, 1987; Das; 1991; Vyas, 1997; D'Cruze et al., 2016 and reference therein). This species is most active during the monsoon season when the majority of wild collection for the international pet trade appears to occur (D'Cruze et al., 2015). Outside of monsoon season the species

is predominantly crepuscular, typically venturing out in early morning and late afternoon, hiding under bushes or tufts of grass throughout the rest of the day (D'Cruze et al., 2016).

3.4 Morphological characteristics

G. elegans is a medium-sized tortoise; adult males typically reach up to 26 cm while adult females typically can grow to 32 cm in carapace length (Moll 1989).This species has a broad, rounded and domed shell; it is characterized by the bold pattern of yellow lines radiating from the areolus (growth centre) of each scute of the otherwise near-black shell, including on the marginal scutes along the sides of the shell, and on each of the scutes of the plastron. It is this unique pattern of its shell which has made it a target for criminal actors involved in the international illegal wildlife trade for use as exotic pets (D'Cruze et al., 2015; 2016).The carapace in many individuals shows distinct pyramiding, with the centre of each vertebral and pleural scute raised to some extent. The shell margin is smooth to very gently scalloped, but never spiky or serrate. The head may show yellow markings on a dark grey to black background, or may be predominantly yellowish or pale brown.

3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

The role of *G. elegans* in its native ecosystem has not been studied in detail; however its feeding activities may affect and regulate the populations of preferred food plants and disperse seeds, while its eggs and young specimens occasionally contribute to the diet of predatory mammals, birds and other species.

4. Statuts and trends

4.1 Habitat trends

Habitat loss, destruction and/or degradation threaten the continued survival of *G. elegans* populations in the wild (D'Cruze et al., 2016). In particular, scrub forest habitat is being converted to orchards and cash crop agriculture leading to reduction of available area of the preferred habitat type (Vyas, 2006, 2010; de Silva, 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016). Restricted to parts of Southern Asia, in the wild this species inhabits a region with one of the highest human populations in the world (United Nations, 2017). India alone currently has an estimated population of 1.3 billion people comprising 18% of the global human population, and itisprojected to increase by approximately 1% per year, surpassing that of China to become the world's most populous country in 2022 (United Nations, 2017). Estimates of change in the availability of preferred and or suitable habitat for *G. elegans* have not been made. However, levels of anthropogenic activity are of particular concern. For example, despite having one of the largest forest areas in world (estimated as 68 million hectares in 2010), India recorded some 25.5 million hectares of forests as being affected by grazing by domestic animals (FAO, 2010). Although it is a relatively adaptable species, able to tolerate anthropogenically-altered habitat, continued habitat loss is likely to further negatively impact wild numbers (Vyas, 2006; de Silva, 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016).

4.2 Population size

Partly due to the ecology of this species, *G. elegans* is understudied and the status of specific geographic populations in the wild is poorly known. However, Frazier (in Das 1991) recorded estimated densities of 4-12.5 animals per hectare in Gujarat.

4.3 Population structure

Illegal removal of juvenile specimens from the wild to fuel the exotic pet trade has likely skewed the population to adult tortoises in some areas (D'Cruze et al., in press). Due to the long life expectancy of this species, a consequent lack of recruitment may not manifest as a population reduction for several years, masking the impact of off-take (D'Cruze et al., in press).

4.4 Population trends

Based on recent documented levels of seizures, illegal trade and the suspected future reduction in population size that could occur because of this activity, an IUCN listing of 'Vulnerable' A4cd has been given based on concerns that population reductions of >30% are likely to occur if this exploitation continues or expands (D'Cruze et al., 2016). This echoes separate earlier national CAMP workshop assessments of Indian (Molur and Walker, 1998) and Sri Lankan (de Silva et al., 2000) populations.

4.5 Geographic trends

The current range of *G. elegans* includes wild populations present in the Deccan thorn scrub forests; a xeric shrub land ecoregion that sprawls across the Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra and also includes part of northern Sri Lanka (Champion and Seth, 1986). More than 90% of this ecoregion's natural habitat has been degraded or cleared (WWF, 2018) As such, the conservation status of the ecoregion was changed from endangered to critical after the analysis of projected threats from the human population (WWF, 2018). There are concerns that this trend could extend to other dry scrub forests inhabited by wild populations of this species (D'Cruze et al., 2016). Spatial occupancy of this species is shrinking at a fast rate. For example, of the 16 protected areas surveyed in the State of Gujarat, five of them lost the Indian Star Tortoise during 1989-98 (Vyas and Parasharya, 2000).Moreover, habitat loss is also occurring throughout *G. elegans* range; in particular scrub forest habitat is being converted to orchards and cash crop agriculture, leading to reduction of available area of the preferred habitat type (Vyas, 2006, 2010; de Silva, 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016).

