

UNEP-WCMC **technical report**

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# Report on Standing Committee recommendations to suspend trade that were made more than two years ago through the Review of Significant Trade: update since SC66

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## Report on Standing Committee recommendations to suspend trade that were made more than two years ago through the Review of Significant Trade: update since SC66

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# Executive Summary and Recommendations

This report provides updated accounts for taxa that have been subject to trade suspensions established through the CITES Review of Significant Trade (RST) Process for more than two years. It aims to assist the Standing Committee, in consultation with the CITES Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee (AC/PC), in determining whether or not trade suspensions remain warranted, and if appropriate measures are required to address the situation.

UNEP-WCMC was asked by the CITES Secretariat to compile updated reviews for 33 taxa/country combinations that have been subject to trade suspensions for more than two years on the basis of recommendations formulated through the RST, for consideration at SC70<sup>1</sup>. This builds on the detailed species assessments that were considered at SC66<sup>2</sup>. In order to evaluate why the suspensions have remained in place and assess whether any could be lifted or may still be warranted, range States were consulted and were requested to provide any updates to the conservation and protection status of the relevant species within their country, as well as trade information, management actions and any progress on implementing the AC/PC recommendations. In addition, range States were requested to clarify if there is interest in resuming trade in the species in the future and if so, to confirm whether they consider that non-detriment findings can now be made. Alternatively, if there is no interest in future trade, they were asked to confirm that exports are no longer anticipated. Finally, range States were asked to outline any challenges faced in implementing the AC/PC recommendations and any underlying reasons for these challenges, as well as identifying what type of support (if any) would be needed in order to address the recommendations. The report findings largely rely on the responses by range States, and are therefore presented by country (16 in total), rather than by species. Six countries provided a written response, three further countries provided verbal responses in the margins of AC30/PC24, and seven of the 16 range States did not provide a response to this consultation. A factor in the low response rate is likely to have been the relatively short timeframe requested for responses to the consultation. Letters were sent to range States (by email) in mid June 2018, with some Parties in early July 2018 due to the need for translation of the initial SC66 species reviews<sup>3</sup>.

## Recommendations to the Standing Committee, Secretariat and Chairs of the AC/PC:

Based on the responses to the consultation and any further information identified through literature searches and in consultation with experts as part of this review, the following is recommended:

- The **removal of trade suspensions may be warranted for nine taxon/range State combinations** on the basis of either no anticipated trade (because the species is no longer considered to occur in the relevant country or the country has indicated that exports of wild-sourced specimens will no longer be permitted), the country has proposed a conservative export quota that is likely to be non-detrimental, or because a suspension at a higher taxonomic level does not appear to be relevant.
- The **retention of the current trade suspensions may be appropriate for the remaining 24 taxon/range State combinations**. This is largely on the basis that either it is unclear whether the relevant range States intend to export the species (because they did not respond to the consultation), insufficient progress in addressing the relevant AC/PC recommendations has been made, or insufficient information is available to demonstrate that exports of the species would be non-detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

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<sup>1</sup> Several other taxon/country combinations have been dealt with separately by the Secretariat

<sup>2</sup> See [SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2](#) and [SC66 Summary Record](#)

<sup>3</sup> Translation was undertaken by the Secretariat

Specific recommendations for the 33 taxon/country combinations are provided in full in Table 1.

Low response rates from Parties means that it is still not possible to determine whether range States have any intention to trade in future for a third of the species (11) subject to long-term suspensions included in this report. It is recommended in these cases, the range States communicate on whether they intend to trade the species as a matter of priority. CITES Regional Representatives could also be requested to consult with the relevant range States to assist with this determination.

- **Alignment of historical AC/PC recommendations to range States with the current approach.** There appears to have been a lack of consistency with the approach taken by the AC/PC in formulating recommendations over time in some cases. In particular, past recommendations appeared to favour zero exports within a short time frame, rather than initially implementing a reduced quota level. For example, AC7 directed the United Republic of Tanzania<sup>4</sup> to introduce, within three months, a moratorium on exports of *Agapornis fischeri* until a population survey has been introduced and the results were analysed, and at AC19, Haiti was directed to place a moratorium on international trade of *Strombus gigas* within four weeks of the recommendations being made. More recent comparable examples have resulted in recommendations to implement interim precautionary quotas. Similarly, detailed information on species distribution and abundance, as well as the scientific basis for non-detriment findings was previously requested in 90 days in some cases, for example for *Poicephalus (robustus) fuscicollis* (DRC, Mali and Togo) or *Chamaeleo africanus* (Niger), rather than allowing two years to complete these actions, which has been the recent approach.

Following the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, a suite of example recommendations were defined<sup>5</sup>, which now provides a framework for consistency. Annex 3 of Resolution 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) provides the guiding principles for recommendations: they should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate to the severity of the risk, transparent and aimed at building the capacity of the range State.

The AC and PC have followed this approach at meetings since CoP17, recommending establishment of zero quotas only where there is a high risk to the relevant species and/or a lack of engagement from the Party concerned. Short term measures have been aimed at reducing trade and establishing more conservative quotas initially, even for globally threatened species, as defined by the IUCN<sup>6</sup>. Range States are typically given two years to implement more substantial actions, such as undertaking science-based studies on status and trends to use as the basis for NDFs. Similar considerations could be taken into account when revisiting recommendations for cases subject to long-standing suspensions.

It is also notable that range States have recently been requested to outline any capacity building needs that they have to support the implementation of Article IV (see AC30 Com. 11), so that these can be identified sooner in the process and potentially acted upon.

The AC/PC recommendations that were previously formulated are largely considered to remain appropriate, except in a few instances, for example, where the recommendation was met, a quota proposed by the AC no longer seems appropriate, or the trade suspension is proposed for lifting, with some possible follow-on recommendations. An assessment of the whether or not the recommendations remain appropriate, is provided within the individual country reviews.

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<sup>4</sup> Hereafter referred to as Tanzania

<sup>5</sup> see Annex 5 of CoP 17 Doc. 33

<sup>6</sup> e.g. *Anguilla anguilla* (CR); *Cuora amboinensis* (VU)

**Table 3:** Recommendations in relation to range States subject to long-standing SC recommendations to suspend trade

Country	Taxon	Suspension valid from	IUCN	Country responded (2018)	Summary	Recommendation
Belize	<i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i>	15/06/2010	-	✓	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i> from Belize; the population status of the species in the country remains unclear. Annual reports were submitted by Belize for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. No trade in <i>M. tibicinis</i> was reported by Belize or importers during 2014-2016. Belize responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. Local harvest for domestic use is still known to occur in response to land use change, but difficulties in determining the extent of harvest were noted. Belize noted that no progress has been made on implementing the PC recommendations or making a non-detriment finding for exports. A lack of financial resources was identified as a challenge in addressing the PC recommendations. The need for financial support to assist Belize in conducting comprehensive surveys and technical support relating to orchid identification was outlined in SC66 Doc 31.2 A2; and this support is still required. Until such time that funding can be obtained to implement well-designed scientific surveys to establish non-detrimental export quotas in compliance with Article IV, <b>the suspension may still be appropriate.</b>	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i></b>
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Pericopsis elata</i> (Afromosia)	07/09/2012	EN	✓	Côte d'Ivoire has made steps to address inadequate natural resource management within the country. A National Development Plan has been developed to provide a framework to address sustainable use. Annual reports were submitted by Côte d'Ivoire for all three years 2014-2016. Whilst exports of wood products such as flooring had previously been highlighted despite the trade suspension (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2), no trade was reported by either Côte d'Ivoire or importers in the interim three years, 2014-2016. Côte d'Ivoire responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. No exports are anticipated in the short-term, although future trade is intended based on reforestation efforts. Additional information was obtained from a successful funding proposal submitted by the country to the ITTO-CITES Trees Programme in relation to sustainable use of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> . The key aims of the project are to conduct forest inventories and mapping, develop a non-detriment finding, enhance capacity of relevant authorities and the CITES Scientific Authority in making NDFs, and increase engagement of stakeholders. The project is expected to commence in October 2018, for two years. Until such time that a scientifically based NDF has been produced to demonstrate that exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, <b>the suspension may still be appropriate.</b> Whilst it is already planned that the NDF will be submitted to the Secretariat once developed, it may also be relevant to submit this to the Chair of the Plants Committee for review. Côte d'Ivoire are encouraged to publish a zero export quota until a scientifically-based quota is agreed with the Secretariat and PC Chair.	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Pericopsis elata</i></b>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> (Leopard Tortoise)	09/07/2001		✓	As an update to SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2, <i>Pocephalus fuscicollis</i> was split from <i>P. robustus</i> at CoP17, with the latter species occurring only in South Africa. The distribution of <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> was updated in 2017, and DRC is no longer considered to be a range State. Annual reports were submitted by DRC for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in <i>P. fuscicollis</i> or <i>S. pardalis</i> was reported by DRC or importers during 2014-2016. DRC was consulted in the margins of the recent AC/PC	<b>Remove suspension for <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i></b>

Country	Taxon	Suspension valid from	IUCN	Country responded (2018)	Summary	Recommendation
	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> (Brown-necked Parrot)	09/07/2001		✓	meetings. No progress on the recommendations has been made, and it was unclear if there was an intention for future trade. Based on the 2008 conclusion of the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee (if trade in <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> is intended), the trade suspension could be lifted if a conservative export quota is published by DRC with a justification for consideration by the Secretariat and Chair of the AC. Until this precautionary interim quota is agreed, the suspension may still be appropriate. Any increases in this quota should be justified and based on the best available scientific information. Although not specified, DRC may need technical expertise in the development of parrot surveys. The long term AC recommendations directed to DRC for <i>Poicephalus gularis</i> (AC30 Com 11) could also be appropriate as replacement recommendations. Given that DRC is no longer considered a range State for <i>S. pardalis</i> and international trade is not anticipated, <b>the removal of the trade suspension for <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> from DRC may be warranted.</b>	<b>If trade <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> is intended, DRC propose a conservative, interim quota for consideration by the AC Chair and Secretariat. In the meantime, the suspension may still be appropriate.</b>
Equatorial Guinea	<i>Trioceros feae</i> (Bioko Montane Chameleon)	07/09/2012		✗	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Trioceros feae</i> or <i>Prunus africana</i> from Equatorial Guinea. Annual reports were submitted by Equatorial Guinea for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in <i>T. feae</i> or <i>P. africana</i> was reported by Equatorial Guinea or importers during 2014-2016. Equatorial Guinea did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC/PC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. As noted in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2, <i>Trioceros feae</i> is endemic to Bioko Island of Equatorial Guinea and has a restricted distribution of 1000 km <sup>2</sup> . However, the population density is high, possibly “many hundreds of thousands” according to one author, and some international trade in <i>T. feae</i> could therefore be sustainable. In the first instance, Equatorial Guinea should confirm whether they intend to export the species. If exports of <i>T. feae</i> are intended, a conservative export quota could be proposed as an interim measure, with a justification to demonstrate this would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, for consideration by Secretariat and AC Chair. Before any further increases are proposed, additional justification on how estimates of sustainable offtake are science-based should be provided. Although not specified, Equatorial Guinea may need technical support in reptile surveying. Other range States export <i>Prunus africana</i> within the region, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, other Parties (such as Cameroon) provide support to Equatorial Guinea in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding. However, until the country engages with CITES and provides further information, <b>the suspension may still be appropriate.</b>	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Trioceros feae</i></b>
	<i>Prunus africana</i> (African Cherry)	03/02/2009				<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Prunus africana</i></b>

Country	Taxon	Suspension valid from	IUCN	Country responded (2018)	Summary	Recommendation
Grenada	<i>Strombus gigas</i> (Queen Conch)	12/05/2006		✗	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Strombus gigas</i> from Grenada. Grenada have not submitted any annual reports for 2014-2016 and the country is subject to a recommendation to suspend trade based on lack of annual report submissions. However, imports of source I (seized/ confiscated) meat were reported in all three years 2014-2016 by the United States; indicating that Grenada have recently exported the species whilst the trade suspension is in place. Grenada did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, to recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions, although the recent trade indicates an intent to trade in the future. At present, Grenada appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade in this species, and <b>the suspension may still be appropriate</b> . In the first instance, Grenada should confirm whether they intend to export the species. Many other range States export this species within the region, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, other Parties such as Jamaica, Nicaragua, Belize, Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas may be able to provide support to Grenada in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding if exports are intended. This species may also be a candidate for discussion at the second NDF workshop proposed by the Secretariat following CoP18. The potential non-compliance issue should be further considered by the SC and Secretariat.	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Strombus gigas</i></b>
Guinea	<i>Balearica pavonina</i> (Black Crowned Crane)	02/05/2013		✗	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Balearica pavonina</i> in Guinea. Annual reports were submitted by Guinea for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in <i>Balearica pavonina</i> was reported by Guinea or importers during 2014-2016. Guinea did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, to determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. As noted in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2, the population of the species was estimated at only 200 individuals in 2004, and it was recorded as "rarely encountered", with declines since that time suspected. Guinea was previously implicated in illegal trade of this species (SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2). There is currently no indication that trade in <i>Balearica pavonina</i> originating from Guinea may be sustainable. If no exports are intended, Guinea are encouraged to publish a zero quota. Until the country engages with CITES and provides further information to demonstrate that any intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, <b>the suspension may still be appropriate</b> . Guinea has also been subject to a trade suspension for all trade on the basis of non-compliance with the Convention since 16 May 2013.	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Balearica pavonina</i>, unless a zero quota is published</b>



Country	Taxon	Suspension valid from	IUCN	Country responded (2018)	Summary	Recommendation
Haiti	<i>Strombus gigas</i> (Queen Conch)	29/09/2003		✗	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Strombus gigas</i> from Haiti. Whilst Haiti is a non-Party and therefore does not submit annual reports, imports of wild-sourced meat were reported by importers (mainly the United States) in all three years 2014-2016 in apparent contravention of the trade suspension. Haiti did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions, although the recent trade indicates an intent to trade in the future. At present, Haiti appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade in this species, and <b>the suspension may still be appropriate</b> . In the first instance, Haiti should confirm whether they intend to export the species. Many other range States export this species within the region, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, other Parties such as Jamaica, Nicaragua, Belize, Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas may be able to provide support to Haiti in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding, if exports are intended. This species may also be a candidate for discussion at the second NDF workshop proposed by the Secretariat following CoP18. The potential non-compliance issue should be further considered by the SC and Secretariat.	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Strombus gigas</i></b>
Madagascar	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i> (Vasa Parrot)	20/01/1995		✓	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Coracopsis vasa</i> , or for <i>Phelsuma borai</i> , <i>P. breviceps</i> , <i>P. gouldi</i> , and <i>P. standingi</i> from Madagascar. The extent of occurrence of <i>Furcifer labordi</i> is likely to be lower than previously thought, as in some north west localities, <i>F. labordi</i> is now considered to be a different species ( <i>F. voeltzkowii</i> ). Annual reports were submitted by Madagascar for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in wild-sourced specimens of <i>Coracopsis vasa</i> or the four <i>Phelsuma</i> spp. was reported by Madagascar or importers during 2014-2016; low levels of trade in wild-sourced scientific specimens of <i>Furcifer labordi</i> were reported by Madagascar and importers during 2014-2016. Madagascar responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. An interest in future trade in all species was noted.	<b>For <i>Coracopsis vasa</i> Madagascar propose a conservative, interim quota for consideration by the AC Chair and Secretariat. In the meantime, the</b>
	<i>Furcifer labordi</i> (Labord's Chameleon)	20/01/1995				
	<i>Phelsuma borai</i>	20/01/1995				
	<i>Phelsuma breviceps</i>	20/01/1995				
	<i>Phelsuma gouldi</i>	20/01/1995			As noted in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2, <i>Coracopsis vasa</i> is widespread in Madagascar, and reported as common in many areas.	

