



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2012/043

Geneva, 25 June 2012

CONCERNING:

### Status of *Scleropages inscriptus* ('Batik arowana') under CITES

1. The attention of the Secretariat has been drawn to the publication of a scientific paper relating to a newly described taxon of Asian bonytongue fish (or 'arowana') from the Tenasserim river basin (also known as the Tanintharyi River), on the coast of Myanmar.
2. The Secretariat consulted the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee, who notes that:
  - a) In the supporting statement of the proposal to transfer *Scleropages formosus* from Appendix II to Appendix I, which was adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Lausanne, 1989), the described distribution of *S. formosus* was: Indonesia, Burma (now Myanmar), Thailand, Malaysia, Laos (now the Lao People's Democratic Republic), Kampuchea (now Cambodia) and Viet Nam; and
  - b) All other *Scleropages* species not covered by CITES (i.e. *S. jardinii* and *S. leichhardtii*) occur in Australia and New Guinea, well away from the range of the newly described taxon.
3. Taking these facts into consideration, the Secretariat and the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee recommend that, until it is clarified to the contrary by the Conference of the Parties, it should be understood that the specimens that have now been described as *S. inscriptus* were intended to be included in the original listing of *S. formosus*. Consequently, specimens traded internationally should be recorded under the name *Scleropages formosus* and in accordance with the provisions relating to species in Appendix I. The Secretariat will be adding a footnote in the Appendices to clarify this.
4. The Secretariat has suggested to the Animals Committee that it make a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting to clarify the listing of *S. inscriptus*.