5. Threats

The main current threats to the survival of *G. elegans* include illegal collection and habitat loss, in addition to accidental and retaliatory killings.

5.1 Exploitation driven by intercontinental trade

Illegal collection for the international wildlife trade is of most major concern. Numerically, *G. elegans* is the single most seized species of tortoise or freshwater turtle worldwide and is thought to represent around 11% of global seizures involving these taxa (van Dijk, pers. comms. 2016). For example, between 2000 and 2015, at least 34,080 live individuals were recorded as seized by wildlife and customs authorities during 118 different enforcement actions internationally (CITES, 2017). During this time nearly two-thirds of all seized live *G. elegans* (21,316 animals) were detected and seized within India (CITES, 2017). However, studies have shown that these seizures represent only the tip of a far larger iceberg (D'Cruze et al., 2015; CITES, 2017). D'Cruze et al. (2015) reported the illegal collection of at least 55,000 (mostly juvenile) specimens from just one location (comprising 16 villages) from the state of Andhra Pradesh in India over a period of one year. This figure is three to six times larger than the 10,000–20,000 individuals previously estimated to be poached throughout the entire range of this species each year (Sekhar et al., 2004). There are concerns that this species is being smuggled from India and Sri Lanka into pet markets in Asia, Europe and the United States (de Silva 2003; Horne et al. 2012; Vyas 2015). However, the majority of animals appear to be destined for use as exotic pets in Asian countries, such as Thailand and China (Shepherd et al. 2004; D'Cruze et al. 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016).

5.2 Domestic consumption of wild meat and live specimens

Locally, in rural areas, *G. elegans* are sometimes eaten for subsistence (Anand, 2005; D'Cruze et al., 2015). However they are also kept as pets in many homes, their owners believing that they bring good luck and fortune (Anand, 2005; D'Cruze et al., 2015). Over 100 hatchlings have been observed in one urban household in India alone (D'Cruze *et al*. 2015). In addition, for many people *G. elegans* plays an even more spiritual rolein some societies as they are thought to represent a reincarnation of the Hindu God "Vishnu" (D'Cruze *et al*. 2015). In 2015, researchers observed a total of 22 animals at three different Shiva temples in the state of Gujarat, India (D'Cruze et al., 2015).

5.3 Habitat loss

Habitat loss is occurring throughout *G. elegans*' range; in particular scrub forest habitat is being converted to orchards and cash crop agriculture, leading to reduction of available area of the preferred habitat type (Vyas, 2006, 2010; de Silva, 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016). Although *G. elegans* is a relatively adaptable species, able to tolerate anthropogenically-altered habitat, continued habitat loss is likely to further impact wild numbers (Vyas, 2006; de Silva, 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016).

5.4 Accidental and retaliatory killings

Additional documented threats faced by G. elegans include accidental mortalities, via road kills, agricultural equipment such as 'brushmovers' and discarded fishing nets (de Silva, 1996, 2003; 2015;

Ekanayake *et al*., 2004; Jayawickrama *et al*., 2010), and deliberate mortalities to protect crops (de Silva, 2003, 2015).

6. Utilization and trade

6.1 National utilization

G. elegans is hunted within its range as wild meatby certain tribal communities (D'Cruze et al., 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016).This species is also collected for use as pets and for spiritual use (D'Cruze et al., 2015; D'Cruze et al., 2016). However, trade for these purposes is likely to be negligible compared with the high volume of the international pet trade (D'Cruze at al., 2016).Stringent national legislation exists in all three range States that effectively prohibit personal and commercial use[see section 7.1].

6.2 Legal trade

According to the CITES WCMC trade database, 70,664 live *G. elegans* were exported by 37 different non-range states between the years 2000 and 2015 (CITES WCMC, 2018).Of these specimens, only 4% (*n* = 2741) were recorded as wild sourced or ranched specimens during this time period (CITES WCMC, 2018). Rather, the majority (58%; *n* = 41,193) of these specimens were recorded as being bred or born in captivity (CITES WCMC, 2018). Data on country of origin was missing for 91% (37,735) of these specimens (CITES WCMC, 2018). In this regard, Jordan was reported as the largest exporter, being responsible for 75% (*n* = 30,923) of specimens all of whom were intended for either commercial or personal use (CITES WCMC, 2018). However, given that Jordan is a non-range state that has only received one shipment of 20 live *G. elegans* of unknown origin, there are concerns that its founder stock was not bred in captivity in conformity with Res. Conf 10.16 (Rev.) (CITES, 2017). Consequently, Jordan has been asked to report on how this founder stock was sourced and how much time was required to build up the breeding population (Resolution Conf. 17.7). The Animals Committee recommended at its 70th meeting in July 2018 that Jordan establish a zero export quota for the species from all sources, and provide evidence of the legal origin of its breeding stock. Ukraine (*n* = 3,962), Hong Kong (*n* = 1,797) and Slovenia (*n* = 1,783) were the three largest exporters after Jordan. Ukraine and Slovenia reported no legal import records for *G. elegans* that also bring the legitimacy of their founding into question. Hong Kong reported the import of 7,117 live *G, elegans* since 2000, however 97% (6,876) of these live specimens were imported from Jordan.