Country	Taxon	Suspension valid from	IUCN	Country responded (2018)	Summary	Recommendation
<b>Madagascar (cont.)</b>	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>	20/01/1995			<p>However there is little population data on the species. Previously it was over-exploited, and is also killed as a cop pest. Based on the 2008 conclusion of the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee, the trade suspension for could be lifted if a conservative export quota is published by Madagascar with a justification for consideration by the Secretariat and Chair of the AC. Until this interim quota is agreed, the suspension may still be appropriate. Before any further increases are proposed, additional justification on how estimates of sustainable offtake are science-based should be provided.</p> <p>Madagascar continue to support a justification for an export quota of 50 <i>Phelsuma breviceps</i> and 96 <i>P. standingi</i> on the basis that both species are easy to identify, and taking into account the species distribution, and for <i>Phelsuma breviceps</i>, its adaptability to different habitats. Although the determination of the quotas for <i>Phelsuma breviceps</i> and <i>P. standingi</i> do not appear to be scientifically based, they are conservative, and one IUCN expert considered that the proposed quotas are sustainable, provided they are collected across the species range. The removal of the suspensions for <i>Phelsuma breviceps</i> and <i>P. standingi</i> may therefore be warranted, subject to these assurances.</p> <p>For <i>Furcifer labourdi</i>, two experts consulted indicated that a conservative quota (around 50 specimens) would be sustainable, provided that the specimens are collected across the range. In addition, it was noted that collection should only take place in December, so that only subadults are targeted (based on the short lifespan of the species). However, a quota has not been proposed by Madagascar and these considerations would need to be provided in a justification for export.</p> <p>Madagascar noted the lack of financial support in addressing the AC recommendations had been a challenge, but should provide further details on their specific needs. Without assistance, Madagascar appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade or fully address the AC recommendations <b>and the suspensions may still be appropriate for <i>Furcifer labourdi</i>, <i>Phelsuma borai</i> and <i>P. gouldi</i>.</b></p>	<p><b>suspension may still be appropriate.</b></p> <p><b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Furcifer labordi</i>, <i>Phelsuma borai</i> and <i>P. gouldi</i></b></p> <p><b>Remove suspension for <i>Phelsuma breviceps</i> and <i>P. standingi</i>, subject to assurances that the specimens would be collected from numerous sites across the species range.</b></p>
<b>Mali</b>	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> (Brown-necked Parrot)	09/07/2001	✗		<p>The distribution of <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> has been updated, and Mali is no longer considered to be a range State. An annual report was submitted by Mali for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. No trade in <i>P. fuscicollis</i> was reported by Mali or importers during 2014-2016, however Mali reported commercial exports of 250 live wild-sourced individuals of <i>Uromastix dispar</i> during 2014-2016 (indicating a possible intent to trade in the future), and additional trade was reported by importers (sources I and F). Mali did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions although the recent trade in <i>U. dispar</i> indicates an intent to trade in the future. At present, Mali appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade in <i>U. dispar</i>, and <b>the suspension for <i>U. dispar</i> may still be appropriate.</b> Given that Mali is no longer a range State for <i>P. fuscicollis</i> and international trade is not anticipated, <b>the removal of the trade suspension for <i>P. fuscicollis</i> from Mali may be warranted.</b> Any concerns relating to the captive-breeding of <i>U. dispar</i> in Mali could be considered under Resolution 17.7 (<i>Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i>). The potential non-compliance issues for Mali and importers should be further considered by the SC and Secretariat.</p>	<p><b>Remove suspension for <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i></b></p> <p><b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Uromastix dispar</i></b></p>
<b>Mozambique</b>	<i>Smaug mossambicus</i> (Mozambique Girdled Lizard)	07/09/2012	✓		<p>No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i>, <i>Smaug mossambicus</i>, Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae or Zamiaceae from Mozambique. Annual reports were submitted by Mozambique for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. No trade in <i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i>, <i>Smaug mossambicus</i>, Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae or Zamiaceae was reported by Mozambique or importers during 2014-2016. Mozambique was consulted in the margins of the recent AC/PC meetings. Mozambique noted that the AC/PC recommendations had not been addressed, with the main</p>	<p><b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Smaug mossambicus</i></b></p>

Country	Taxon	Suspension valid from	IUCN	Country responded (2018)	Summary	Recommendation
	<i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i> (East African Spiny-tailed Lizard)	10/08/2001			challenges being a lack of financial resources and technical knowledge relating to survey techniques. An interest in future trade of the two reptiles, <i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i> and <i>Smaug mossambicus</i> , was noted but it is less clear that future trade in the cycad <i>Cycas thouarsii</i> (the only Appendix II species of the three plant families that occurs in Mozambique) is anticipated. In the first instance, Parties/other organisations could offer expertise in the development of lizard survey methodologies. There is political will to submit funding proposals, but further assistance may be needed to assist the country in making proposals to relevant funding mechanisms to increase the probability of successful outcomes. Tanzania has reported exports of <i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i> (and has an annual quota of 5000 wild specimens), and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, Tanzania may be able to provide support to Mozambique in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding for this species. It is unclear if exports of <i>Cycas thouarsii</i> are intended, but if not, Mozambique are encouraged to publish a zero export quota. Until such time that funding can be obtained to implement well-designed scientific surveys to establish non-detrimental export quotas in compliance with Article IV, <b>the suspensions may still be appropriate</b> . If retained, the suspension for the families Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae could be replaced with the single species <i>Cycas thouarsii</i> .	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i></b>
	Cycadaceae	06/12/2006				<b>Remove suspension for Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae and replace suspension for Cycadaceae with the species <i>Cycas thouarsii</i> only</b>
	Stangeriaceae	06/12/2006				
	Zamiaceae	06/12/2006				
<b>Niger</b>	<i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> (African Chameleon)	07/09/2012		✓	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> from Niger. Annual reports were submitted by Niger for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. No trade in <i>C. africanus</i> was reported by either Niger or importers during 2014-2016. Niger responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. Although the Management Authority of Niger reported that the species appears to have a favourable conservation status on the basis of local knowledge, a lack of financial resources was identified as a challenge in undertaking quantitative assessments to address the AC recommendations. As noted in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2, the species does have a wide distribution within the country, but no information is available on the population status in the country. Although not specified, Niger may also need technical expertise in the development of chameleon surveys. Cameroon reports exports of <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> , and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, Cameroon may be able to provide support to Niger in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding for this species. Until further information can be provided to demonstrate that a level of export would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, <b>the suspension may still be appropriate</b> .	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i></b>
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	<i>Corucia zebrata</i> (Prehensile-tailed Skink)	09/07/2001		✗	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Corucia zebrata</i> , <i>Ornithoptera priamus</i> or <i>O. victoriae</i> from Solomon Islands. An annual report was submitted by Solomon Islands for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. Although no exports of the species were reported by Solomon Islands during 2014-2016, commercial trade in wild-sourced live specimens ( <i>Corucia zebrata</i> ) and bodies ( <i>Ornithoptera priamus</i> and <i>O. victoriae</i> ) was reported by importers, in apparent contravention of the trade suspensions. Solomon Islands did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions, although the recent trade in all three species indicates an intent to trade in the future. Other range States export <i>Ornithoptera</i> spp. within Oceania and Asia, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and/ or mentoring by other Parties (Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia) support could be provided to the Solomon Islands in terms of formulating non-detriment findings. At present, Solomon Islands appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade in these taxa and <b>the suspension may still be appropriate</b> . The potential non-compliance issues for Solomon Islands and importers should be further considered by the SC and Secretariat.	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Corucia zebrata</i></b>
	<i>Ornithoptera priamus</i> (Common Birdwing)	20/01/1995				<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Ornithoptera priamus</i></b>
	<i>Ornithoptera victoriae</i> (Queen Victoria's Birdwing)	20/01/1995				<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Ornithoptera victoriae</i></b>

Country	Taxon	Suspension valid from	IUCN	Country responded (2018)	Summary	Recommendation
South Sudan	<i>Balearica pavonina</i> (Black Crowned Crane)	02/05/2013		✓	South Sudan now has a designated scientific institution capable of advising whether exports of CITES species are non-detrimental to the species concerned. South Sudan is a non-Party, and therefore does not submit annual reports, and no trade in <i>Balearica pavonina</i> was reported by importers during 2014-2016. South Sudan responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. Progress on implementing the recommendations directed by the AC has been hampered by the political instability in the country, and lack of financial resources for any conservation initiatives. The scientific institution that acts as an equivalent Scientific Authority considers that the trade suspension should be maintained until sufficient data have been collated on the species distribution, population size, and habitat condition. Until such time that funding can be obtained to implement well-designed scientific surveys to establish non-detrimental export quotas in compliance with Article IV, <b>the suspension may still be appropriate.</b>	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Balearica pavonina</i></b>
Sudan	<i>Balearica pavonina</i> (Black Crowned Crane)	02/05/2013		✗	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Balearica pavonina</i> from Sudan. An annual report was submitted by Sudan for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. Trade in captive-bred (source C) specimens reported by Sudan and importers during 2014-2016, although the species is reported to be difficult to breed in captivity. Sudan did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. In the first instance, Sudan should confirm whether they intend to export the species. Until the country engages with CITES and provides further information to demonstrate that a level of export would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, <b>the suspension may still be appropriate.</b>	<b>Suspension may still be appropriate for <i>Balearica pavonina</i></b>
United Republic of Tanzania	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i> (Fischer's Lovebird)	20/04/1993		✓	No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for <i>Balearica regulorum</i> or <i>Prunus africana</i> from Tanzania. Since SC66, <i>Agapornis fischeri</i> was re-confirmed as Near Threatened by the IUCN. Recent illegal trade in <i>Malacochersus tornieri</i> (not endemic) was highlighted by one expert, and was also documented for <i>A. fischeri</i> (endemic to Tanzania). Annual reports were submitted by Tanzania for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. No trade in wild-sourced specimens was reported by Tanzania or importers for <i>B. regulorum</i> , <i>A. fischeri</i> , <i>M. tornieri</i> or <i>P. africana</i> during 2014-2016. Tanzania was consulted in the margins of the recent AC/PC meetings and subsequently provided additional information in relation to the RST long-standing suspensions. Tanzania noted that the AC/PC recommendations had not been addressed, with the main challenge being a lack of financial resources. An interest in future trade of <i>A. fischeri</i> , <i>Balearica regulorum</i> and <i>Prunus africana</i> was noted, but without assistance, Tanzania appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade or fully address the AC/PC recommendations for <b><i>Balearica regulorum</i> and <i>Prunus africana</i> and the suspension may still be appropriate.</b> Other range States export <i>Prunus africana</i> within the region, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and/or mentoring, other Parties (such as Cameroon) provide support to Tanzania in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding. There is no intention to resume trade in wild-sourced <i>Malacochersus tornieri</i> and therefore the <b>removal of the suspension for <i>M. tornieri</i> may be warranted.</b> Tanzania are encouraged to publish an annual zero export quota for <i>M. tornieri</i> , and any future concerns relating to the captive-breeding of this species in Tanzania could be considered under Resolution 17.7 ( <i>Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i> ). Tanzania propose an annual quota of 200 live individuals for <i>Agapornis fischeri</i> (presumably for 2020, after an export ban on live animals is intended to be lifted). Although the population is noted to be decreasing, the population estimate in the country appears high (290 205 -1 002 210 birds) according to the IUCN assessment of 2016. The proposed quota is therefore conservative and is likely to be non-detrimental. On this basis, <b>the suspension for <i>Agapornis fischeri</i> may no longer be appropriate.</b> Any further increases in quota for this species should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, with a scientifically robust justification of how the increase is based on estimates of sustainable off-take.	<b>Remove suspension for <i>Agapornis fischeri</i></b>
	<i>Malacochersus tornieri</i> (Pancake Tortoise)	20/04/1993				<b>Remove suspension for <i>Malacochersus tornieri</i></b>
	<i>Balearica regulorum</i> (Grey Crowned Crane)	03/02/2009				<b>Retain suspensions for <i>Balearica regulorum</i></b>
	<i>Prunus africana</i> (African Cherry)	02/05/2013				<b>Retain suspensions for <i>Prunus africana</i></b>

Country	Taxon	Suspension valid from	IUCN	Country responded (2018)	Summary	Recommendation
Viet Nam	<i>Hippocampus kuda</i> (Yellow seahorse)	02/05/2013		✓	<p>Substantial research on <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. exploitation and trade in Viet Nam has been undertaken since SC66, including data collection to provide quantitative estimates of annual catch rates, trade volumes and prices, and assessment of temporal trends in landings. Findings show that &gt;16 million seahorses are estimated to be caught annually in Viet Nam, the majority as by-catch by bottom trawling. A domestic trade for consumption exists, with <i>H. kuda</i> being the third most frequently encountered <i>Hippocampus</i> species within trade premises. Annual reports were submitted by Viet Nam for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in <i>H. kuda</i> was reported by Viet Nam during 2014-2016, but trade in 280 live source F individuals originating in the country was reported by importers 2014-2015. Viet Nam responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. The Management Authority (MA) did not consider that it had enough information to make a non-detriment finding for the export of wild-sourced individuals of <i>H. kuda</i>, stating that efforts to characterise the population status, distribution and population trends of <i>H. kuda</i> were too range restricted, and that the species “had not been surveyed as a whole”. The findings of Foster <i>et al.</i> (2017), that the acquisition of several thousand wild-sourced <i>H. kuda</i> individuals annually to augment breeding programmes may be tolerable (provided there is monitoring and adaptive management in response to indices relating to health of wild populations (notably CPUE)), were endorsed by the MA of Viet Nam. Whilst there is currently no monitoring system in Viet Nam for seahorse catches and no regulations outside of protected areas that limit the capture of <i>H. kuda</i>, Viet Nam is developing a decree to include <i>H. kuda</i> in a list of endangered, precious and rare aquatic species whose exploitation for commercial purposes is banned (except for scientific and initial breeding purposes). There appears to be no intention to trade in wild-sourced individuals of this species and a zero quota for wild-sourced individuals is proposed, which if implemented, addresses the short-term AC recommendation b). Accordingly, <b>the removal of the suspension may be warranted</b>. The need for a monitoring system aligned to long-term AC recommendation g) appears to remain relevant. Viet Nam could be requested to report on such a system within two years. Any additional concerns relating to the captive-breeding of this species could be considered under Resolution 17.7 (<i>Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i>). Discrepancies between actual exports of dried <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. (bodies) from Viet Nam and that reported in the CITES Trade Database were also highlighted, which may suggest illegal trade or non-reporting of trade.</p>	<b>Remove suspension for <i>Hippocampus kuda</i></b>

## Country needs identified through the consultation

Based on the consultation, it became clear that additional measures are needed to address long-term suspensions, as evidenced by the general lack of progress in addressing AC/PC recommendations across relevant range States. A summary of the assistance needed, as identified by Parties, is provided in Table 2. Very few range States provided specific details of their financial, technical or capacity needs. Further engagement with Parties will continue to gain insights into specific needs in the interim between the submission of this document and SC70. The preliminary needs assessment outlined in Table 2 provides the first iteration of a possible way forward and potential work programme for tackling long-term suspensions, which is currently prioritised by including only Parties that are actively responding on this issue (where an interest in resuming trade has been communicated). Such a work programme could consider additional Parties that engage in the process at a later stage.

**Table 2.** Types of assistance needed to address long-term suspensions, as identified by Parties, which may provide a basis for prioritising future efforts.

Country	Taxon	Assistance requested by range State			
		Financial	Technical	Training /capacity building	Information provided by the Management Authority of the range State
Belize	<i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i>	✓		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial resources to complete NDFs</li> <li>Training of enforcement officers in identification of orchids</li> </ul>
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support is already in place through the ITTO-CITES Trees Programme (to conduct forest inventories and mapping, develop a NDF, enhance capacity of authorities in making NDFs, and increase stakeholder engagement)</li> </ul>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MA of DRC highlighted a general lack of capacity as the main challenge to complying with provisions or fully addressing AC/PC recommendations</li> </ul>
Madagascar	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	✓		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support to address AC recommendations, with an interest in future trade for all species</li> <li>Madagascar noted that they had been left to address recommendations without any capacity building support</li> </ul>
	<i>Furcifer labordi</i>	✓			
	<i>Phelsuma borai</i>	✓			
	<i>P. breviceps</i>	✓			
	<i>P. gouldi</i>	✓			
	<i>P. standingi</i>	✓			
Mozambique	<i>Smaug mossambicus</i>	✓	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support, including assistance with making funding proposals</li> <li>Technical support relating to lizard survey methodologies</li> </ul>
	<i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i>	✓	✓		
Niger	<i>Chamaeleo africanus</i>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support to undertake quantitative assessments on conservation status</li> </ul>
South Sudan	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	✓	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support to implement scientific surveys to establish non-detrimental export quotas and to obtain equipment (specifically bird tags, radio collars, field guides)</li> <li>Technical assistance (field work)</li> </ul>
United Republic of Tanzania	<i>Prunus africana</i>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support to address AC/PC recommendations for trade in both species</li> </ul>
	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	✓			
Viet Nam	<i>Hippocampus kuda</i>	✓	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support for surveys and evaluation of seahorse resources, and to support cost of producing captive-bred parental stock</li> <li>Technical support (from Secretariat, Parties, international organisations, NGOs) to develop a project and Action Plan to investigate wild population status, synthesize existing studies, and consult with experts to develop NDFs</li> </ul>

Where Parties did respond and future trade is intended, but little progress on AC/PC recommendations has been made, the underlying reasons for the lack of progress appears relatively similar in many cases, and is primarily linked to financial needs (Table 2). Accordingly, some general recommendations are provided below for further consideration by the Standing Committee.

## Further recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee:

1. A strategic, long-term funding mechanism dedicated to the Review of Significant Trade process is needed.

Consistent with the findings in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2, the primary limiting factor to range States achieving significant progress in addressing the recommended AC/PC actions was a lack of funding. The Review of Significant Trade process is a key CITES mechanism to ensure that scientifically based non-detriment findings are being made that ensure the sustainability of trade, yet the level of funding available to fully support countries through the various stages of the process appears insufficient. It is notable that nine of the 16 countries subject to long-standing trade suspensions addressed in this report are defined by the World Bank as “Low income” countries (Table 3), five of which are subject to more than one suspension. These countries may have limited financial capacity to address CITES compliance processes.

**Table 3:** Income group for countries subject to long-standing suspensions, as defined by the World Bank (2017). No Parties that are high income countries (GNI per capita of > \$12235 are subject to long-standing trade suspensions). \* = countries with > 1 current long-term trade suspension

Source: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD?locations=XM-XD-XT-XN>

Low income	Lower-middle income	Upper-middle income
Countries that have a gross national income per capita of \$1005 or less	Countries that have a gross national income per capita between \$1006 and \$3995	Countries that have a gross national income per capita between \$3956 and \$12235
<u>9 countries:</u> Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Guinea, Haiti (non-Party), Madagascar*, Mali*, Mozambique*, Niger, South Sudan (non-Party), United Republic of Tanzania*.	<u>4 countries:</u> Côte d'Ivoire, Solomon Islands*, Sudan, Viet Nam.	<u>3 countries:</u> Belize, Equatorial Guinea*, Grenada.

Several Parties noted that unsuccessful attempts to secure funding had been made, and two Parties (Mozambique and Tanzania) made the point that there is taxonomic bias in the priorities of donors, with funding for surveys of large charismatic species (for example, hippo, elephant and lion) being easier to obtain than for lower profile species, such as reptiles that may be subject to CITES trade suspensions.

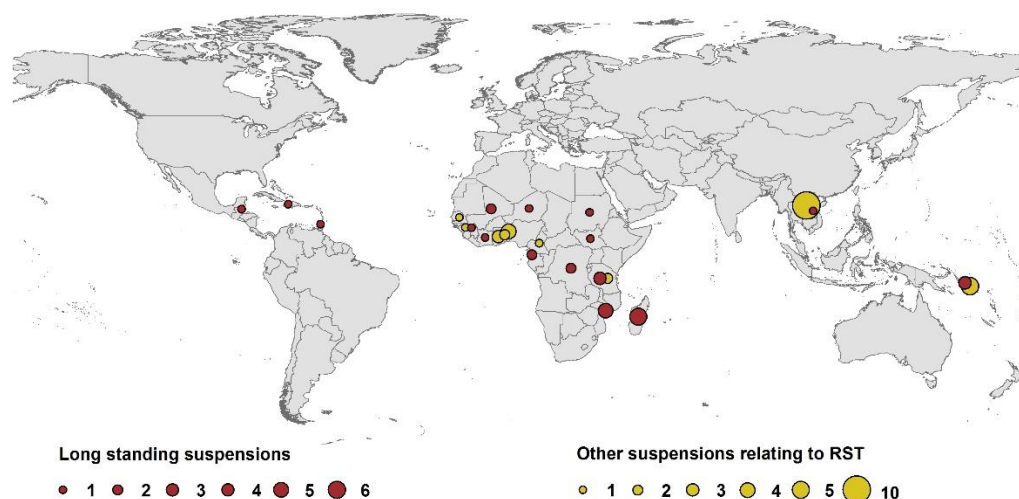
A dedicated funding mechanism to support sustainable management of species subject to the CITES RST (and possibly any future country-wide process) appears to be needed (AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3). Such a mechanism should have no specific taxonomic or geographic focus, but could provide financial and technical support to countries subject to the RST process (at all stages) where the Party has a clear engagement with the Convention. A similar approach to the EU-funded CITES Trees programme could be adopted, whereby Parties submit relevant proposals that are assessed against clear criteria, although it must be noted that a lack of capacity may hinder some Parties to develop clear plans and formulate proposals. However, more strategic approaches with long-term donor support (either through donor Parties, or for example through GEF) should be further explored.

2. More targeted RST capacity building support is needed

The lack of technical support and capacity building in order to complete actions needed to lift trade suspensions was noted (see Table 2), as well as more broadly in relation to the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process. Parties have been somewhat left on their own to address recommendations, and as a result, the average length of time that suspensions have been in force for the 33 taxon/country combinations included in this review is 14 years, with the longest in place for 25 years (*Agapornis fischeri* and *Malacochersus tornieri* from Tanzania). Measures to address long-standing suspensions must therefore include capacity building elements, and RST issues must be factored into a more strategic approach to CITES capacity building. The funding mechanism referred to above could enable the provision of additional capacity support. The geographic spread of countries subject to long-standing suspensions is clustered



within the African region, which may have implications for prioritisation of future capacity building initiatives (Figure 1). Figure 1 also includes suspensions that are not yet “long-term” (in place for two years), and those suspensions that are being addressed separately by the Secretariat (yellow dots) through either a regional approach (for *Pandinus imperator* from the three neighbouring West African countries Benin, Ghana and Togo), or as part of an Article XIII compliance processes (Lao People’s Democratic Republic).



**Figure 1.** Geographic location of countries subject to recommendations to suspend trade through the Review of Significant Trade process (red dots indicate taxon-country combinations included in this report)

### 3. Apparent non-compliant trade should be further investigated.

Trade in wild-sourced *Uromastyx dispar* from Mali, *Strombus gigas* from Grenada and Haiti and *Corucia zebrata*, *Ornithoptera priamus* and *O. victoriae* from Solomon Islands was reported during the three years 2014-2016, either by the exporting Party or by importing countries, despite being subject to recommendations to suspend trade. These potential non-compliance issues should be followed up by the SC/Secretariat. An automated mechanism to monitor potential CITES non-compliance is currently being developed by UNEP-WCMC and the CITES Secretariat<sup>7</sup>, which will assist the Secretariat in identifying such trade more expediently in future.

### 4. Guidance on the scope of suspensions could be improved.

In stage 4 part ii) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) it is noted that where AC/PC recommendations are not met, the Committees could recommend to the Standing Committee a suspension of trade in the affected species with the relevant State. The Resolution does not specify whether the trade suspension applies to all purposes or only to commercial trade, and accordingly, interpretation of the scope of recommendations to suspend trade varies amongst Parties (with exports reported during the three years 2014-2016 for commercial, personal and scientific purposes). Further guidance on the scope of suspensions may therefore be required, either through notifications communicating suspensions, within a revision to Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) or on the CITES website<sup>8</sup> for species-specific suspensions where the basis is “significant trade”.

<sup>7</sup> Funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cites.org/eng/resources/ref/suspend.php>



### Additional observations

Also of note, is that of the Parties currently subject to a recommendation to suspend trade that has been in place for longer than two years, four have legislation considered to be in Category 3 (believed generally not to meet the requirements for the implementation of CITES) under the CITES National Legislation Project, six have legislation that is Category 2 (believed generally not to meet all of the requirements for the implementation of CITES), and four have legislation that is Category 1 (legislation that is believed generally to meet the requirements for implementation of CITES) (Table 3). Two Parties (Democratic Republic of Congo and Solomon Islands) have made improvements to their national legislation implementing CITES since SC66. Three of the range States under review in this report have been identified through the CITES legislation project as priority countries (Guinea, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania). It is also notable that two of the Parties reviewed in this report (DRC and Guinea) are currently subject to compliance measures under Article XIII of the Convention.

**Table 3.** National Legislation category currently assigned to countries subject to long-standing recommendations to suspend trade (last updated December, 2017).

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	No Category
Legislation that is believed generally to meet all four requirements for effective implementation of CITES	Legislation that is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES	Legislation that is believed generally not to meet any of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES	Non-Party
<u>4 Parties:</u> Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Viet Nam	<u>6 Parties:</u> Guinea, Mali, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania	<u>4 Parties:</u> Belize, Côte d'Ivoire, Grenada, Niger	<u>2 Non-Parties:</u> Haiti, South Sudan

Source: [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf)

# Introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The conditions for trade in Appendix II species are laid out in Article IV of the Convention. The Review of Significant Trade (hereafter abbreviated to RST) was established to ensure that Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention (non-detriment findings) are properly applied for Appendix II species, ensuring the biological sustainability of the trade being sanctioned under CITES.

The procedure for the RST is set out in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17). The resolution “Directs the Animals and Plants Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat and experts, and in consultation with range States, to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade, to identify problems and solutions concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a).”

The RST process involves multiple stages, including the formulation of recommendations directed to range States of species under consideration where action is determined necessary. Paragraph 1 k) ii) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) states that “when the recommendations are not deemed to have been met (and no new information is provided), the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee (AC/PC) through the Chairs, recommend to the Standing Committee appropriate action, which may include, as a last resort, a suspension of trade in the affected species with that State”.

In accordance with Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with the State concerned should be withdrawn only when that State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a). A mechanism for reviewing trade suspensions exists under paragraph 1 p) of the resolution, which states that the *“Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee, shall review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, evaluate the reasons why this is the case in consultation with the range State, and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation”*.

To assist the Secretariat, Standing Committee and AC and PC Chairs with the requirement of paragraph 1 p) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), UNEP-WCMC was asked to compile updates to the detailed assessments that were considered at SC66 for taxa that have been subject to trade suspensions for more than two years on the basis of recommendations formulated through the RST. This report provides updated information on the conservation and trade status for 33 such taxon/country combinations and includes responses from range States.

# Methods

Each country review provides any updates on the information contained in the previous review that was submitted to SC66 (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). These updates included species characteristics, current distribution, conservation status, population trends and threats; recent trade, including CITES trade data and illegal trade; and management of the taxa, including any relevant legislation. The national legislation category as defined under the CITES Legislation Project<sup>9</sup> for each range State is noted.

CITES trade data are provided for the three year period 2014-2016 only (data for 2014-2013 were considered in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). Data were downloaded on 10 July 2018. Unless otherwise specified, trade tables include all direct trade (i.e. excluding re-export data) in the taxa under review, and include all sources, terms and units reported in trade. Trade volumes are provided as reported by both exporters and importers. Re-export data are noted separately, where appropriate.

Haiti and South Sudan are not currently Parties to CITES and accordingly were not required to submit CITES annual and biennial reports for the entire period. For this reason, available trade data may not provide a complete picture of international trade and; only data provided by importers are available. A list of CITES annual reports received from each range State for the years 2014-2016, along with the date each became a Party to CITES, is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Overview of annual report submissions by range States under review (2014-2016)**

Country name	Entry into force of CITES	2014	2015	2016
Belize	21/09/1981	✓	✓	✗
Cote d'Ivoire	19/02/1995	✓	✓	✓
DRC	18/10/1976	✓	✓	✓
Equatorial Guinea	08/06/1992	✓	✓	✓
Grenada	28/11/1999	✗	✗	✗
Guinea	11/03/1976	✓	✓	✓
Haiti	Non-Party	NP	NP	NP
Madagascar	18/11/1975	✓	✓	✓
Mali	16/10/1994	✓	✗	✗
Mozambique	23/06/1981	✓	✓	✗
Niger	07/12/1975	✓	✓	✗
Solomon Islands	24/06/2007	✓	✗	✗
South Sudan	Non-Party	NP	NP	NP
Sudan	24/01/1983	✓	✗	✗
Tanzania	27/02/1980	✓	✓	✗
Viet Nam	20/04/1994	✓	✓	✓

Key: ✓ – report received. ✗ – no report received. NP – non-Party.

All available Biennial reports to CITES<sup>10</sup> from each range State were consulted for any information on confiscations/seizures. No specific information on significant seizures of species subject to this review were reported.

The CITES Management and Scientific Authorities (and the non-Party equivalents MAs for Haiti and South Sudan) for each range State were contacted by email in June/July 2018. Authorities were asked to provide any

<sup>9</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/legislation>

<sup>10</sup> Accessed from <https://cites.org/eng/resources/reports/biennial.php> [accessed 30 July 2018]

updated information on conservation status, trade and management of each taxon, including any specific progress made in addressing the relevant Plants or Animals Committee recommendations which had been formulated prior to the trade suspensions. Relevant sections on distribution, population status, management etc. are only included in the species assessments where new information is available. In addition, range States were requested to clarify if there is interest in resuming trade in the species in the future and if so, confirm whether they consider that non-detriment findings can now be made, or confirm if exports are no longer anticipated. Finally, range States were asked to outline any challenges faced in implementing the AC/PC recommendations and any underlying reasons for these challenges, as well as identify what type of support (if any) would be needed in order to address the recommendations. Reference to range States responses in the report refer only to the consultation on long-standing suspensions that took place in June/July 2018. Where possible, taxonomic experts were also contacted to provide additional expertise for the relevant country.

# Country reviews

## Belize

### *Myrmecophila tibicinis*

#### A. Summary

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Myrmecophila tibicinis* from Belize; the population status of the species in the country remains unclear. Annual reports were submitted by Belize for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. No trade in *M. tibicinis* was reported by Belize or importers during 2014-2016. Belize responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. Local harvest for domestic use is still known to occur in response to land use change, but difficulties in determining the extent of harvest were noted. Belize noted that no progress has been made on implementing the PC recommendations or making a non-detriment finding for exports. A lack of financial resources was identified as a challenge in addressing the PC recommendations. The need for financial support to assist Belize in conducting comprehensive surveys and technical support relating to orchid identification was outlined in SC66 Doc 31.2 A2; and this support is still required. Until such time that funding can be obtained to implement well-designed scientific surveys to establish non-detrimental export quotas in compliance with Article IV, **the suspension may still be appropriate.**

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Myrmecophila tibicinis*

#### B. Previous PC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 2: Recommendations formulated by the Plants Committee (PC17) and SC66 outcomes**

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from PC17 (April 2008)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i>	15 June 2010	<b>Within 3 months</b>  The Management Authority should confirm to the Secretariat that they will not issue export permits for <i>M. tibicinis</i> until surveys have been made to confirm the species being traded and status of the species. The Secretariat should include this information on the list of voluntary export quotas.	Belize have confirmed that exports permits are not being issued. No information was included in the list of voluntary quotas.	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.
		<b>Within 2 years</b>  In relation to <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i> and other species in this genus, probably confused with <i>M. tibicinis</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested populations.</li><li>- Establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take.</li><li>- The Management Authority should report to the Secretariat the result of the above points with an explanation of how the Scientific Authority determines that levels of export are not detrimental to the populations concerned.</li></ul>	Not addressed, No response was received in relation to the PC recommendations, (SC59 Doc. 14.1).	

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

Limited additional information on the species biology, distribution, population status and trends, threats, or management could be found. The Management Authority (MA) of Belize (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that land use change within the species range in Belize remained a threat, and that exports of the species that had taken place prior to the suspension were primarily from areas that had undergone land use changes. Local collection was noted to continue to occur for domestic trade where private lands are converted to agriculture, with prospective collectors salvaging the species from fallen trees. It was noted that there was limited information on the extent of current harvest for domestic use, and difficulties in monitoring and enforcing the domestic harvest and use of this species were highlighted (MA of Belize, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Belize in 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *Myrmecophila tibicinis* from or originating in Belize was reported 2014-2016.

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Belize as legislation that is believed generally not to meet any of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 3) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Belize remains the same as when the species was last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). This assessment of the national legislation was last updated in September 2017 (CITES, 2017).

## D. Consultation with the range State

**Progress on recommendations:** The Management Authority (MA) of Belize (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) confirmed that no progress on implementing the recommendations had been made, a non-detriment finding for *M. tibicinis* had not been undertaken, and there were no updates to the information on the species as presented in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2. It was acknowledged that insufficient progress had been made on addressing the recommendations to request the trade suspension for *M. tibicinis* be lifted (MA of Belize, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). The short term recommendation should be considered complete/no longer relevant (it was somewhat unclear what information should be included in the list of voluntary quotas). The long-term recommendations are considered to remain appropriate.

**Future trade:** The MA of Belize (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that *M. tibicinis* was not a species of “significant trade impact” for the country. It was also reported that no requests for trade had been made since the suspension, nor were any anticipated.

**Challenges faced and identification of needs:** The MA of Belize (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that whilst the recommendations of the Plants Committee were well received, the main limitation in addressing them and conducting a non-detriment finding for *M. tibicinis* was the lack of financial resources available. Training of enforcement officers in the identification of the species and other similar orchids was also highlighted as a need in the country (MA of Belize, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

## E. References

CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at:  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf).  
[Accessed: 27/06/2018].

Management Authority of Belize. 2018. Wilber Sabido, Chief Forest Officer, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC. 4 July 2018, and 24 July 2018.

# Côte d'Ivoire

## *Pericopsis elata*

### A. Summary and recommendations

Côte d'Ivoire has made steps to address inadequate natural resource management within the country. A National Development Plan has been developed to provide a framework to address sustainable use. Annual reports were submitted by Côte d'Ivoire for all three years 2014-2016. Whilst exports of wood products such as flooring had previously been highlighted despite the trade suspension (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2), no trade was reported by either Côte d'Ivoire or importers in the interim three years, 2014-2016. Côte d'Ivoire responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. No exports are anticipated in the short-term, although future trade is intended based on reforestation efforts. Additional information was obtained from a successful funding proposal submitted by the country to the ITTO-CITES Trees Programme in relation to sustainable use of *Pericopsis elata*. The key aims of the project are to conduct forest inventories and mapping, develop a non-detriment finding, enhance capacity of relevant authorities and the CITES Scientific Authority in making NDFs, and increase engagement of stakeholders. The project is expected to commence in October 2018, for two years. Until such time that a scientifically based NDF has been produced to demonstrate that exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, **the suspension may still be appropriate**. Whilst it is already planned that the NDF will be submitted to the Secretariat once developed, it may also be relevant to submit this to the Chair of the Plants Committee for review. Côte d'Ivoire are encouraged to publish a zero export quota until a scientifically-based quota is agreed with the Secretariat and PC Chair.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Pericopsis elata* (Afrormosia).

### B. Previous PC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 3: Recommendations formulated by the Plants Committee (PC19) and SC66 outcomes**

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from PC19 (April 2011)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	7 September 2012	<p><b>Within three months:</b></p> <p>The Management Authority should set a zero quota and inform the CITES Secretariat, so that it can be included in the national export quotas on the CITES website. Before trade resumes, the Management Authority should clarify with the Secretariat how it determines that the level of trade is not detrimental to wild populations.</p>	Not addressed. No zero export quota has yet been set. No response to the recommendations was received (SC62 Doc. 27.1 (Rev. 1)).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis of on-going trade and insufficient management in place.

### C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Population status:** The Management Authority (MA) of Côte d'Ivoire (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that there was no new information on the distribution and population status of the species since the 2015 report, no new planting or operating programmes had been established, and therefore the population trend was considered stable.

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Côte d'Ivoire for all three years 2014-2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *P. elata* from or originating in Côte d'Ivoire was

reported 2014-2016. The MA of Côte d'Ivoire (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) reported that all relevant national directorates had been instructed to ensure the application of the suspension of trade, and there was no specific illegal trade in the country. Although local timber markets were noted to exist, it was suggested that the rarity of *P. elata* meant that it was not of particular interest (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Threats:** Agricultural expansion within classified forests managed by Société de Développement Forestier, or Forest Development Corporation (SODEFOR), was considered to remain the key threat to the species (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Management:** A new forest preservation policy was reported to have been adopted with the aim of rehabilitation of classified forests, which could assist with monitoring of reforestation of *P. elata* (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

Based on the information provided in an application for funding to the ITTO-CITES Trees Programme (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, 2018), the country has implemented a National Development Plan for 2016-2020 and is committed to sustainable management of natural resources and to improve adaptability to climate change. Since 2013, Côte d'Ivoire has engaged in the negotiation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) for forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) in order to combat illegal logging and marketing of products derived from this. Improvements in the governance of the forest sector are also being made, including the development of a system of legal verification (SVL) that can verify legality and traceability that could, in the long-term, digitally link products to legally approved operators. In addition, it was noted that Independent Observation (OI) is being carried out by civil society so that rural communities and NGOs can observe forestry activities to enhance transparency.

Through SODEFOR, around 23 ha of plantations of this species in association with crops had been created in three classified forests (Bossemanié, Sangoué and Ira), between 1992 and 2015, however the need for more vigorous conservation action was noted (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, 2018). The World Bank has recently allocated USD 15 million to Côte d'Ivoire to reverse the trend of deforestation and forest degradation in the country<sup>11</sup>.