There are also concerns that 'legal loopholes' are being exploited to sell illegally sourced *G. elegans* in non-range states such as Thailand (Nijman and Shepherd 2015a,b). Historically, Kazakhstan is reported to have been the main supplier into Thailand despite the fact that it is not a range country for this species and has a complete lack of import records for any captive breeding stock (Nijman and Shepherd, 2010; D'Cruze et al., 2015). The significant involvement of Lebanon (a non-CITES Party until 2013) also calls the legitimacy of Thailand's founderstock into question. Previous calls for CITES Management Authorities to investigate this particular trade route (e.g. Nijman and Shepherd 2010) may be partly responsible for the observed lack of Indian Star Tortoise imports into Thailand since 2010 (D'Cruze et al., 2015).

6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

Occasionally, shells of *G. elegans* are traded as curios or crafted into masks or other items, but as far as is known, and based on recorded seizures, the vast majority of (illegal) trade in this species occurs as live specimens for the international pet trade (see section 6.4). In contrast to trade in live specimens, since 2000 only five shells and carapaces were reported as legally exportedsince 2000 (CITES WCMC, 2018).

6.4 Illegal trade

Numerically speaking, the Indian star tortoise is the single most seized species of tortoise or freshwater turtle worldwide and is thought to represent around 11% of global seizures involving these taxa (van Dijk, pers. comms. 2016). For example, between 2000 and 2015, at least 34,080 live individuals were recorded as seized by wildlife and customs authorities during 118 different enforcement actions internationally (CITES, 2017). A separate analysis of seizure events in India reported by the media between 2011 and 2015 revealed that at least 8,533 individual live specimens were seized and that this species occurred in at least 23% of all such seizure events (*n* = 223) reported during this time period (Mendiratta *et al.*, 2017). More recently, data collated by Robin De Bois (2018) documented a

total of 8,825 individual live specimens (with an estimated market value of 3,530,000 $ USD) that were reported as seized during 2016 and 2017 (Appendix X). In Sri Lanka, unpublished data provided bytheCustoms Department and other enforcement officials (including the Navy, Police and Flying Squad) states that at least 3,130 individual specimens were seized between 2015 and 2017 alone (Malsinghe et al., 2017; de Silva pers. comms. 2017). In Thailand, *G. elegans* was also the most frequent illegally traded tortoise seized by enforcement authorities between 2008 and 2013 (5,966 individuals during 15 cases) and is the most commonly observed tortoise at the Chatuchak Market in Thailand (Chng 2014). Additional seizures of Indian Star Tortoises occurred in Germany, Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Slovakia, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, in most cases from air travellers arriving from Asia, as well as some from express mail parcels sent from Asia (CITES, 2017).The price per specimen in the European pet market may be up to 400-800 Euro.

6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

Studies have shown that these seizures represent only the tip of a far larger iceberg (D'Cruze et al., 2015; CITES, 2017). Moll (1989) estimated an annual turnover of 10,000 animals in Calcutta's New Market alone in the late 1970s, before enforcement of domestic legislation nearly eliminated this domestic trade. However, export trade seems to have developed into the replacement trade outlet (Choudhury and Bhupathy 1993); by 1993, about 5,000 tortoises were estimated as illegally exported. A recent conservative estimate of annual pet-trade export is 10,000 to 20,000 animals, and four confiscated shipments in 2002-2003 comprised between 305 and 1,090 animals per shipment (Shepherd et al., 2004). Most of the pet trade involves small to medium-sized animals, few exceeding 10 cm carapace length. This size / age class is preferred for trade as tortoises of this size are large enough to withstand the handling, and shortage of water and food, associated with clandestinely transporting tortoises in suitcases, while maximizing the number of specimens that can be shipped per container. D'Cruze et al., (2015) reported the illegal collection of at least 55,000 (mostly juvenile) tortoises from just one location (comprising 16 villages) from the state of Andhra Pradesh in India over one year. This figure is three to six times larger than the 10,000–20,000 individuals previously estimated to be poached throughout the entire range of this species each year (Sekhar et al. 2004).