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Côte d'Ivoire as legislation that is believed generally not to meet any of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 3) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Côte d'Ivoire remains the same as when the species was last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). This assessment of the national legislation was last updated in September 2017 (CITES, 2017). However the MA of Côte d'Ivoire (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that funding had been received from the Secretariat to prepare a draft law on international trade in accordance with CITES to contribution to implementation of the Convention. In addition, it was noted that legislative and regulatory changes were underway to improve the logging rules and secure protection for some species, but these were not yet completed (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

## D. Consultation with the range State

Côte d'Ivoire responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions.

**Progress on recommendations:** Côte d'Ivoire has not published any zero quotas for the species since the PC set recommendations in 2011, however the MA of Côte d'Ivoire (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that it planned to set a zero quota for 2018, and a national forestry inventory was underway to estimate the population of *P. elata* in the country and define a management plan.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/01/26/world-bank-allocates-15-million-to-help-cote-divoire-reverse-the-trend-of-deforestation-and-forest-degradation>



Côte d'Ivoire made a successful funding application to the ITTO-CITES Trees programme in 2018 for a project to strengthen CITES implementation in the country for *P. elata* (as well as *Pterocarpus erinaceus*). The project is being implemented by the Ministère des eaux et forêts (the CITES Management Authority), and the specific objectives are to:

- 1) improve the knowledge of stands through forest inventories and mapping, and improve the status of the species by creating nurseries with the aim of reforestation of 100 ha, and undertake socio-economic surveys;
- 2) establish tools for sustainable management, including verified management plans for each stand and the establishment of non-detriment findings (NDF);
- 3) involve all major stakeholders in the conservation and the sustainable management of the species.

Specifically in relation to a non-detriment finding, the proposed activities are to write and validate an NDF document at the national level based on inventories, simple management plans and studies conducted by academics in relation to the biology and ecology of the species. This would be submitted to the CITES Secretariat, and then [presumably after receiving feedback and incorporating any changes identified] presented to stakeholders. Related activities include the production of manuals and brochures, and organisation of stakeholder meetings including the Scientific Authority, researchers, control agencies, local administrative authorities, loggers, wood industry, exporters and local communities.

It is intended that the project would ensure that the traceability procedures would be put in place to ensure that CITES permits granted by the Management Authority relate exclusively to timber extracted from forest concessions that result from management plans. The need for capacity building for staff involved in the verification of legal acquisition and scientific authority staff in the making of non-detriment findings was also highlighted in the project proposal. It is envisaged that at the end of the project, the country would have in place a well-informed and competent Scientific Authority composed of a committee of several experts, and the control of *P. elata* will be effectively carried out by staff within forest and customs agencies.

The project is expected to commence in October 2018, with a two year duration.

Whilst it was noted that progress had been made, the MA of Côte d'Ivoire (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that this was currently insufficient to request that the trade suspension be lifted, and the National Scientific Committee (charged with development of non-detriment findings) was not yet operational.

The PC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate.

**Future trade:** The MA of Côte d'Ivoire (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that the country is not currently considering a non-detriment finding for *P. elata* because the species cannot be exploited in the short-term, but reforestation in classified forests is being undertaken with the objective of future trade harvest. Only after a sustainable management plan had been implemented, an NDF had been developed and advice from SODEFOR indicating that exploitation was possible based on the reforestation programme, would this be reconsidered (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Challenges faced and identification of needs:** A lack of internal communication nationally and rotation of staff (leading to loss of CITES knowledge and capacity) were identified as the main difficulties that had led to a failure to implement the PC recommendations (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). It was recognised that these could have been overcome by implementation of a regulatory act (decree or order) as well as timely finalisation of the text of the Forest Code of 2014. Support was acknowledged to be in place in order for Côte d'Ivoire to follow up on all the PC recommendations, through the development of national legislation and through the EU-funded ITTO-CITES Trees programme (MA of Côte d'Ivoire, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

## E. References

- CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at:  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf).  
[Accessed: 27/06/2018].
- Management Authority of Cote d'Ivoire, 2018. *Projet de sauvegarde de Pericopsis elata (assamela) et de Pterocarpus erinaceus (bois de vene) en Cote d'Ivoire*. Ministere des Eaux et Forets 05/02/2018. Proposal to the CITES Trees programme.
- Management Authority of Cote d'Ivoire, 2018. *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 29 July 2018.

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

## *Poicephalus fuscicollis* and *Stigmochelys pardalis*

### A. Summary and recommendations

<p>As an update to SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2, <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> was split from <i>P. robustus</i> at CoP17, with the latter species occurring only in South Africa. The distribution of <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> was updated in 2017, and DRC is no longer considered to be a range State. Annual reports were submitted by DRC for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in <i>P. fuscicollis</i> or <i>S. pardalis</i> was reported by DRC or importers during 2014-2016. DRC was consulted in the margins of the recent AC/PC meetings. No progress on the recommendations has been made, and it was unclear if there was an intention for future trade. Based on the 2008 conclusion of the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee (if trade in <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> is intended), the trade suspension could be lifted if a conservative export quota is published by DRC with a justification for consideration by the Secretariat and Chair of the AC. Until this precautionary interim quota is agreed, the suspension may still be appropriate. Any increases in this quota should be justified and based on the best available scientific information. Although not specified, DRC may need technical expertise in the development of parrot surveys. The long term AC recommendations directed to DRC for <i>Poicephalus gulelmi</i> (AC30 Com 11) could also be appropriate as replacement recommendations. Given that DRC is no longer considered a range State for <i>S. pardalis</i> and international trade is not anticipated, <b>the removal of the trade suspension for <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> from DRC may be warranted.</b></p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b></p> <p>If trade in <i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i> (Brown-necked Parrot) is intended, DRC propose a conservative, interim quota for consideration by the AC Chair and Secretariat. In the meantime, the suspension may still be appropriate.</p> <p>Remove suspension for <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> (Leopard Tortoise)</p>
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### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 4:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC16) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC16 (December 2000)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>	9 July 2001	<p><b>Within 90 days the Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo should provide the CITES Secretariat with detailed information on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the detailed distribution and abundance of this species in its country; and</li> <li>ii) the justification, or the scientific basis by which it has established that the quantities currently exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.</li> </ul>	<p>No response to the initial recommendations was received (AC17 Doc. 7.1; SC45 Doc12). Secretariat and AC Chair recommended that the SC withdraw its recommendation not to accept imports of specimens of <i>P. (robustus) fuscicollis</i> from the DRC if the MA established a cautious export quota in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the AC (SC57 Doc 29.2); this was agreed by the SC (SC 57 Summary Record). No reply to this had been received (SC62 Doc. 27.2 (Rev. 1) so the suspension was retained.</p>	<p>The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that it was unclear if DRC intended to export the species, and further information was required to demonstrate intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.</p>

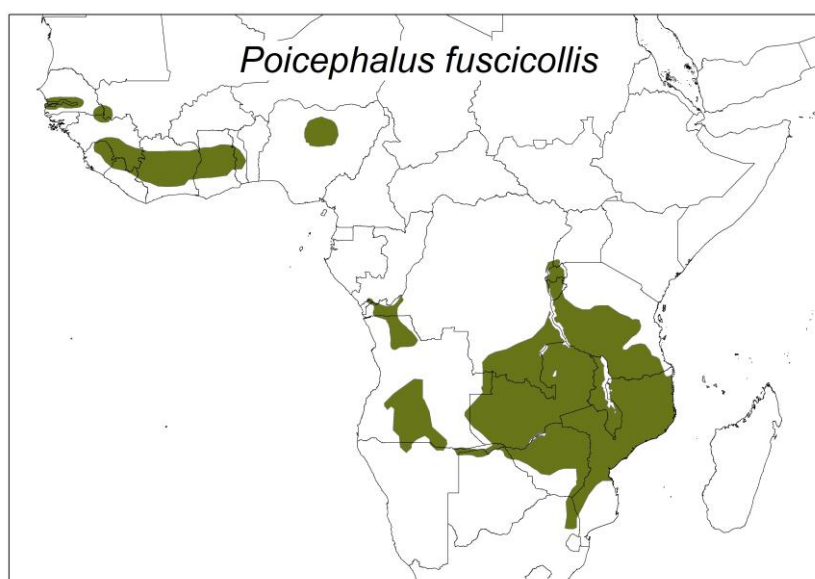
Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC16 (December 2000)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>	9 July 2001	The Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo should provide the CITES Secretariat with detailed information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the distribution and abundance of this species in its country; and</li> <li>ii) the justification, or the scientific basis by which it has established that the quantities currently exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species</li> </ul>	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations received (AC17 Doc. 7.1; SC45 Doc 12).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

### C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in DRC as legislation that is believed generally to meet all four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 1) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to DRC has been updated since the species were last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016); previously it was assessed as legislation that was considered generally not to meet all of the requirements for the implementation of CITES (Category 2) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated in December 2017 (CITES, 2017).

#### *Poicephalus fuscicollis*

**Taxonomic note/Distribution:** The recommendation to suspend trade was originally formed for *Poicephalus robustus* from DRC, however Coetzer *et al.* (2015) was adopted as the CITES Standard Reference at CoP17 in 2016 (Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17)) which split the species; *P. robustus* is now considered to be restricted to South Africa, with the new species *Poicephalus fuscicollis* occurring in all other range States. The species included within the RST from DRC is therefore considered to be *P. fuscicollis*. The revised distribution is provided in Figure 1.

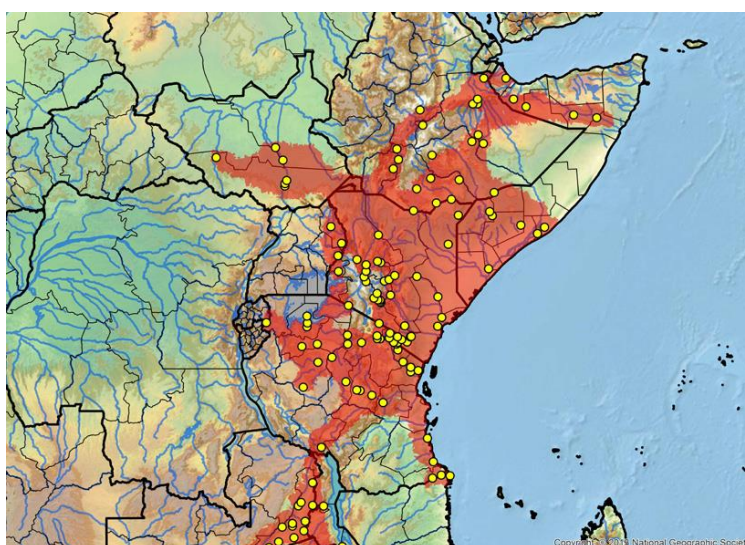


**Figure 1.** Distribution of *Poicephalus fuscicollis* in DRC (source: Birdlife International and Handbook of the Birds of the World, 2017).

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by DRC for all three years 2014-2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *P. fuscicollis* (or *P. robustus*) from or originating in the DRC was reported 2014-2016.

### *Stigmochelys pardalis*

**Distribution:** Further refinement of distribution data for *S. pardalis* was undertaken by the Turtle Taxonomy Working Group (2017) and included within the 2017 version of the Turtles of the World checklist. No confirmed occurrences of the species in the DRC are documented, and therefore the country is not currently considered a range State for the species (Turtle Taxonomy Working Group 2017). An earlier version of the Turtles of the World checklist included DRC within the distributional range of the species (van Dijk *et al.*, 2011). Presence of the species within DRC was also questioned by Broadley (1989). A range map for east and central Africa is provide in Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of *Stigmochelys pardalis* in east and central Africa. Source: Turtle Taxonomy Working Group (2017). Reproduced with permission from the Turtle Taxonomy Working Group and Anders Rhodin.

**Population status and trends:** The species was globally assessed as Least Concern in 2015 by the IUCN Red List due to its widespread distribution which “remains common in most places” and because it has not experienced any “significant declines” so far (Baker *et al.*, 2015).

**Threats:** *S. pardalis* is frequently included in lists of seizures of illegally traded individuals, however the origin country is not stated (TRAFFIC, 2010a, 2010b, 2014, 2016).

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by DRC for all three years 2014-2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *S. pardalis* from or originating in the Democratic Republic of Congo was reported 2014-2016.

### Consultation with the range State

Whilst DRC did not provide a response to the consultation, a brief discussion was held between the Management Authority (MA) of DRC and UNEP-WCMC in the margins of AC30 (July 2018).

**Progress on recommendations:** The Management Authority (MA) of DRC (pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that no progress had been made in addressing the AC recommendations for *Poicephalus fuscicollis* and *Stigmochelys pardalis*. Whilst the AC recommendations for *Poicephalus fuscicollis* are considered to remain

appropriate, they could be modified to align with the recommendations for *Poicephalus guilielmi* directed to DRC (outlined in AC30 Com 11), and include recommendation iii) “Before making any increases to the interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the Management Authority of the DRC to the Secretariat and Chair of the AC along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable offtake that make use of best available scientific information” in addition to the long-term recommendations. These would direct DRC to implement within two years: harvest measures, science-based studies on status and threats, an ongoing population monitoring programme used with an adaptive management programme for making NDFs, as well as outline any capacity needs. The AC recommendations for *Stigmochelys pardalis* are considered no longer relevant (no wild-sourced exports are anticipated as it is not a range State).

**Future trade:** It was unclear if exports of *Poicephalus fuscicollis* from the country were anticipated.

**Challenges faced and identification of needs:** A general lack of capacity in DRC was the main challenge highlighted in implementation of the recommendations (MA of DRC, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

## D. References

- Baker, P.J., Kabigumila, J., Leuteritz, T., Hofmeyer, M. and Ngwava, J.M. 2015. *Stigmochelys pardalis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T163449A1009442. Available at: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/163449/0>. [Accessed: 29/06/2018].
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# Equatorial Guinea

## *Trioceros feae* and *Prunus africana*

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Trioceros feae* or *Prunus africana* from Equatorial Guinea. Annual reports were submitted by Equatorial Guinea for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in *T. feae* or *P. africana* was reported by Equatorial Guinea or importers during 2014-2016. Equatorial Guinea did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC/PC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. As noted in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2, *Trioceros feae* is endemic to Bioko Island of Equatorial Guinea and has a restricted distribution of 1000 km<sup>2</sup>. However, the population density is high, possibly “many hundreds of thousands” according to one author, and some international trade in *T. feae* could therefore be sustainable. In the first instance, Equatorial Guinea should confirm whether they intend to export the species. If exports of *T. feae* are intended, a conservative export quota could be proposed as an interim measure, with a justification to demonstrate this would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, for consideration by Secretariat and AC Chair. Before any further increases are proposed, additional justification on how estimates of sustainable offtake are science-based should be provided. Although not specified, Equatorial Guinea may need technical support in reptile surveying. Other range States export *Prunus africana* within the region, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, other Parties (such as Cameroon) provide support to Equatorial Guinea in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding. However, until the country engages with CITES and provides further information, **the suspension may still be appropriate.**

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for both *Trioceros feae* (Bioko Montane Chameleon) and *Prunus africana* (African Cherry)

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 5:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC25), Plants Committee (PC16), and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC25 (July 2011)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Trioceros feae</i>	7 September 2012	<b>Within 90 days</b> a) The Management Authority should confirm that no export permits have been issued for this species since 1999, and provide an explanation to the Secretariat for the perceived discrepancies between reported Customs data (imports) and CITES data (exports) referred to in document AC25 Doc. 9.4; b) If there is no intent to allow export of this species for the foreseeable future, establish a zero quota which should be communicated to Parties by the Secretariat; or c) If trade is allowed, provide justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of <i>Trioceros (Chamaeleo) feae</i> exported are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations received (SC62 Doc 27.1 Rev.1). The MA of Equatorial Guinea ( <i>in litt.</i> to UNEP-WCMC, 2015) previously confirmed that no studies on the species had been undertaken (SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2)	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from PC16 (July 2006)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Prunus africana</i>	3 February 2009	<p><b>Within 3 months:</b></p> <p>In consultation with the CITES Secretariat and the Chairman of the Plants Committee, establish a conservative quota for export of <i>P. africana</i> bark and other parts and derivatives exported. This quota should be based on results of studies conducted in the new harvesting areas.</p> <p>Clarify reported exports of extract which are likely to be powder, and inform the Secretariat of any facilities to produce extract within the country.</p> <p><b>Within 1 year:</b></p> <p>Carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take, taking into account the need to conserve large seed-producing trees, and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested <i>P. africana</i> populations.</p> <p>Establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take.</p> <p>Provide a timetable to carry out peer-reviewed ecological studies and appropriate population modelling of <i>P. africana</i> in order to establish a long-term management plan for the sustainable use of this species.</p> <p><b>Within 2 years:</b></p> <p>The Management and Scientific Authorities should report to the Secretariat the final version of the long-term management plan and progress made against that plan.</p>	<p>The short-term action was partially addressed. A quota of 197 tons of bark and derivatives was proposed (SC57 Doc. 29.1 (Rev. 2)). The Secretariat and PC Chair were not satisfied that the recommendations had been implemented.</p> <p>Inventories of representative areas of forests were undertaken. Estimates of bark yield had not been completed for the whole population (SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2).</p> <p>No management plan had been adopted (SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2).</p>	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

No further information on the species distribution, population status and trends, threats or management was located for *Trioceros feae* or *Prunus africana*. On the basis of no further available information for *Trioceros feae*, the IUCN Chameleon Specialist Group (pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) suggested that there should be no resumption in trade in the species.

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Equatorial Guinea for all three years 2014–2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *Trioceros feae* or *Prunus africana* from or originating in Equatorial Guinea was reported 2014–2016.

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Equatorial Guinea as legislation that is believed generally to meet all four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 1) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Equatorial Guinea remains the same as when the species were last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated in December 2017 (CITES, 2017).