7. Legal instruments

7.1 National

G. elegans is protected from hunting and trade in each of its three range States:

India: *G. elegans* was placed in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 in 1980 and for over 38 years it has been illegal to hunt (including take from the wild) this species or trade it domestically without a license (Sections 9 and 44 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972). To date no permissions to trade the species domestically appear to have ever been granted. International trade of the species from India is prohibited.

Pakistan: The Forest, Environment and Wildlife Department of the Government of Sindh, through a notification issued on September 2014, included *G. elegans* along with other chelonian species of Pakistan in Schedule II (Protected Animals) of the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972.

Sri Lanka: *G. elegans* is protected under the Sri Lanka Fauna and Flora Ordinance (1993).

7.2 International

G. elegans, has been included in CITES Appendix II, as part of the listing of the genus *Geochelone*, from the date of entry into force of the Convention on 1 July 1975.*G. elegans* is listed in Annex A of the EU Council Regulation 338/97, providing highest protection level to this species within the European Union. It is not specifically covered by other Conventions or multilateral environmental agreements.

8. Species management

8.1 Management measures

Currently there are no official management measures in range States for the protection and study specific to *G. elegans*. There are a number of challenges associated with the reactive management and repatriation involving large numbers of seized and confiscated live *G. Elegans*specimens. These

challenges include but are not limited to: (1) Non-existent national action plans for effective seizure and disposal of live specimens; (2) Incomplete understanding of which national agencies are responsible for effective seizure of live specimens; (3) a lack of financial resources for effective disposal of live specimens; and (4) lack of skilled staff for effective seizure and disposal of live specimens.

8.2 Population monitoring

No official in-country population monitoring programs have yet been established for *G. elegans* by any of the three range States.

8.3 Control measures

8.3.1 International

Control of the legal provisions to protect *G. elegans* from international commercial exploitation depends first and foremost on the vigilance and actions of customs officials and wildlife inspection agents at border crossings; they may supported and assisted by information from NGOs monitoring wildlife trade in source and destination markets.

8.3.2 Domestic

Implementing the existing national legal protection in the three range countries is primarily the responsibility of the respective wildlife departments and their associated law enforcement units. As documented in Annex I, numerous seizures occur domestically as a result of diligent investigations and information from observant and concerned citizens. A number of enforcement drives have also helped to protect wild populations of *G. elegans*. Most recently, in 2017 the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of India was awarded a certificate of commendation by the CITES Secretariat for its effort to combat the proliferating illegal trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises following “Operation Save Kurma” which resulted in the seizure of approximately 16,000 animals between December 2016 and January 2017 (CITES Notification to the Parties 2017/076).

Advocacy, targeted lobbying, and public-awareness campaigns using evidence-based research are thought to have contributed to an observed significant reduction and in the scale of *G. elegans* openly traded in pets shops in Malaysia since 2003 (Chng, 2015).

8.4 Captive breeding and artificial propagation

In contrast to the Burmese star tortoise (*Geochelone platynota)*, which breeds very well in captivity in range and in suitable climate areas in other countries and continents(Platt et al., 2011), *G. elegans* does not appear to reproduce regularly or in great numbers even at the best of captive facilities. While some small-scale captive breeding may be occurring at some zoos and with some private keepers, few of the offspring are traded internationally, and no large-scale commercial captive production facilities are known to exist (CITES, 2017). Vyas (2006) reported that captive specimens of *G. elegans* were being kept in 16% (*n* = 26) of the 164 captive wild animal facilities in India; citing a document entitled ‘Indian Zoo Inventory of 2002-2003’ produced by the Central Zoo Authority of the Government of India. At the time of writing, Vyas (2006) reported that none of the captive production facilities in India were known to have successfully bred any *G. elegans* in captivity within the last 12 months and that data regarding sex ratios was not available from 10 of these institutions.

Information provided by the global online database Species 360 (2014) confirmed that a total of 765 *G. elegans* specimens (187 males, 161 females and 417 of unknown sex) were being held in captivity at 78 different zoos and aquaria in four different geographical regions. In Asia, a total of 516 *G. elegans* specimens (107 males, 101females and 308 of unknown sex) were reported from 20 different institutions (Species 360, 2014). In Europe, a total of 82 *G.elegans* specimens (32 males, 31 females and 19 of unknown sex) were reported from 20 different institutions (Species 360, 2014). In Oceania, a total of 16 *G. elegans* specimens (6 males, 4 females and 6 of unknown sex) were reported from three different institutions (Species 360, 2014). In North America, a total of 151 *G. elegans* specimens (45 males, 25 females and 81 of unknown sex) were reported from 35 different institutions (Species 360, 2014).