## D. Consultation with the range State

Equatorial Guinea did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was therefore not possible to determine whether there has been any further progress on implementing the AC/PC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2 noted that a Spanish trade company EUROMED had interest in the trade in *Prunus africana* in Equatorial Guinea, and there was a possibility of provision of funding for continuation of inventories under the CITES-ITTO programme. Attempts were made to engage with the CITES Authorities during a mission by J. Lagarde Betti in 2015 as part of the review of long-standing suspensions (SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2), but no responses were received. Equatorial Guinea is not currently a focus of the CITES Trees Programme (J. Lagarde Betti, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). For *Prunus africana*, the PC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate. For *Trioceros feae*, recommendation a) no longer seems relevant, as it relates to exports that took place almost 20 years ago.

## E. References

- CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at:  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf).  
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- Betti, J. L. 2018. Jean Lagarde Betti. pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 21/7/2018.

# Grenada

## *Strombus gigas*

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Strombus gigas* from Grenada. Grenada have not submitted any annual reports for 2014-2016 and the country is subject to a recommendation to suspend trade based on lack of annual report submissions. However, imports of source I (seized/ confiscated) meat were reported in all three years 2014-2016 by the United States; indicating that Grenada have recently exported the species whilst the trade suspension is in place. Grenada did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, to recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions, although the recent trade indicates an intent to trade in the future. At present, Grenada appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade in this species, and **the suspension may still be appropriate**. In the first instance, Grenada should confirm whether they intend to export the species. Many other range States export this species within the region, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, other Parties such as Jamaica, Nicaragua, Belize, Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas may be able to provide support to Grenada in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding if exports are intended. This species may also be a candidate for discussion at the second NDF workshop proposed by the Secretariat following CoP18. The potential non-compliance issue should be further considered by the SC and Secretariat.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Strombus gigas* (Queen Conch)

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 6:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC19) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC19 (August 2003)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Strombus gigas</i>	12 May 2006	<p><b>Within 12 months:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish within 12 months cautious catch and export quotas, communicate these to the Secretariat and provide information for the basis of these quotas.</li> <li>b) Establish a standardized minimum meat weight that corresponds to adult specimens of unprocessed and processed meat.</li> <li>c) Design and implement a fishery data collection programme. This programme is designed to collect catch and effort data and shall include 1.) a system of permits and licenses for commercial harvesters and exporters, and 2.) regular reporting of landing and export data.</li> <li>d) Design and implement a long-term population monitoring programme for the designated commercial fishing areas. This programme should provide reliable estimates of adult and juveniles densities within commercial fishing areas, at a minimum.</li> </ul>	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations received (SC54 Doc 42).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required in line with the draft format and guidelines for NDF assessments for <i>S. gigas</i> proposed at AC28, incorporating the status of stocks and addressing the AC recommendations and considering recommendations arising from the 2nd CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAF C/CRFM working group meeting on Queen Conch.

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC19 (August 2003)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<b>Within 24 months:</b>				
		a)	Apply adaptive management procedures to ensure that further decisions about harvesting and management of the species concerned will be based on the monitoring of the impact of previous harvesting and other factors.	
		b)	Give serious consideration to the recommendations of the June 2003 IQCI meeting and commit specifically to those recommendations on	
		i)	development of a regional management regime, including cooperative quota setting,	
		ii)	law enforcement capacity and effectiveness	
		iii)	population assessments and other research relating to the management of Queen Conch	

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Trade:** No annual reports were submitted by Grenada for 2014-2016; the country is subject to a recommendation to suspend trade on the basis of non-submission of annual reports (Notification 2016/022). According to data within the CITES Trade Database, direct exports of *S. gigas* from Grenada 2014-2016 comprised 23.5 kg of meat reported as source I ('seized/confiscated') and for personal purposes, reported by the importer, the United States, only. Reported trade was highest in 2016 (15.5 kg), with lower levels reported in 2014 and 2015 (0.5 and 7.6 kg, respectively). Indirect exports of *S. gigas* originating in Grenada 2014-2016 comprised 12.2 kg of source I meat for personal purposes, re-exported via Haiti in 2015 and reported by the importer, the United States, only.

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Grenada as legislation that is believed generally not to meet any of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 3) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Grenada remains the same as when the species was last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated at CoP17 (CITES, 2017).

## D. Consultation with the range State

Grenada did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was therefore not possible to determine whether there has been any further progress on implementing the AC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. The AC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate.

## E. References

CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at: [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf). [Accessed: 27/06/2018].

# Guinea

## *Balearica pavonina*

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Balearica pavonina* in Guinea. Annual reports were submitted by Guinea for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in *Balearica pavonina* was reported by Guinea or importers during 2014-2016. Guinea did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, to determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. As noted in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2, the population of the species was estimated at only 200 individuals in 2004, and it was recorded as “rarely encountered”, with declines since that time suspected. Guinea was previously implicated in illegal trade of this species (SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2). There is currently no indication that trade in *Balearica pavonina* originating from Guinea may be sustainable. If no exports are intended, Guinea are encouraged to publish a zero quota. Until the country engages with CITES and provides further information to demonstrate that any intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, **the suspension may still be appropriate**. Guinea has also been subject to a trade suspension for all trade on the basis of non-compliance with the Convention since 16 May 2013.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Balearica pavonina* (Black Crowned Crane), unless a zero quota is published

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 7:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC26) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC26 (March 2012)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	2 May 2013	<p><b>Within 90 days, the Management Authority should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Immediately establish a zero annual export quota as an interim measure which should be communicated to Parties by the Secretariat</li> <li>b) Clarify what legal protection is afforded to this species in Guinea and inform the Secretariat under what circumstances the present policy allows for export of the species;</li> <li>c) Provide available information to the Secretariat on the distribution, abundance and conservation status of the species, and any current management measures in place for <i>Balearica pavonina</i> in Guinea; and</li> <li>d) Provide justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of <i>Balearica pavonina</i> exported (between 2001 and 2009) were not detrimental to the survival of the species and were in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</li> </ul> <p><b>Within 2 years, the Management Authority should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e) Conduct a national status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species; and advise the Secretariat of the management measures taken on the basis of this status assessment;</li> </ul>	Not addressed. A zero export quota was not published by Guinea. No response to the recommendations received (SC63 Doc 14).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC26 (March 2012)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
		<p>f) Establish a revised annual export quota (if appropriate) for wild taken specimens based on the results of the assessment; and</p> <p>g) Communicate the annual export quota to the Secretariat (including zero quota), and provide a justification for, and explanation of, the scientific basis by which it was determined that the quota would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and was in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</p>		

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

The information outlined in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2 was considered to remain accurate in relation to this species/country combination (Morrison. pers. comm to UNEP-WCMC, 2018; Dodman, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC. 2018).

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Guinea for all three years 2014-2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *B. pavonina* from or originating in Guinea was reported 2014-2016.

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Guinea as legislation that is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 2) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Guinea remains the same as when the species was last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated in December 2017 (CITES, 2017).

## D. Consultation with the range State

Guinea did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was therefore not possible to determine whether there has been any further progress on implementing the AC/PC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. The AC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate, although the trade referred to in recommendation d) occurred nine or more years ago, and may no longer be relevant.

## E. References

- CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at: [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf). [Accessed: 27/06/2018].
- Dodman, T. 2018. Tim Dodman. pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 31/7/2018.
- Morrison, K. 2018. Kerry Morrison. (International Crane Foundation/IUCN Crane Specialist Group) pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 11/7/2018.

# Haiti

## *Strombus gigas*

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Strombus gigas* from Haiti. Whilst Haiti is a non-Party and therefore does not submit annual reports, imports of wild-sourced meat were reported by importers (mainly the United States) in all three years 2014-2016 in apparent contravention of the trade suspension. Haiti did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions, although the recent trade indicates an intent to trade in the future. At present, Haiti appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade in this species, and **the suspension may still be appropriate**. In the first instance, Haiti should confirm whether they intend to export the species. Many other range States export this species within the region, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, other Parties such as Jamaica, Nicaragua, Belize, Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas may be able to provide support to Haiti in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding, if exports are intended. This species may also be a candidate for discussion at the second NDF workshop proposed by the Secretariat following CoP18. The potential non-compliance issue should be further considered by the SC and Secretariat.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Strombus gigas* (Queen Conch)

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 8:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC19) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC19 (August 2003)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<b><i>Strombus gigas</i></b>	29 September 2003	<b>1) Within 6 months:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a voluntary moratorium on the commercial harvest (excluding legal harvest in territorial waters of the Parties concerned) and the international trade of <i>Strombus gigas</i> <b>within four weeks</b> of this recommendation being made (upon communication by the AC to the Parties);</li> <li>Identify areas to be designated for commercial fisheries;</li> <li>Undertake density studies in these designated areas;</li> <li>Identify and analyse trends in available landing data;</li> <li>Establish a standardized minimum meat weight that corresponds to adult specimens of unprocessed and processed meat;</li> <li>Based on the results of the density studies, the analysis of landing trends and standardized meat weight establish cautious catch and export quotas in consultation with</li> </ol>	It is unclear what progress was made on the recommendations, as this does not appear to have been reported on. However, the Secretariat and the AC Chair determined that the recommendations had not been implemented within the agreed time frame (see Notification No. 2003/057).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required in line with the draft format and guidelines for NDF assessments for <i>S. gigas</i> proposed at AC28, incorporating the status of stocks and addressing the AC recommendations and considering recommendations arising from the 2nd CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM working group meeting on Queen Conch.

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC19 (August 2003)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
		the Secretariat;		
		g) Demonstrate that items 2a) and 2b) below, have been initiated.		
		<b>2) Within 18 months:</b>		
		a) design and implement a fishery data collection programme. This programme is designed to collect catch and effort data and shall include 1.) a system of permits and licenses for commercial harvesters and exporters, and 2.) regular reporting of landing and export data;		
		b) Design and implement a long-term population monitoring programme for the designated commercial fishing areas. This programme should provide reliable estimates of adult and juveniles densities within commercial fishing areas, at a minimum.		
		c) Give serious consideration to the recommendations of the June 2003 IQCI meeting and commit specifically to those recommendations on:		
		i) development of a regional management regime, including cooperative quota setting,		
		ii) law enforcement capacity and effectiveness		
		iii) population assessments and other research relating to the management of Queen Conch.		

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

Haiti is a non-Party to the Convention.

**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, all direct trade in *S. gigas* from Haiti 2014-2016 was reported by importers only (the vast majority reported by the United States), and predominantly comprised source I meat reported by weight for personal purposes (Table 1). However, wild-sourced trade comprised 1.9 kg of meat and three shells for personal purposes. All indirect trade in *S. gigas* originating in Haiti 2014-2016 comprised source I shells (10) and meat (0.3 kg) for personal purposes, reported by the United States only.

**Table 1:** Direct exports of *Strombus gigas* from Haiti 2014-2016. Trade was reported by importers only.

Term	Unit	Purpose	Source	2014	2015	2016	Total
meat	kg	P	I	265.5	225.7	164.8	655.9
			W	0.454	1	0.454	1.908
		T	C			100	100
			I	12.908	37.816	6.18	56.904
	-	P	I	11.66	3.4		15.06
shells	-	P	I	66	22	7	95
			W			3	3
		T	I		33		33
Total				356.481	322.931	281.393	960.805

Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, downloaded on 10/07/2018

## D. Consultation with the range State

Haiti is a non-Party and did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was therefore not possible to determine whether there has been any further progress on implementing the AC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. The AC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate.

## E. References

CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at:  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf).  
[Accessed: 27/06/2018].



# Madagascar

## *Coracopsis vasa*, *Furcifer labordi*, *Phelsuma borai*, *P. breviceps*, *P. gouldi*, and *P. standingi*.

### A. Summary

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Coracopsis vasa*, or for *Phelsuma borai*, *P. breviceps*, *P. gouldi*, and *P. standingi* from Madagascar. The extent of occurrence of *Furcifer labordi* is likely to be lower than previously thought, as in some north west localities, *F. labordi* is now considered to be a different species (*F. voeltzkowi*). Annual reports were submitted by Madagascar for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in wild-sourced specimens of *Coracopsis vasa* or the four *Phelsuma* spp. was reported by Madagascar or importers during 2014-2016; low levels of trade in wild-sourced scientific specimens of *Furcifer labordi* were reported by Madagascar and importers during 2014-2016. Madagascar responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. An interest in future trade in all species was noted. As noted in SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2, *Coracopsis vasa* is widespread in Madagascar, and reported as common in many areas. However there is little population data on the species. Previously it was over-exploited, and is also killed as a crop pest. Based on the 2008 conclusion of the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee, the trade suspension for could be lifted if a conservative export quota is published by Madagascar with a justification for consideration by the Secretariat and Chair of the AC. Until this interim quota is agreed, the suspension may still be appropriate. Before any further increases are proposed, additional justification on how estimates of sustainable offtake are science-based should be provided.

Madagascar continue to support a justification for an export quota of 50 *Phelsuma breviceps* and 96 *P. standingi* on the basis that both species are easy to identify, and taking into account the species distribution, and for *Phelsuma breviceps*, its adaptability to different habitats. Although the determination of the quotas for *Phelsuma breviceps* and *P. standingi* do not appear to be scientifically based, they are conservative, and one IUCN expert considered that the proposed quotas are sustainable, provided they are collected across the species range. The removal of the suspensions for *Phelsuma breviceps* and *P. standingi* may therefore be warranted, subject to these assurances.

For *Furcifer labordi*, two experts consulted indicated that a conservative quota (around 50 specimens) would be sustainable, provided that the specimens are collected across the range. In addition, it was noted that collection should only take place in December, so that only subadults are targeted (based on the short lifespan of the species). However, a quota has not been proposed by Madagascar and these considerations would need to be provided in a justification for export.

Madagascar noted the lack of financial support in addressing the AC recommendations had been a challenge, but should provide further details on their specific needs. Without assistance, Madagascar appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade or fully address the AC recommendations **and the suspensions may still be appropriate for *Furcifer labordi*, *Phelsuma borai* and *P. gouldi*.**

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Furcifer labordi* (Labord's Chameleon), *Phelsuma borai*, and *P. gouldi*.

For *Coracopsis vasa* (Vasa Parrot), Madagascar propose a conservative, interim quota for consideration by the AC Chair and Secretariat. In the meantime, the suspension may still be appropriate.

Remove suspension for *Phelsuma breviceps* and *P. standingi*, subject to assurances that the specimens would be collected from numerous sites across the species range.

## B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 9: Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC9) and SC66 outcomes**

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC9 (September 1993)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>	20 January 1995	<p><b>(AC9) Within 3 months Madagascar should:</b> Provide details of the biological basis for determining exports will not be detrimental.</p> <p><b>(SC 57) By 23 December 1994, the Management Authority should:</b> Establish a cautious annual export quota or implement the outstanding Animals Committee primary recommendation(s), with the notation that, if the Secretariat was not satisfied that this recommendation had been effected, it would send a Notification to the Parties in January 1995 to inform them that the Standing Committee had recommended that Parties not accept imports from this country of specimens of this species until the primary recommendations of the Animals Committee have been implemented.</p>	Partially addressed. Madagascar established a CITES Action Plan aimed at dealing with commercial exports including <i>C. vasa</i> (SC57 Doc. 29.2). The Secretariat questioned whether a survey was necessary for this species, in light of the low demand. The Secretariat and AC Chair recommended the suspension be withdrawn if the MA established a cautious export quota in consultation with the AC (SC57 Doc. 29.2). The conservative quota has not yet been proposed.	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that a cautious export quota had not been established and further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.
<i>Furcifer labordi</i>	20 January 1995	<p><b>Within 3 months:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide details of the biological basis for determining exports will not be detrimental to the survival of the species;</li> <li>• Cease to issue export permits that do not indicate the species involved in the consignment;</li> <li>• Implement a system to verify the identification of specimens before export;</li> <li>• Suspend exports pending establishment of scientifically based sustainable harvest quotas;</li> <li>• Submit to Secretariat copies of all export permits issued.</li> </ul> <p><b>Within 12 months:</b> Undertake field assessments before exports resume.</p>	Partially addressed. Whilst Notification 800 indicated that actions had not been implemented, the MA later notified the Secretariat that exports would not take place without specifying the species (SC57 Doc. 29.2). Madagascar established a CITES Action Plan aimed at dealing with commercial exports including chameleons.	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species, and no zero quota had been published to indicate there was no trade anticipated.
<i>Phelsuma borai</i> , <i>P. breviceps</i> , <i>P. gouldi</i> and <i>P. standingi</i>	20 January 1995	<p><b>Within 3 months:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suspend exports of all but four <i>Phelsuma</i> species pending science-based harvest quotas; provide the biological basis for determining that exports of these species would not be detrimental;</li> <li>• cease to issue export permits that did not indicate the species involved;</li> <li>• implement a system to verify the identification of specimens before they were exported; and</li> <li>• to improve the effectiveness of its implementation of the Convention, regularly submit to the Secretariat copies of all export permits issued</li> </ul> <p><b>Within 12 months:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• undertake scientifically based field assessments of the species before allowing exports to resume</li> </ul>	Partially addressed. MA later notified the Secretariat that exports would not take place without specifying the species (SC57 Doc. 29.2). Madagascar established a CITES Action Plan aimed at dealing with commercial exports including <i>Phelsuma</i> spp. The suspensions for a number of <i>Phelsuma</i> species were lifted at SC66 on the basis that Madagascar has proposed quotas that were considered non-detrimental, or Madagascar had confirmed that there was no intention to trade in the species (either because of the species global threat status or the lack of information to allow a resumption of trade).	The trade suspensions were maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species, and no zero quota had been published to indicate there was no trade anticipated.

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Madagascar as legislation that is believed generally to meet all four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 1) (CITES, 2017); the same category as when the species were last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated in December 2017 (CITES, 2017).

### *Coracopsis vasa*

**Distribution:** The species has an estimated extent of occurrence of 928 000 km<sup>2</sup> (Birdlife International, 2016), with distribution provided in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Extent of occurrence (green) of *C. vasa* in Madagascar (recreated from BirdLife International and Handbook of the Birds of the World, 2016).