8.5 Habitat conservation

Populations of *G. elegans* are present in both protected areas and in agricultural landscapes in range states (D'Cruze et al., 2016). Available information indicates that this species maintains relatively large populations of >10,000 adult individuals with an extent of occurrence of over 20,000 km^2 and an area of occupancy of more than 2,000 km^2 (D'Cruze et al., 2016). In India, *G. elegans* is thought to be still present in at least 30 protected areas (Vyas pers. comms., 2018) although recent detailed field surveys are lacking. Any populations in Pakistan appear to be extremely localized and small with recent detailed field surveys also lacking (D'Cruze et al., 2016).In Sri Lanka, *G. elegans* is thought to be still present in at least 26 Wildlife National Parks (de Silva pers. comms., 2018).

8.6 Safeguards

Not applicable.

9. Information on similar species

The Burmese Star Tortoise (*Geochelone platynota)* (CITES Appendix I) tends to have a smoother carapace with fewer 'star lines' on each scute, predominantly cream to yellow marginal scutes in the bridge region without clear star pattern, and usually a uniform yellowish head; the plastron of *G. platynota* shows bold black triangles on a pale background, and never a radiating pattern. The Geometric Tortoise (*Psammobates geometricus*, CITES App. I), other *Psammobates* tortoises (App. II) of southern Africa, the Radiated Tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*, App.I), and Spider tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides*, App. I) of Madagascar, all share a carapace pattern of yellowish radiating lines on a dark background colour, but all these species generally lack a corresponding radiating pattern on the plastral scutes; only *Psammobates oculiferus*may show a plastral radiating pattern, but this species can be distinguished by its strongly serrated carapace margin (smooth in *G. elegans*).

10. Consultations

India has circulated the draft proposal of Star Tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*) to the Range Countries of Shri Lanka and Pakistan on 5th December, 2018. In response to India's proposal, Sri Lanka has agreed to become a co-proponent of the proposal. Si Lanka has conveyed that, the content of the proposal was reviewed by a technical review committee under the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka and is in agreement on transfer of species *Geochelone elegans (*Indian Star Tortoise) from Appendix II to Appendix I of CITES. Myanmar has also supported the proposal.

11. Additional remarks

From a policy perspective, transferring *G. elegans* from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I is recommended as this would help to safeguard remaining wild populations, aid national enforcement efforts and better reflect current legislation in range States. In particular, given its concerning current role as a country of transit, extending WARPA to protect non-indigenous species could help to aid Thailand's existing enforcement efforts to address this illegal trade activity (Nijman and Shepherd, 2015a,b; D'Cruze et al., 2015).

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Annexes

Table 1: Confiscations of Indian star tortoises made between January 2016 and December 2017 based on media sources. Note for reference to estimated market value: one live Indian star tortoise specimen is estimated to have a market value of 400 $USD (NEED REF).

Date	Size of Seizure	Estimated Market Value $USD	Location of Seizure	Source Country	Source of Information
February 3, 2016	1	400	Indonesia	Unknown	On the Trail 12:2016
May 2, 2016	7	2800	India	India	On the Trail 13:2016
May 3, 2016	6	2400	India	India	On the Trail 13:2016
May 8, 2016	25	10000	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	On the Trail 13:2016
May 30, 2016	1	400	India	India	On the Trail 13:2016
May 11, 2016	6	2400	India	India	On the Trail 13:2016
June 23, 2016	22	8800	Singapore	Unknown	On the Trail 13:2016
July 9, 2016	3	1200	India	India	On the Trail 14:2016
July 28, 2016	500	200000	India	India	On the Trail 14:2016
August 23, 2016	150	60000	India	India	On the Trail 14:2016
August 25, 2016	1011	404400	Malaysia	Unknown	On the Trail 14:2016
September 19, 2016	24	9600	India	India	On the Trail 14:2016
November 13, 2016	199	79600	India	India	On the Trail 15:2016
December 14, 2016	62	24800	Thailand	Unknown	On the Trail 15:2016
December 21, 2016	4	1600	India	India	On the Trail 15:2016
January 4, 2017	9	3600	India	India	On the Trail 16:2017
January 29, 2017	280	112000	India	India	On the Trail 16:2017
February 7, 2017	10	4000	India	India	On the Trail 16:2017
February 20, 2017	2	800	India	India	On the Trail 16:2017
March 12, 2017	75	30000	China	Unknown	On the Trail 16:2017
March, 2017	28	11200	Malaysia	Unknown	On the Trail 16:2017
April 23, 2017	105	42000	India	India	On the Trail 17:2017
June 17, 2017	2089	835600	Sri Lanka	India	On the Trail 17:2017
July 4, 2017	200	80000	India	India	On the Trail 18:2017
July 23, 2017	2	800	Thailand	Unknown	On the Trail 18:2017
August 22, 2017	2515	1006000	India	India	On the Trail 18:2017
August, 2017	97	38800	Singapore	Unknown	On the Trail 18:2017
October 9, 2017	852	340800	India	India	On the Trail 19:2017
November 30, 2017	330	132000	Thailand	Unknown	On the Trail 19:2017
December 11, 2017	210	84000	India	India	On the Trail 19:2017
Total	8825	3530000	-	-	-

Table 2. UNEP-WCMC trade data: 2000 – 2015 for *Geochelone elegans*. Purpose codes: L = law enforcement; H = hunting trophy; P = personal; Q = circus/traveling exhibit; T = trade; Z = Zoo. Source codes: I = confiscation; O = Pre-convention; W = wild; R = ranched specimen – to be added.

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	BE	UA		20	20	live		T	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	RU	UA		50	live		T	F
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	UA		20	20	live		T	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH		3		live		T	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH			3	live			C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CZ	XX		1	live			I
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CZ			2	live		B	F
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CZ		2		live		P	F
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB		700		live		T	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	RU	UA		154	live		T	F
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	UA			90	live		T	F
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	NO	SE			3	live		T	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	NZ	AU			4	live		Z	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	PL	NL	XX	3	3	live		Z	I
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	SE	UA			20	live		T	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	US	BG		55		live		T	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	US	BG		50	180	live		T	F
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	US	CH		1		live		T	F
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	US	CH			1	live			C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	US	MY		2		live		P	I
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	US	RU	UA		50	live		T	F

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI			45	live		T	C
2000	II	Geochelone elegans	US	TW		5		live		P	I
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	BE	UA			43	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	BG	CZ	AE	183	229	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH		2		live		P	F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH			2	live			F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	UA		110	85	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA		94	94	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	LB		150		live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA		120	120	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JP	LB	50	50	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	US	BG	14	14	live		T	F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	IL	US		4		live			
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	SI		15	20	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB		1870		live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	UA		50		live		T	F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	PT	SG	XX	6	6	live		Z	U
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	SE	UA		100	100	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	BG		30		live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	BG		40	40	live		T	F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	CH		1		live		T	F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	CH			1	live			F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	DE	BE		5	live		T	F

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	DE		5		live		P	F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	AE		1	live		P	F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	XX		2	live		Z	U
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI		115	125	live		T	C
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA		94	150	live		T	F
2001	II	Geochelone elegans	UY	SE		15	3	live		E	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	BE	UA			20	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	FR	UA		7	live		Q	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH		3		live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH			3	live			C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	SI		200	260	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	BG		24	24	live		T	F
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA		50	50	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	CH	UA	7		live		Q	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	CH	UA		7	live			C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA		30	25	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	GB	US		1		live			I
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JP	LB	26	26	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	UA		4	4	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	IN	SG	IN		1830	live		T	I
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	SI		100	100	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	UA		57	47	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	US	BG	2		live		T	F