**Population status:** *Coracopsis vasa* (Vasa parrot) was assessed as Least Concern by the IUCN in the updated 2016 assessment (Birdlife International, 2016), as it did not meet the thresholds for Vulnerable under relevant criteria (range size, habitat extent/quality, population size and number of locations).

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Madagascar for all three years 2014-2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *C. vasa* from or originating in Madagascar was reported 2014-2016.

**Progress on recommendations:** No progress on implementing population monitoring of *Coracopsis vasa* or assessing the impact of collection has been conducted (Management Authority (MA) of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018)). If an interim quota is accepted, a new recommendation could be formulated along the

following lines; “Any proposed increases to the interim quota should be communicated by the Management Authority of Madagascar to the Secretariat and Chair of the AC along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable offtake that make use of best available scientific information.”

### *Furcifer labordi*

**Taxonomic note:** The populations of this species from northwest Madagascar (Katsepy and possibly Soalala) are now considered to belong to a resurrected species; *Fucifer voeltzkowi* (Sentis *et al.*, in press), meaning that the extent of occurrence of 16, 649 km<sup>2</sup> for *F. labordi* identified in Jenkins *et al.* (2011) may need to be revised.

**Species characteristics:** *Furcifer labordi* (Laborde’s Chameleon) was reported to have the shortest lifespan of any tetrapod – only four to five months during the rainy season, spending eight to nine months as a developing embryo (Eckhardt *et al.*, 2017). The early life of the species is thus characterised by rapid growth, and sexual maturity is reached at two months (Eckhardt *et al.*, 2017). Individuals’ lifespans were reported to be dependent upon ecological factors (length of rainy season), and when kept in captivity under ambient conditions, lifespans were extended (up to 11.5 months for females and up to 16 months for males), sometimes to include an additional breeding season (Eckhardt *et al.*, 2017).

**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, all direct trade in *F. labordi* from Madagascar 2014-2016 comprised wild-sourced scientific specimens, reported by number, weight and volume by both Madagascar and importers (Table 1). No indirect trade in *F. labordi* originating in Madagascar was reported 2014-2016.

**Table 1:** Direct exports of *Furcifer labordi* from Madagascar, 2014-2016.

Term	Unit	Purpose	Source	Reported by	2014	2015	2016	Total
specimens	kg	S	W	Exporter	0.007			0.007
				Importer	0.007			0.007
	l	S	W	Exporter	0.007	0.00023		0.00723
				Importer	0.007	0.00023		0.00723
	-	S	W	Exporter	200	250		450
				Importer	200	250	9	459

Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, downloaded on 10/07/2018

**Progress on recommendations:** No progress on addressing the recommendations appears to have been made, as the MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) acknowledged that the available information was insufficient to determine whether collection for commercial export should be permitted. It was noted that research on demography, physiology and senescence was underway (MA of Madagascar, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), but it was unclear how this research would contribute to non-detriment findings. The recommendation on permitting exports only at the species level is not longer considered relevant.

One expert consulted noted that “given the large size of its extent of occurrence, a moderate trade quota would be very unlikely to be detrimental for the survival of the species” (Glaw, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). A second expert concurred with this view (Eckhardt, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). It was also noted that only juvenile to sub-adult specimens should be collected from the wild given the short lifespan of the species and sensitivity of young individuals to stress, and therefore any permitted collection should only take place in December (Eckhardt, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). However, a conservative quota has not been proposed.

### *Phelsuma* spp.

The MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that based on the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2, no new information was available on the distribution, size of the population or its status and trends for the four species (*Phelsuma borai*, *P. breviceps*, *P. gouldi*, and *P. standingi*). It was noted that whilst *P. standingi* was mainly associated with relatively intact forests, it was reported to also survive in urban areas

after assisted colonization (Raselimanana pers. comm. to MA of Madagascar, 2011; *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), whereas *P. breviceps* was mainly associated with thorny forest vegetation.

**Threats:** *Phelsuma standingi* was reported to be “so prized by reptile collectors the world over that it has been all but hunted out locally” (Tyson, 2013). Noting the general lack of regulation in the country, Raxworthy (in: Tyson, 2013) commented that up around 150 individuals were caught on permits issued for the capture of 10 or 20 animals.

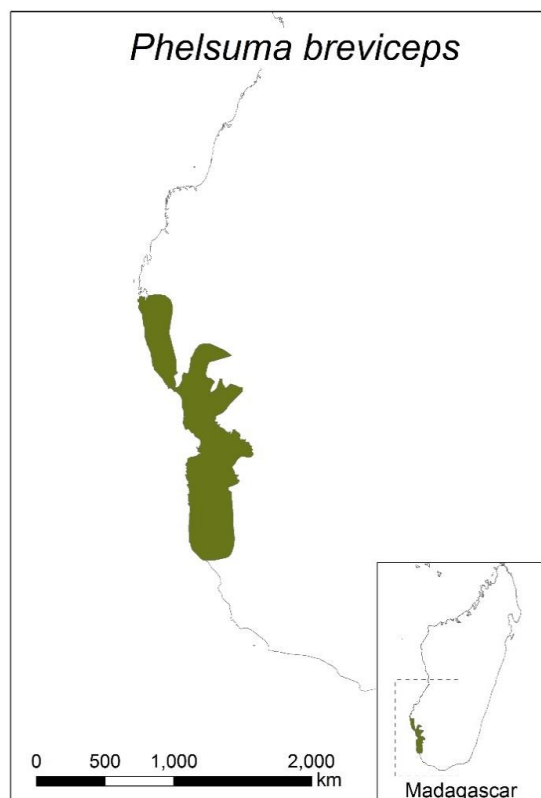
**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *P. borai*, *P. breviceps*, *P. gouldi* or *P. standingi* from or originating in Madagascar was reported 2014-2016.

The MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) reported that according to their archives, no records of permits issued were found, and illegal trade in the species was not documented (recommendations to suspend trade in the four *Phelsuma* spp. have been in place since 20<sup>th</sup> January 1995).

**Progress on recommendations:** Based on a lack of progress on the recommendations for *Phelsuma borai* and *P. breviceps*, the MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) acknowledged that there was insufficient scientific basis to determine non-detrimental export quotas for these two species. However, it appears that this was intended to refer to *P. borai* and *P. gouldi*, as the response then provides a justification for export quotas for *P. breviceps* and *P. standingi* that were previously proposed in 2012 (50 and 96 respectively), and are still supported by the MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

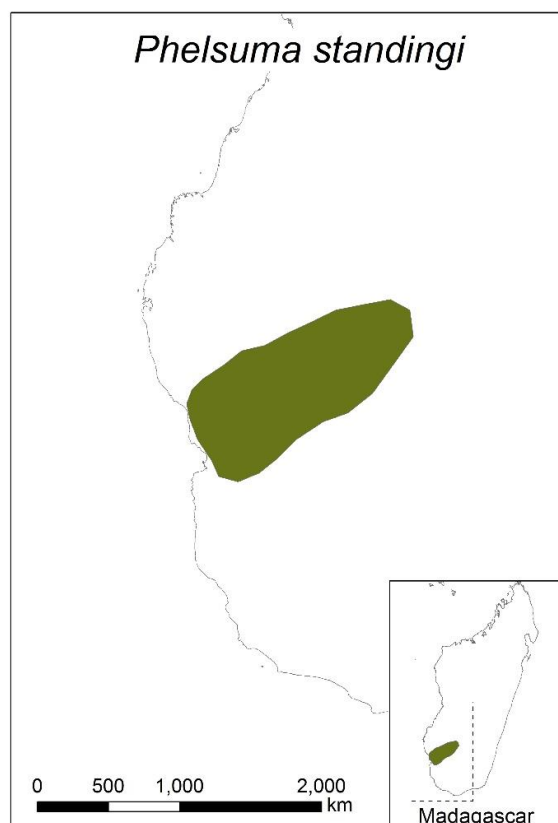
During 2012-2014, export quotas for reptiles were derived from a formula adopted by the Scientific Authority which used a number of parameters including: the area of occurrence of the species, the fragmentation of habitat, the type of habitat occupied (primary, secondary or anthropogenic), species abundance, mortality during collection and transport (estimated 10%) and a “collection coefficient” (MA of Madagascar, *in litt.* to CITES Secretariat, 2017). Where quotas were considered too high based on the formula results, they were reduced taking account of the IUCN Red List category, with for example, a Vulnerable species being allocated a quota of 50-250 individuals (MA of Madagascar *in litt.* to the CITES Secretariat, 2017). This quota adjustment approach was recently outlined in AC30 Doc. 12.2 Annex 2 in relation to trade in *Brookesia* spp. A quota adjustment based on the IUCN category of the species was not referred to in the response by Madagascar in relation to *Phelsuma breviceps* and *P. standingi*.

A quota of 50 individuals was considered to be non-detrimental for *Phelsuma breviceps* on the basis that the species is easy to identify (regular light dorsal spots and loose and fragile skin), it is known from different localities and habitat types within its range that have recognised an extension of habitat of ca. 170 km north from its former known limits (MA of Madagascar, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). An identical justification was provided for consideration by the Standing Committee (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). A range map showing the extent of occurrence in south-western Madagascar was also provided by the MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Extent of occurrence of *P. breviceps* in Madagascar (recreated from Madagasikara Voakajy, 2011).

A quota of 96 individuals was considered to be non-detrimental for *Phelsuma standingi* on the basis of the species range, amount of remaining forest, and noting that the quota is a very small proportion of the national population, and noting that it is easy to identify according to the head colouring and size (MA of Madagascar, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). A range map showing the extent of occurrence of *P. standingi* in south-western Madagascar based on the IUCN assessment was also provided by the MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), although this has been updated in the version recreated in Figure 3.



**Figure 3.** Extent of occurrence of *P. standingi* in Madagascar (recreated from the Red List Index, 2010).

In SC66 Doc. 31. 2 Annex 2 (p.165) it was noted that Frank Glaw, (Herpetologist, Zoologische Staatssammlung München and one of the IUCN Red List assessors for *P. breviceps*) considered that the export of 50 individuals of *P. breviceps* and no more than 100 individuals of *P. standingi* would be sustainable and would not provide any significant threat to the species (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2015). Although removal of the trade suspension was suggested (SC66 Doc. 31. 2 Annex 2), concerns expressed by Parties led to the retention of the suspension for these two species from Madagascar (SC66 Summary Record).

The long-term (12 month deadline) AC recommendation for *Phelsuma borai*, and *P. gouldi* is considered to remain appropriate.

#### D. Consultation with the range State

**Future trade:** The MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted an interest in future trade of all species subject to trade suspensions, but recognised the main hurdle as the lack of data on abundance, population densities and population sizes.

**Challenges faced and identification of needs:** In relation to the species included under SC recommendations to suspend trade, the MA of Madagascar (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) reported that population monitoring focused on the impacts of collection had not been conducted, and therefore there are no outcomes on which to base non-detriment findings. Financial support for carrying out detailed population assessments were considered necessary. It was noted that Malagasy researchers and scientific authorities had been unable to organise their own field missions. Funded research in Madagascar was noted to focus on biological inventories, genetics and species ecology rather than harvest-related studies.

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# Mali

## *Poicephalus fuscicollis* and *Uromastyx dispar*

### A. Summary and recommendations

The distribution of *Poicephalus fuscicollis* has been updated, and Mali is no longer considered to be a range State. An annual report was submitted by Mali for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. No trade in *P. fuscicollis* was reported by Mali or importers during 2014-2016, however Mali reported commercial exports of 250 live wild-sourced individuals of *Uromastyx dispar* during 2014-2016 (indicating a possible intent to trade in the future), and additional trade was reported by importers (sources I and F). Mali did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions although the recent trade in *U. dispar* indicates an intent to trade in the future. At present, Mali appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade in *U. dispar*, and **the suspension for *U. dispar* may still be appropriate**. Given that Mali is no longer a range State for *P. fuscicollis* and international trade is not anticipated, **the removal of the trade suspension for *P. fuscicollis* from Mali may be warranted**. Any concerns relating to the captive-breeding of *U. dispar* in Mali could be considered under Resolution 17.7 (*Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*). The potential non-compliance issues for Mali and importers should be further considered by the SC and Secretariat.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Remove suspension for *Poicephalus fuscicollis* (Brown-necked Parrot)

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Uromastyx dispar*

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 10:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC16, AC22) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC16 (December 2000)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>	9 July 2001	<p><b>Within 90 days the Management Authority of Mali should provide the CITES Secretariat with detailed information on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the detailed distribution and abundance of this species in its country; and</li> <li>ii) the justification, or the scientific basis by which it has established that the quantities currently exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.</li> </ul>	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations (AC17 Doc. 7.1; SC45 Doc12). In a previous review of long-standing suspensions, the Secretariat recommended that the suspension should remain (SC57); it was reported there were no changes concerning the case (SC65 Doc. 26.1).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to confirm occurrence within the country and demonstrate intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.
Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC22 (July 2006)		SC66 outcome
<i>Uromastyx dispar</i>	22 August 2008	<p><b>Within six months:</b></p> <p>Clarify to the Secretariat the scientific basis for the annual export quota.</p> <p>Clarify to the Secretariat if captive breeding of <i>U. dispar</i> or other <i>Uromastyx</i> species takes place in Mali, and if so, provide details on the nature and extent of captive breeding.</p>	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations (SC57 Doc. 29.1 (Rev. 2)).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

**Within 18 months:**

Conduct a status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species; develop and implement a population monitoring programme for the species; and advise the Secretariat of the details of the assessment and the programme. Establish an annual export quota based on the results of the assessment and programme

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Mali as legislation that is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 2) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Mali remains the same as when the species were last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated in August 2017 (CITES, 2017).

### *Poicephalus fuscicollis*

**Taxonomic note:** The recommendation to suspend trade was originally formed for *Poicephalus robustus* from Mali, however Coetzer *et al.* (2015) was adopted as the CITES Standard Reference at CoP17 in 2016 (Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17)) which split the species; *Poicephalus robustus* is now considered to be restricted to South Africa, with the new species *Poicephalus fuscicollis* occurring in all other range States. The species included within the RST from Mali is therefore considered to be *P. fuscicollis*.

**Distribution:** SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 noted that the occurrence of the species in Mali was questionable. SC57 Doc. 29.2 noted that the species only appears to occur as a vagrant in the country. Based on a recommendation by Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett (2005), Kirwan (2018) reported that records of *P. fuscicollis* in Mali should be “rejected”, and BirdLife International (2017), no longer consider that the species is a non-breeding vagrant in Mali.

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Mali for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *P. fuscicollis* from or originating in Mali was reported 2014-2016.

### *Uromastix dispar*

**Threats:** *Uromastix dispar* was reported to be one of the spiny-tailed lizards used in medicinal products in Malaysia and available in multiple forms such as capsules, oils, fats, coffee-mix and as whole dried skins (Ching and Chng, 2016). Market prices for various spiny-tailed lizard products were observed ranging from MYR3 (EUR 0.64) for a packet of coffee-mix claiming to contain spiny-tailed lizard derivatives, to MYR50- 90 (EUR 10-20) for a bottle of 60 capsules, and MYR 7000 (EUR 1500) for a live animal (Ching and Chng, 2016). Capsules were reported to be the most commonly available product from market surveys, direct communications with distributors, and at the 2014 Malaysia Agriculture, horticulture and Agrotourism (MAHA) fair (Ching and Chng, 2016).

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Mali for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, direct exports of *U. dispar* from Mali 2014-2016 comprised 250 live, wild-sourced animals exported for commercial purposes in 2014 according to Mali and commercial trade of 122 live source I animals in 2014 and 15 live source F animals in 2015 according to importer reported data (United States). Indirect exports of *U. dispar* originating in Mali 2014-2016 was reported in 2014, and comprised 400 live wild-sourced animals for commercial purposes re-exported via Togo to Indonesia, and 200 live source F animals re-exported via Togo to the United States, reported by Togo only.

## D. Consultation with the range State

Mali did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was therefore not possible to determine whether there has been any further progress on implementing the AC/PC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. The AC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate.