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	JE	GB		4		live		P	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	AF		2100		live		T	W
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB		1870		live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	UA			30	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	NL	HK	XX	38		live		B	I
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	NL	SI			20	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	NO	SE	UA		3	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	RU	US	UA		1	live		T	F
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	SE	UA		20	45	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	BG			150	live		T	F
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JP	UA		30	live		T	F
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	US	BG		38	53	live		T	F
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	US	HK	XX	40		live		Z	I
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	US	JP	LB		20	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	AE	1		live		P	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	XX	114		live		T	I
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI		80	160	live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA		25		live		T	C
2002	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA			50	live		T	F
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	AE	QA	XX	1	1	live		P	O
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	BE	UA		30	30	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	CA	US	BG		2	live		T	F
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DE	SI	3	3	live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	CN	BG			50	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	CZ	LK			3	live		P	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	CZ	LK		3		live		Z	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CZ			2	live		B	F
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CZ		2		live		P	F
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	JP	LB	1	1	live		P	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	SI		60	50	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA		49	34	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA		280	220	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	GB	OM	XX	1		live		P	U
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	ID	JP	LB	50	50	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	IN	SG	IN		500	live		N	I
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	SI			160	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	UA		51	201	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	US	BG		2	live		T	F
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	JE	GB		2		live		P	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	AF		2800		live		T	W
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	BG		145	200	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB	KZ	500		live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB		189		live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	UA		6	6	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	US	SI	10		live		Q	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	US	SI	10	10	live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	NL	SI		20		live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	JP	LB	30		live		B	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	JP	LB		30	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	UA			20	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	US	BG		14	live		T	F
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	ID	LB	10		live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	ID	XX		25	live		T	W
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	PK		1		live		S	W
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	XX	4	4	live		P	I
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	XX	20		live		T	U
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG		10		live		P	U
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG		25		live		T	I
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI			80	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	TH	XX	17		live		T	U
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	TH		2		live		T	I
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA		50	50	live		T	C
2003	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA		70	151	live		T	F
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	AE	CH		10		live		Z	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	AE	CH			8	live			F
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	CA	BG			4	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DE	UA		2	live		Q	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DE		2	2	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	UA			10	live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	CN	BG			30	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH	UA	2		live		Q	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH			3	live			F
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	UA			10	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	BG			20	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA			15	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA			285	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	TH	KG		40	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	TH	KZ	40		live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	AF		494		live		T	W
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		300	600	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB	KZ	300		live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB	PK	415		live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB		110		live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	MX	LB		200		live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	IN		582		live		T	I
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	NL	HK	XX	112		live		B	I
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	SE	UA			40	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	LB	KZ	200		live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	LB		150		live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	TH	LB		40	live		T	C
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	US	CN	IN	4		live		P	I
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	US	CN		4		live		P	I

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2004	II	Geochelone elegans	US	HK	XX	156		live		Z	I
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	AE	OM		9		live		P	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	CA	BG		4		live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	CN	UA			10	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	UA		10	35	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	BD	XX	10		live			I
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA		11	61	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA		201	111	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA		10		live		T	R
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		100	150	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	TH	KZ	30	30	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	UA		50	100	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		344	1200	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB	KZ	6770		live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB	PK	144		live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	TH	KZ	130	130	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	TH	LB	100	100	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	LB	CH			16	live			C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	MO	UA		5		live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	JP	KZ	50	50	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	LB	KZ	1500		live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			30	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	UA	JO			550	live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	US	BD	XX	10		live		T	I
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	US	JO			50	live		T	C
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	XX		1	live		P	U
2005	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA		50	50	live		T	F
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	AE	DE	SI		20	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	AE	DE		20		live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	AE	SI		50	50	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	BE	UA		20	20	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	BG	TH	KZ	500	100	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	CZ	JO			96	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	UA		65	76	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA		232	297	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	GB	LK			6	live		Z	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		90	40	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	CH			2	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	UA		10	10	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		2663	3370	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LB	KZ	900		live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	TH	KZ	200		live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	US		1	4	live		P	F
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	US		3		live		T	F
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	NL	UA			10	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	JO		800	300	live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			170	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	TH	KZ		100	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	UA	JO			250	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	US	HK	JO	20	20	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	US	JO		34	25	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI		160	160	live		T	C
2006	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA			4	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	AE	JO		50		live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	BG	TH	KZ	500		live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DK	CZ		4	live		T	F
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DK	DE		1	live		T	F
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	JO		110	150	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	CZ	UA			49	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH			2	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	UA		111	90	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA		221	206	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	AE	IN		10	live		P	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	AE	OM	10		live		P	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA		12	12	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	UA		15	15	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	IN	HK	XX	10		live		N	I
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	CH			2	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	JO	SI		20	20	live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	DE	LB	1	1	live		P	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		2246	3330	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	JO			30	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	NL	UA		10		live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	PH	HK		3		live		P	F
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	PT	SG	XX	15		live		Z	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	PT	SG	XX		15	live		Z	U
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	SI	JO			60	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	SK	JO			20	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	JO			600	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	JP	KZ		100	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			1220	live		T	C
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	US	GB	XX	1		carvings		T	O
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	US	GB	XX		1	carvings		T	U
2007	II	Geochelone elegans	US	JO		75	80	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	CA	UA			9	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DE		2	2	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	JO		40		live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	CH		2		live		P	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	UA		75	50	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	GB	AE	XX		1	live		P	U
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		100	100	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JP	JO		50	live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	UA		10	10	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	IE	UA		9		live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		2201	3060	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	LK		2		carvings		Q	O
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	LK	JP	LK		2	carvings		Q	O
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	JP	US		1	live		P	F
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	JP		1		live		P	F
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	JP	KZ		100	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			1632	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	US	JO		160	160	live		T	C
2008	II	Geochelone elegans	US	ZA			1	carapaces		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DE		2	2	live		P	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	CN	GB	SI		1	live		P	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	UA			51	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA		51	51	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA		20	20	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	GB	JP	JO		1	live		P	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	GB	SI	1		live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		150	150	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JP	JO	50		live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	US			1	live		P	F
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	US		1		live		T	F
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO	XX		100	live		T	W