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# Mozambique

## *Cordylus tropidosternum*, *Smaug mossambicus*, Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Cordylus tropidosternum*, *Smaug mossambicus*, Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae or Zamiaceae from Mozambique. Annual reports were submitted by Mozambique for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. No trade in *Cordylus tropidosternum*, *Smaug mossambicus*, Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae or Zamiaceae was reported by Mozambique or importers during 2014-2016. Mozambique was consulted in the margins of the recent AC/PC meetings. Mozambique noted that the AC/PC recommendations had not been addressed, with the main challenges being a lack of financial resources and technical knowledge relating to survey techniques. An interest in future trade of the two reptiles, *Cordylus tropidosternum* and *Smaug mossambicus*, was noted but it is less clear that future trade in the cycad *Cycas thouarsii* (the only Appendix II species of the three plant families that occurs in Mozambique) is anticipated. In the first instance, Parties/other organisations could offer expertise in the development of lizard survey methodologies. There is political will to submit funding proposals, but further assistance may be needed to assist the country in making proposals to relevant funding mechanisms to increase the probability of successful outcomes. Tanzania has reported exports of *Cordylus tropidosternum* (and has an annual quota of 5000 wild specimens), and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, Tanzania may be able to provide support to Mozambique in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding for this species. It is unclear if exports of *Cycas thouarsii* are intended, but if not, Mozambique are encouraged to publish a zero export quota. Until such time that funding can be obtained to implement well-designed scientific surveys to establish non-detrimental export quotas in compliance with Article IV, **the suspensions may still be appropriate**. If retained, the suspension for the families Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae could be replaced with the single species *Cycas thouarsii*.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate *Cordylus tropidosternum* (East African Spiny-tailed Lizard) and *Smaug mossambicus* (Mozambique Girdled Lizard)

Remove suspension for Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae and replace suspension for Cycadaceae with the species *Cycas thouarsii* only

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 11:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC16; AC25) and Plants Committee (PC15) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC16 (December 2000)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Cordylus tropidosternum</i>	10 August 2001	<p><b>The Management Authority of Mozambique should provide the CITES Secretariat with detailed information on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) distribution and abundance of this species in its country;</li> <li>ii) the justification, or the scientific basis by which it has established that the quantities currently exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species;</li> <li>iii) the procedures used to correctly identify the species [e.g. the</li> </ul>	Partially addressed. Mozambique provided the Secretariat with information on the distribution and relative abundance within the country (SC45 Doc 12). Other recommendations relating to a clear explanation of how the species was distinguished from	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC16 (December 2000)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
		<p>identification key and characteristics used to identify this species from other species of the same genus]; and</p> <p>iv) justification for permitting exports of this species that regularly exceed the declared annual export quota.</p>	<p>other related species, a non-detriment finding or justification for regularly exceeding exports was not provided.</p>	
Taxon		Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC25 (July 2011)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<b><i>Smaug mossambicus</i></b>	7 September 2012	<p><b>Within 90 days the Management Authority should provide the Secretariat with detailed information on:</b></p> <p>i) the distribution and abundance of <i>Cordylus mossambicus</i> in its country; and</p> <p>ii) the justification, and the scientific basis, by which it has established that the quantities exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 and</p> <p>iii) provide an explanation for the quota apparently exceeded in 2003, 2004 and 2007.</p> <p><b>Within 2 years the Management Authority should:</b></p> <p>a) Conduct a national status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species and advise the Secretariat of the details of any management measures in place;</p> <p>b) Establish a revised annual export quota for wild taken specimens based on the results of the assessment;</p> <p>c) The Management Authority should forward the quota details to the Secretariat (including zero quotas) and provide an explanation of how the Scientific Authority determined that the quantities would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and</p> <p>d) The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, should consider the information provided and, if satisfied, publish the proposed export quota.</p>	<p>Not addressed. No response to the recommendations received (SC62 Doc. 27.1 (Rev 1); SC62 Summary Record).</p>	<p>The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.</p>
Taxon		Recommendations and deadlines resulting from PC15 (May 2005)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<b>Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae (<i>Cycas thouarsii</i> is the only species of these families that occurs in Mozambique).</b>	6 December 2006	<p><b>Within 6 months:</b></p> <p>a) The Management Authority should provide the CITES Secretariat with information on seizures of specimens of Cycads, including on shipments coming from South Africa and on plants confiscated within the country.</p> <p>b) The Management Authority should provide the CITES Secretariat with information on the measures that are in place or were taken to monitor and regulate trade in Cycads</p>	<p>Not addressed. No response to the recommendations (SC54 Doc. 42).</p>	<p>The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was provided to demonstrate intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.</p>

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Mozambique as legislation that is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for

effective implementation of CITES (Category 2). The national legislation category assigned to Mozambique remains the same as when the species was last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation for Mozambique was last updated in May 2017 (CITES, 2017).

### *Cordylus tropidosternum*, *Smaug mossambicus* and Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae

The recommendation to suspend trade in *Smaug mossambicus* was originally formed for *Cordylus mossambicus*, however Stanley *et al.* (2011) was adopted as the CITES Standard Reference at CoP17 in 2016 (Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17)) following which the species was reassigned to the genus *Smaug*.

No further information on the species distribution, population status and trend, threats or management was located.

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Mozambique for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *S. mossambicus* from or originating in Mozambique was reported 2014-2016.

No direct trade in *C. tropidosternum* from Mozambique was reported 2014-2016. Indirect trade in *C. tropidosternum* 2014-2016 comprised two wild-sourced scientific specimens reported in 2015, one re-exported via South Africa and one re-exported via the United States.

No direct or indirect trade in *Cycas thouarsii* from or originating in Mozambique was reported 2014-2016.

## D. Consultation with the range State

Whilst Mozambique did not provide a written response to the consultation for this report, the Management Authority (MA) met with the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC in the margins of AC30 (July 2018). The following information relating to the long-standing recommendations to suspend trade from Mozambique was provided by the MA of Mozambique (pers. comm. to Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Progress on recommendations:** It was noted that the priority species for addressing recommendations to suspend trade within the country had been *Hippopotamus amphibius*, and following a national survey and a detailed non-detriment finding (see SC69 Doc. 30 Annex 1 and 4), *H. amphibius* from Mozambique had been removed from the Review of Significant Trade process at SC69 (see SC69 Summary Record). However, progress on the remaining species had not yet been made. For *Cordylus tropidosternum*, recommendation i) can be considered complete, and recommendation iv) seems no longer relevant as it relates to trade control 18 years ago; recommendations ii) and iii) are considered to remain appropriate. For *Smaug mossambicus*, recommendation iii) on explaining quota excesses >10 years ago seems no longer relevant; all other recommendations are considered to remain appropriate for this species.

The recommendations for cycads (essentially *Cycas thouarsii*) is potentially out of date, and could be replaced. If no exports are intended, Mozambique could be encouraged to publish a zero quota. If exports of *Cycas thouarsii* are intended, a conservative export quota could be proposed as an interim measure, with a justification to demonstrate this would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, for consideration by Secretariat and PC Chair.

**Future trade:** An interest in future trade of the two lizard species *Cordylus tropidosternum* and *Smaug mossambicus* was noted. It was less clear if there was any interest in future trade of *Cycas thouarsii*; no companies were known to have a current interest in trade in the species.

**Challenges faced and identification of needs:** It was acknowledged that at the time the recommendations to suspend trade from Mozambique came into force, CITES implementation within the

country was not effective. However, it was noted that Mozambique has now strengthened its legislation for the implementation of CITES, has defined clear points of entry for wildlife products, and has developed clear definitions for the MA and SA roles.

The main challenge identified in addressing the recommendations was the lack of funding. Despite funding applications having been submitted (successfully to the World Bank in the context of the *Hippopotamus amphibius* surveys), it was recognised that fewer organisations have an interest in funding surveys for lizard species than for elephants and hippos. However, technical support in terms of designing surveys for *Cordylus tropidosternum* and *Smaug mossambicus* was also considered a much-needed first step to strengthen proposals for funding to develop non-detriment findings.

## E. References

- CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at: [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf). [Accessed: 27/06/2018].
- Management Authority of Mozambique, 2018. Francisco Augusto Pariela. pers. comm. to Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, 17 July 2018.
- Stanley, E.L., Bauer, A.M., Jackman, T.R., Branch, W.R. and Mouton, P.N. 2011. Between a rock and a hard polytomy: Rapid radiation in the rupicolous girdled lizards (Squamata: Cordylidae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 58: 53–70.



# Niger

## *Chamaeleo africanus*

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Chamaeleo africanus* from Niger. Annual reports were submitted by Niger for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. No trade in *C. africanus* was reported by either Niger or importers during 2014-2016. Niger responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. Although the Management Authority of Niger reported that the species appears to have a favourable conservation status on the basis of local knowledge, a lack of financial resources was identified as a challenge in undertaking quantitative assessments to address the AC recommendations. As noted in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2, the species does have a wide distribution within the country, but no information is available on the population status in the country. Although not specified, Niger may also need technical expertise in the development of chameleon surveys. Cameroon reports exports of *Chamaeleo africanus*, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, Cameroon may be able to provide support to Niger in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding for this species. Until further information can be provided to demonstrate that a level of export would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, **the suspension may still be appropriate.**

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Chamaeleo africanus* (African Chameleon)

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 12:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC25) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC25 (July 2011)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Chamaeleo africanus</i>	7 September 2012	<b>Within 90 days</b>	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations (SC62 Doc. 27.1)	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.
		a) The Management Authority of Niger should provide the Secretariat with available information on:		
		i) the distribution and abundance of <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> in its country; and		
		ii) the justification, and the scientific basis, by which it has been established that the quantities exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3; and		
		b) The Management Authority should establish an interim conservative quota for this species, based on estimates of sustainable off-take and available scientific information and provide details to the Secretariat.		
		<b>Within two years</b>		
		a) Conduct a national status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species; and advise the Secretariat of the details and any management measures in place;		
		b) Establish a revised annual export quota for wild taken specimens based on the results of the assessment;		



Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC25 (July 2011)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
		<p>c) The Management Authority should forward the quota details to the Secretariat (including zero quotas) and provide an explanation of how the Scientific Authority determined that the quantities would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and</p> <p>d) The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, should consider the information provided and, if satisfied, publish the proposed export quota.</p>		

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Taxonomic note:** It was noted that whilst the name “*C. africanus*” is applied to populations of this species across its wide distribution, there has been a lack of in-depth population/genetic studies that may reveal additional species (IUCN Chameleon Specialist Group, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Distribution:** The species is widespread in Niger, as illustrated by Figure 1.

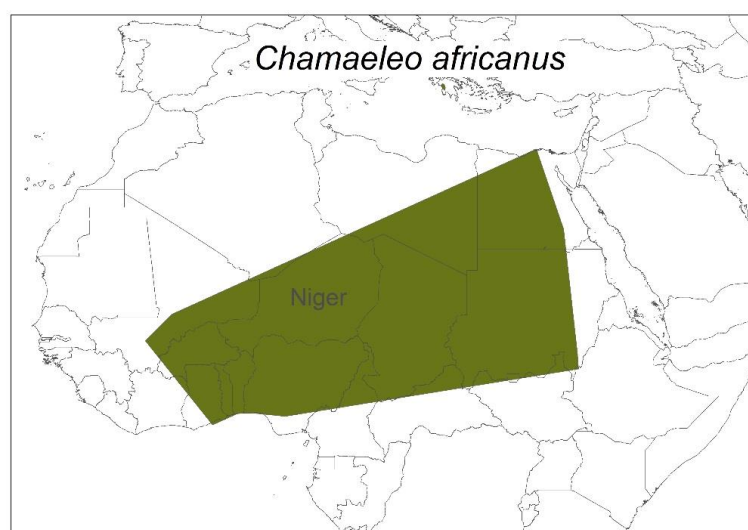


Figure 1. Distribution of *C. africanus* in Niger (based on IUCN, 2014)

**Threats:** Given its wide distribution, *C. africanus* was considered unlikely to suffer any threats in Niger apart from attrition to local populations (IUCN Chameleon Specialist Group, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Niger for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *C. africanus* from or originating in Niger was reported 2014-2016.

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Niger as legislation that is believed generally not to meet any of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 3) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Niger remains the same as when the species was last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated in June 2017 (CITES, 2017).

## D. Consultation with the range State

The Management Authority (MA) of Niger (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) responded to the consultation relating to long-standing suspensions.

*Progress on recommendations:* It was confirmed that no scientific investigation had been undertaken relating to the species distribution or population dynamics of *Chamaeleo africanus* in the country. However, on the basis of observations of local communities, it was noted that the population appears to have a favourable conservation state. The AC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate.

*Future trade:* Niger confirmed its interest in future international trade of *C. africanus*.

*Challenges faced and identification of needs:* The main challenge identified by the MA of Niger was the lack of financial resources required to undertake scientific investigations in order to provide the elements for consideration of withdrawal of the recommendation to suspend trade in the species. Additional support was requested from the CITES Secretariat or other potential partners in order to implement scientific investigations, and it was noted that the winter period (August-September) would provide the optimal field conditions for surveys, as juvenile cohorts can be more easily observed.

## E. References

- CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at:  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf).  
[Accessed: 27/06/2018].
- IUCN 2014. *Chamaeleo africanus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2018-1  
<http://maps.iucnredlist.org/map.html?id=157273> [Accessed 1/8/2018].
- IUCN Chameleon Specialist Group, 2018. Colin Tilbury, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 23/7/2018.

# Solomon Islands

## *Corucia zebrata*, *Ornithoptera priamus* and *O. victoriae*

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Corucia zebrata*, *Ornithoptera priamus* or *O. victoriae* from Solomon Islands. An annual report was submitted by Solomon Islands for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. Although no exports of the species were reported by Solomon Islands during 2014-2016, commercial trade in wild-sourced live specimens (*Corucia zebrata*) and bodies (*Ornithoptera priamus* and *O. victoriae*) was reported by importers, in apparent contravention of the trade suspensions. Solomon Islands did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions, although the recent trade in all three species indicates an intent to trade in the future. Other range States export *Ornithoptera* spp. within Oceania and Asia, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and/ or mentoring by other Parties (Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia) support could be provided to the Solomon Islands in terms of formulating non-detriment findings. At present, Solomon Islands appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade in these taxa and **the suspension may still be appropriate**. The potential non-compliance issues for Solomon Islands and importers should be further considered by the SC and Secretariat.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Suspension may still be appropriate for *Corucia zebrata* (Prehensile-tailed Skink), *Ornithoptera priamus* (Common Birdwing) and *O. victoriae* (Queen Victoria's Birdwing)

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 13:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC9; AC16) and SC66 outcomes.

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC16 (December 2000)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Corucia zebrata</i>	9 July 2001	<p><b>The competent authority of the Solomon Islands should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) provide the Secretariat with detailed information on the distribution and abundance of this species in its country, and the justification, or the scientific basis by which it has established that the quantities currently exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species; and</li> <li>ii) explain the biological and scientific basis for authorizing exports of specimens of this species for each year during the period 1993-1996 that were substantially in excess of the declared annual quotas.</li> </ul>	Not addressed: No response to the recommendations was received (AC17 Doc. 7.1; SC45 Doc. 12). The Secretariat and AC Chair considered the suspension should be retained (SC57 Doc. 29.2).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.
Taxon		Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC9 (September 1993)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Ornithoptera priamus</i> and <i>O. victoriae</i>	20 January 1995	<p><b>Within 3 months the competent authority of the Solomon Islands should:</b></p> <p>Provide details of the biological basis for</p>	Solomon Islands proposed a "cautious quota" of 4000 butterflies, but did not	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was

determining that the exports of specimens of the species will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.	provide the basis for this quota (SC57 Doc. 29.2). The Secretariat and AC Chair recommended that the trade suspension should be retained (SC57 Doc. 29.2).	required to demonstrate intended exports for wild or ranched specimens would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.
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### C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Solomon Islands as legislation that is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 2) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to the Solomon Islands has been updated since the species were last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016); previously assessed as legislation that is believed generally not to meet the requirements for the implementation of CITES (Category 3) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated in May 2017 (CITES, 2017).

#### *Corucia zebrata*

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Solomon Islands for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, direct trade in *C. zebrata* from the Solomon Islands 2014-2016 was reported by importers only and mainly comprised 135 live, captive-bred animals (Table 1). Wild-sourced trade consisted of eight live animals for commercial purposes in 2016, reported by the United States and 10 scientific specimens reported by the United States 2014-2016.

**Table 1:** Direct exports of *Corucia zebrata* from Solomon Islands, 2014-2016. All trade was in number and reported by importers only.

Term	Purpose	Source	2014	2015	2016	Total
live	T	C			10	10
				30	95	125
		I			6	6
		W			8	8
specimens	S	W	4	2	4	10

Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, downloaded on 10/07/2018

Indirect trade in *C. zebrata* originating in the Solomon Islands comprised live individuals for commercial purposes, re-exported via Canada in 2016: 10 wild-sourced and two captive-bred according to Canada and eight 'seized/confiscated' (Source I) according to importers.

#### *Ornithoptera priamus*

**Taxonomic note:** *Ornithoptera priamus* and *Ornithoptera urvillianus* were previously treated as separate distinct species, however the CITES Standard Reference, Matsuka (2001), considers *urvillianus* to be a subspecies of *O. priamus* (*O. p. urvillianus*) (Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17)).

**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, direct trade in *O. priamus* from Solomon Islands 2014-2016 comprised live individuals for commercial purposes imported by Japan, the majority of which were captive-born (source F), although eleven were wild-sourced (Table 2). All direct trade was reported by importers only in 2015-2016.

**Table 2:** Direct exports of *Ornithoptera priamus* from Solomon Islands 2015-2016. All trade was in number and reported by importers only. No trade was reported in 2014.

Term	Purpose	Source	2015	2016	Total
bodies	T	F	684	78	762
		W		11	11
		-		19	19

Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, downloaded on 10/07/2018

Indirect trade in *O. priamus* originating in Solomon Islands 2014-2016 comprised one body for personal purposes with an unknown source, re-exported via Canada in 2015, as reported by importers, and three ranched bodies for commercial purposes re-exported via Germany in 2015 (one) and 2016 (two).

### *Ornithoptera victoriae*

**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, direct trade in *O. victoriae* from Solomon Islands 2014-2016 comprised bodies for commercial purposes, reported by the importer (Japan) only. Whilst the majority of bodies were captive-born (source F); twenty specimens were wild-sourced (Table 3). No trade was reported in 2014.

**Table 3:** Direct exports of *Ornithoptera victoriae* from Solomon Islands 2015-2016. All trade was in number and reported by importers only. No trade was reported in 2014.

Term	Purpose	Source	2015	2016	Total
bodies	T	F	91	88	179
		W		20	20
		-		53	53

Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, downloaded on 10/07/2018

Indirect trade in *O. victoriae* originating in the Solomon Islands comprised two ranched bodies for personal purposes re-exported via Austria in 2015 and 13 ranched bodies for commercial purposes re-exported via Germany in 2015 (eight) and 2016 (five); all indirect trade was reported by re-exporters.

## D. Consultation with the range State

Solomon Islands did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was therefore not possible to determine whether there has been any further progress on implementing the AC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions.

For *C. zebrata*, the AC recommendation ii) may no longer be relevant, as it relates to trade that occurred > 20 years ago. Recommendation i) is considered to remain appropriate. For the *Ornithoptera*, the recommendations are considered to remain appropriate.

## E. References

- CITES 2017. *Status of legislative progress for implementing CITES*. Available at:  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES\\_national\\_legislative\\_status\\_table.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/CITES_national_legislative_status_table.pdf).  
 [Accessed: 27/06/2018].
- Matsuka, H. 2001. *Natural history of birdwing butterflies*. Tokyo, Japan.