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		700	1500	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	UA		20	20	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	LV	UA			10	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	SK	RU		2	2	live		P	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	TH	SG	XX		1	live		P	U
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			350	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	US	JO			50	live		T	C
2009	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA		15	65	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	PK		5	5	specimens		S	W
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	UA		51	65	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	ZA			20	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	ES	UA		17	30	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	FR	UA		20	20	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JP	JO		70	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	ID	SG	XX		13	live		Z	U
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	EG	IT		1	live			C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	IT	UA		100	100	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO	XX		300	live		T	W
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		2480	2570	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	JO		100		live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	TW		10		live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	LV	UA		8		live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	PL	CH			1	live		T	F

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			500	live		T	C
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	XX	36	36	live		Z	U
2010	II	Geochelone elegans	US	UA		20	20	live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DE		5	5	live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	CN	JO			60	live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO	XX	600		live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO	XX		600	live		T	W
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		1300	2085	live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JP	JO		50	live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	IN	MY	IN		601	live		L	W
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO	XX		815	live		T	W
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		3265	4300	live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	HK	JO	30		live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	HK		70		live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	JO		170		live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	TW	JO	225		live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	TW		60		live		T	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	KW	JO	GY		1	live		P	C
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO	XX		100	live		T	W
2011	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			2084	live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DE			2	live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	CN	SY			200	live		T	R
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	CZ	TW		26		live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	EG	JO			300	live			
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		1389		live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO			1500	live			
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	IL	VN		100		live			
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	DE		12	12	live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	HK	JO	20	20	live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		1390		live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO			550	live			
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	TH	LB		3	live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	HK	JO	30	180	live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	HK		70		live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	JO		170		live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	TW	JO	90		live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	US		6		live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	US			4	live		T	F
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	HK	JO	200	100	live		T	C
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			2715	live			
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	US	BD			9	live		E	
2012	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI		164	164	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	BB	US	SI		7	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	CA	US			2	live		P	F
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	DE		3	3	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	HK	JO	49	49	live		T	C

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	US	IN		2	specimens		S	W
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	GB	AE	IN		1	live		P	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		1730		live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO			2000	live			
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	IL	HK	JO		80	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	IL	HK		20		live			
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	IR	HK	JO		5	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	DE		20	20	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	HK	JO	220	220	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		1400		live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO			850	live			
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	HK	JO	260	300	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	HK	JO	215	150	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	JO		35		live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	TW	JO	130		live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	PL	HK	JO	50	50	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	RS	SI			50	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			760	live			
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	US	JO		204		live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	US	JO			700	live			
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI		190	190	live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	UZ	JO		1000		live		T	C
2013	II	Geochelone elegans	UZ	JO			1000	live			

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	IT			1	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		900		live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO			2100	live			
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	IL	HK	JO		30	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	IL	HK		12		live			
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	DE		15	15	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	HK	JO	120	20	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		1500		live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO			4600	live			
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	HK	JO	350	300	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	TW	JO	70		live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	US	SI	4	4	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	KW	HK	JO		12	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	HK	JO	6	6	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	PA	US			2	live		T	F
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			1100	live			
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	US	GB	XX	2		shells		T	O
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	US	MY	JO		10	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	US	MY		10		live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI		54	54	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	UZ	UA			200	live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	UZ	XX		500		live		T	C
2014	II	Geochelone elegans	XX	JO			230	live			

Year	App.	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Importer reported quantity	Exporter reported quantity	Term	Unit	Purpose	Source
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	CH	IT	XX	1		live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	DE	LK			17.2	specimens	g	S	W
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO		517		live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	HK	JO			2400	live			
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	IL	HK		12		live			
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	DE		5	5	live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO		855		live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	JP	JO			1920	live			
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	KR	HK	JO	240	255	live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	MX	UA		20	20	live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	MY	TW	JO	20		live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	PH	HK	JO	30		live		B	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	QA	BE	XX		1	shells		T	O
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	QA	BE	XX	1		shells		T	W
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	TW	JO			1542	live			
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	US	CA	XX	1		carapaces		P	I
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	US	MY	JO	13	20	live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SG	XX		20	live		Z	U
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	US	SI		75	75	live		T	C
2015	II	Geochelone elegans	XX	MY	JO		20	live		T	C

Figure 2. Range map of *G. elegans*.