# South Sudan

## *Balearica pavonina*

### A. Summary and recommendations

South Sudan now has a designated scientific institution capable of advising whether exports of CITES species are non-detrimental to the species concerned. South Sudan is a non-Party, and therefore does not submit annual reports, and no trade in *Balearica pavonina* was reported by importers during 2014-2016. South Sudan responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. Progress on implementing the recommendations directed by the AC has been hampered by the political instability in the country, and lack of financial resources for any conservation initiatives. The scientific institution that acts as an equivalent Scientific Authority considers that the trade suspension should be maintained until sufficient data have been collated on the species distribution, population size, and habitat condition. Until such time that funding can be obtained to implement well-designed scientific surveys to establish non-detrimental export quotas in compliance with Article IV, **the suspension may still be appropriate.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Suspension may still be appropriate for *Balearica pavonina* (Black Crowned Crane)

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 14:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC26) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC26 (March 2012)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	2 May 2013	<p><b>Within 90 days, the competent authorities should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provide the Secretariat with detailed information on management measures in place to monitor wild populations of the species and implement the requirements of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 of the Convention when authorizing exports.</li> <li>b) Provide available information to the Secretariat on the distribution, abundance and conservation status of <i>Balearica pavonina</i> in South Sudan; and</li> <li>c) Provide justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of <i>Balearica pavonina</i> exported were not detrimental to the survival of the species and were in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</li> </ul>	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations received (SC63 Doc 14).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

### C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

South Sudan is a non-Party to the Convention. The country has designated a scientific institution capable of advising that exports of CITES species are not detrimental to the survival of the species concerned since the time of the last review of long-standing trade suspensions (October 2015); this institution is the University of Juba.

**Distribution:** The species was reported to be found in sub-populations throughout most of South Sudan (Nikolaus, 1987). It has been recorded from the following locations: Panyidui along the Sobat River (pers. obs. Ding, 2008, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), Bentiu (Jarvel, 2010), Padak and Jalle (UNEP, 2007; pers. obs. Lado *et al.*, 2013, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), as well as a number of protected areas including (but not limited to)

Nimule National Park (Phanjalla post and Onyma river) (Simon and Oyoo-Okoth, 2016, pers. comm. to Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), Southern National Park, Badingilo National Park (Mongalla, Terekeka and Kuda wetlands), and Zeraf, Fanyikang, Shambe and Meshra Game Reserves (Tor, 2016, pers. comm. to Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Population status and trends:** The population of *B. pavonina* within South Sudan is not known (Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). Historically the species was reported to be “very common” (Nikolaus, 1987), and very large populations were reported to be supported in the flooded grasslands near Padak in Jonglei state (UNEP, 2007). While Sinclair and Ryan (2010) reported that the species was locally common in the east but scarce in the west. Vocalisations of many individuals deep in the marshes of Padak and Jalle areas were noted (pers. obs. Lado and Ding, 2013, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). Hundreds of individuals were seen congregating in the Mashra Game Reserve (Tor, 2016, pers. comm. to Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), as well as in Panyidui areas along the Sobat River 20 km south of Malakal town (pers. obsv. Ding, 2008, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). However, there have been no systematic surveys to assess distribution and population size and trends across the country, and there are some indications that the species is experiencing range contraction due to developmental projects and political instability (Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Threats:** Habitat loss and degradation was identified as one of the main threats to the species in South Sudan, caused by prolonged drought (resulting in wetland habitats drying up such as the banks of the Nile in Juba), overgrazing, fire and oil pollution from production fields (Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). Political instability and armed conflict was also highlighted as a threat, as people seek refuge in grazing habitats of *B. pavonina* (Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *B. pavonina* from or originating in South Sudan 2014-2016.

**Management:** According to Lado and Ding (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), hunting of all animals is generally prohibited in South Sudan, according to Ministerial Order (2006) and Presidential Order (2012).

## D. Consultation with the range State

**Progress on recommendations:** No specific progress on the AC recommendations was referred to in the consultation response provided by Lado and Ding (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), however a more general conservation initiative for the species was proposed. The activities included:

- a) A survey to determine the population size, habitat condition and distribution of the species within and across its range in South Sudan;
- b) Annual monitoring surveys, and the establishment of the database to monitor population trends and impact of the developmental projects on the species;
- c) A study to monitor the spread of alien introduced species with the aim of accessing whether they have become invasive or not, and whether they affect the habitat of *B. pavonina*;
- d) Collaboration with Sudan to monitor the migration of the species and identify breeding areas and areas along the route where individuals are killed, e.g. by radio-tagging some individual birds;
- e) Awareness raising campaigns accompanied by visual aids.

The AC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate, although recommendation c) could be re-phrased so that it relates to potential future exports rather than past exports.

*Future trade:* The designated scientific institution capable of advising that exports of CITES species are not detrimental to the survival of the species recommended that the suspension should remain in force until such time that sufficient data have been collected (Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018); indicating that future trade could be anticipated subject to a non-detriment finding.

*Challenges faced and identification of needs:* Significant challenges were identified in enacting meaningful conservation initiatives within the country, including political instability and disregard for the rule of law, and a lack of funding (Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). It was noted that wildlife policy and laws have not been enacted due to other government priorities, and there was weak implementation of transitional laws. Due to the political situation within the country, conservation education, outreach campaigns and law enforcement patrols could not currently be undertaken (Lado and Ding, *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). In addition to funding, it was identified that items of equipment were required (bird tags or radio collars, field guides), as well as technical assistance.

## E. References

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# Sudan

## *Balearica pavonina*

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Balearica pavonina* from Sudan. An annual report was submitted by Sudan for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. Trade in captive-bred (source C) specimens reported by Sudan and importers during 2014-2016, although the species is reported to be difficult to breed in captivity. Sudan did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was not possible to determine whether any progress has been made on addressing AC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. In the first instance, Sudan should confirm whether they intend to export the species. Until the country engages with CITES and provides further information to demonstrate that a level of export would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV, **the suspension may still be appropriate.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Suspension may still be appropriate for *Balearica pavonina* (Black Crowned Crane)

### B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 15:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC26) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC26 (March 2012)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	2 May 2013	<p><b>Within 90 days, the Management Authority should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provide the Secretariat with information on the management measures in place to monitor wild populations of the species and implement the requirements of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 of the Convention when authorizing exports;</li> <li>b) Provide all available information to the Secretariat on the distribution, abundance and conservation status of <i>Balearica pavonina</i> in Sudan, explaining when the status was established and by what methodology the information was obtained; and</li> <li>c) Provide a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of <i>Balearica pavonina</i> exported were not detrimental to the survival of the species and were in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</li> </ul>	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations received (SC63 Doc 14).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

### C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Population status and trends:** Historically the species was reported to be “very common” (Nikolaus, 1987). While Sinclair and Ryan (2010) reported that the species was locally common in the east but scarce in the west.

**Trade:** An annual report was submitted by Sudan for 2014, but not yet for 2015 or 2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, direct trade in *B. pavonina* from Sudan 2014-2016 comprised live, captive-bred individuals (source C) imported by Qatar: four reported without a purpose by Sudan in 2014 and ten for commercial purposes reported by importers in 2015. Indirect trade in *B. pavonina* originating in Sudan 2014-

2016 consisted of ten live, captive-bred individuals re-exported for commercial purposes via Qatar to the United Arab Emirates in 2015, reported by Qatar only. It was noted that captive cranes rarely, if ever, reproduce (Williams *et al.*, 2003), so the source code of the reported trade may be questionable.

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Sudan as legislation that is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 2) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Sudan remains the same as when the species was last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated at CoP17 (CITES, 2017).

## D. Consultation with the range State

Sudan did not respond to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. It was therefore not possible to determine whether there has been any further progress on implementing the AC recommendations, determine whether future trade is intended, recognise any challenges faced or identify in-country needs in relation to lifting of trade suspensions. The AC recommendations are considered to remain appropriate, although recommendation c) could be re-phrased so that it relates to potential future exports rather than past exports.

## E. References

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# United Republic of Tanzania

## *Balearica regulorum*, *Agapornis fischeri*, *Malacochersus tornieri*, *Prunus africana*

### A. Summary and recommendations

No updates to the information in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2 could be found for *Balearica regulorum* or *Prunus africana* from Tanzania. Since SC66, *Agapornis fischeri* was re-confirmed as Near Threatened by the IUCN. Recent illegal trade in *Malacochersus tornieri* (not endemic) was highlighted by one expert, and was also documented for *A. fischeri* (endemic to Tanzania). Annual reports were submitted by Tanzania for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. No trade in wild-sourced specimens was reported by Tanzania or importers for *B. regulorum*, *A. fischeri*, *M. tornieri* or *P. africana* during 2014-2016. Tanzania was consulted in the margins of the recent AC/PC meetings and subsequently provided additional information in relation to the RST long-standing suspensions. Tanzania noted that the AC/PC recommendations had not been addressed, with the main challenge being a lack of financial resources. An interest in future trade of *A. fischeri*, *Balearica regulorum* and *Prunus africana* was noted, but without assistance, Tanzania appears unable to comply with the provisions in Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) for future trade or fully address the AC/PC recommendations for ***Balearica regulorum* and *Prunus africana* and the suspension may still be appropriate.** Other range States export *Prunus africana* within the region, and in line with paragraph 3c) of Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), it is recommended that through regional cooperation and /or mentoring, other Parties (such as Cameroon) provide support to Tanzania in terms of formulating a non-detriment finding.

There is no intention to resume trade in wild-sourced *Malacochersus tornieri* and therefore the **removal of the suspension for *M. tornieri* may be warranted.** Tanzania are encouraged to publish an annual zero export quota for *M. tornieri*, and any future concerns relating to the captive-breeding of this species in Tanzania could be considered under Resolution 17.7 (*Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*).

Tanzania propose an annual quota of 200 live individuals for *Agapornis fischeri* (presumably for 2020, after an export ban on live animals is intended to be lifted). Although the population is noted to be decreasing, the population estimate in the country appears high (290 205 -1 002 210 birds) according to the IUCN assessment of 2016. The proposed quota is therefore conservative and is likely to be non-detrimental. On this basis, **the suspension for *Agapornis fischeri* may no longer be appropriate.** Any further increases in quota for this species should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, with a scientifically robust justification of how the increase is based on estimates of sustainable off-take.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Retain suspensions for *Balearica regulorum* (Grey Crowned Crane) and *Prunus africana* (African Cherry)

Remove suspension for *Agapornis fischeri* (Fischer's Lovebird) and *Malacochersus tornieri* (Pancake Tortoise)

## B. Previous AC/PC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 16:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals and Plants Committee (AC7; AC26; PC16) and SC66 outcomes

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC26 (March 2012)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	2 May 2013	<p><b>Within 90 days the Management Authority should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish a conservative export quota of 50 specimens</li> <li>b) Provide the Secretariat with available information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the distribution and abundance of <i>Balearica regulorum</i> in United Republic of Tanzania; and</li> <li>ii. the justification, and the scientific basis, by which a quota can be established and is considered not to be detrimental to the survival of the species and is in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Within 2 years the Management Authority should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F. Conduct a national status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species; and advise the Secretariat of the details and any management measures in place;</li> <li>G. Establish a revised annual export quota for wild taken specimens based on the results of the assessment; and</li> <li>H. Provide the justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of <i>Balearica regulorum</i> to be exported would not be detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</li> </ul>	Not addressed. No response to the recommendations was received (SC63 Doc. 14).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis of the species unfavourable status and threats.
Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC7 (March 1992)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>	20 April 1993	<p><b>Within 3 months:</b></p> <p>(1) Temporary export quota: Establish a moratorium on exports until a population survey has been carried out and the results analysed.</p> <p><b>Within 12 months:</b></p> <p>(2) Population status and distribution: Undertake a population survey of the species</p> <p>Following SC57, the SC agreed by postal procedure to withdraw the suspension provided that Tanzania had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) provided the results of its ongoing population survey of the species and</li> <li>b) Explained how these will be used as a basis for making non-detriment findings.</li> <li>c) Established a cautious export quota for 2009; and</li> <li>d) Explained how future quotas will be adjusted as necessary to ensure that the level of trade sustainable</li> </ul>	Partially addressed: Tanzania requested removal of the suspensions after measures had been implemented (SC57 Doc 29.2 Annex 3) and considered an export quota of 10,000 to be conservative based on a survey of the Singida region which found a density of 1770 birds per km <sup>2</sup> . The Secretariat noted that the species had recovered in some areas and cautious export quotas has been established for 2007 and 2008 and the suspension should be withdrawn. (SC57 Doc. 29.2 Annex 1 (Rev. 1)) Additional measures were directed by the SC following SC57, and no reply was received.	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

<b><i>Malacochersus tornieri</i></b>	20 April 1993. Amended 20 June 1998 to allow for export of quotas of ranched or captive bred specimens.	<p><b>Within 3 months the Management Authority should:</b></p> <p>c) Introduce a moratorium on trade, pending evaluation of the results of a population survey and establishment of a sustainable-use management programme; and</p> <p><b>Within 12 months the Management Authority should:</b></p> <p>Initiate a population survey of the species; and develop a sustainable-use management programme.</p>	Addressed. A moratorium on exports of wild-specimens is in place, and no exports are intended.	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis of wild-sourced exports reported in the previous five years.
Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from PC16 (July 2006)	Progress on recommendations	SC66 outcome
<b><i>Prunus africana</i></b>	3 February 2009	<p><b>Within 3 months:</b></p> <p>In consultation with the CITES Secretariat and the Chairman of the Plants Committee, establish a conservative quota for export of <i>P. africana</i> bark and other parts and derivatives exported. This quota should be based on results of studies conducted in the new harvesting areas.</p> <p>Clarify reported exports of extract which are likely to be powder, and inform the Secretariat of any facilities to produce extract within the country.</p> <p><b>Within 1 year:</b></p> <p>Carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take, taking into account the need to conserve large seed-producing trees, and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested <i>P. africana</i> populations.</p> <p>Establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take.</p> <p>Provide a timetable to carry out peer-reviewed ecological studies and appropriate population modelling of <i>P. africana</i> in order to establish a long-term management plan for the sustainable use of this species.</p> <p><b>Within 2 years:</b></p> <p>The Management and Scientific Authorities should report to the Secretariat the final version of the long-term management plan and progress made against that plan.</p>	Partially addressed. Tanzania indicated some steps had been taken to implement the recommendations, including that only part of the bark of trees over 40 years old were harvested and no trees were felled in the process of collecting bark (SC57 Doc. 29.1 (Rev.2)). The SC concluded that little progress had been made in complying with the recommendations (Notification No. 2009/003).	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that further information was required to demonstrate exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Legislation:** Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in the United Republic of Tanzania (hereafter referred to as Tanzania) as legislation that is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (Category 2) (CITES, 2017). The national legislation category assigned to Tanzania remains the same as when the species were last assessed under the RST for SC66 (January 2016) (SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2). The assessment of the national legislation was last updated in September 2017 (CITES, 2017).

### *Balearica regulorum*

No further information on the species distribution, population status and trend, threats or management was located.

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Tanzania for 2014 and 2015, but not yet for 2016. According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *B. regulorum* from or originating in Tanzania was reported 2014-2016.

**Future trade:** The desire to conduct a survey of this species as noted by the Management Authority (MA) of Tanzania (pers. comm. to Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, 2018) indicates that there is an intension to trade this species in the future.

### *Agapornis fischeri*

**Population status and trends:** The species was again categorised as Near Threatened by the IUCN Red List in 2016 (consistent with the 2012 assessment) due its moderately rapid population reduction in its restricted range, due to trapping for export (BirdLife International, 2016). The authors commented that any evidence of a greater population decline, or more detailed information about how hybridisation was affecting this species could qualify *A. fischeri* for a higher threat category (BirdLife International, 2016).

**Threats:** Some evidence of illegal trade was reported. During a survey of 23 animal markets in Beirut during February to September 2014, *Agapornis fischeri* was the most frequently found CITES-listed species in trade, with 203 individuals observed for sale at a price of USD 40 (EUR 34) per bird (Abi-Said *et al.*, 2018). *Agapornis* spp., and particularly *A. fischeri*, was reported to be one of the most frequent parrot species in illegal trade involving the EU from 2007-2011 (Mundy-Taylor, 2013). Hybridisation with *Agapornis personatus* was also noted as a threat, although its current impact was unknown (BirdLife International, 2016).

**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, direct trade in *A. fischeri* from Tanzania 2014-2016 comprised 500 live, captive-bred birds imported by Turkey for commercial purposes in 2014. No indirect trade in *A. fischeri* originating in Tanzania was reported 2014-2016.

**Future trade:** Tanzania proposed an export quota of 200 live *Agapornis fischeri*, which was considered to be a conservative quota within sustainable limits. It was indicated that previous quotas had been substantially higher (10,000 in 2007 and 2008), and that the species is considered as a pest in Tanzania, and has been eradicated in some areas.

### *Malacochersus tornieri*

**Population status:** Participants at the IUCN SSC TFTSG African Turtle Red List workshop (Lomé, Togo, August 2013) concluded that the species meets the criteria for Critically Endangered, and a re-assessment is in preparation (van Dijk, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Threats:** Some additional evidence of historical illegal trade in specimens of *M. tornieri* was found, although the country of origin of illegal specimens is unknown. The species was found in seized shipments which had travelled illegally from Singapore to the United States in 2003, and 55 individuals were seized on the Hungary-Serbia border on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006 from a lorry arriving from Serbia (TRAFFIC, 2012). The species was found on sale on an (unnamed) auction website, and in both Taiwan (Province of China) and mainland China (Wu, 2007). *M. tornieri* was listed as one of “the most frequent targets” of illegal trade and customs seizures within Japan between 1995 and 2008 (Ishihara *et al.*, 2010). Auliya (*in litt* to European Commission, 2018) stated that illegal trade in the species continues to flourish and suggested that specimens may also be laundered as produced in captivity.

**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, direct trade in *M. tornieri* from Tanzania mainly comprised live, captive-born (source F) individuals for commercial purposes, with 969 reported by Tanzania and 983 reported by importers (Table 1). Hong Kong, SAR was the main importer, accounting for 43% according to both importer and exporter reported data. Indirect trade in *M. tornieri* originating in Tanzania 2014-2016 consisted of live, captive-born (source F) individuals re-exported for via United Arab Emirates in 2014 (35, reported by re-exporters only) and re-exported via Hong Kong, SAR in 2016 (100 reported by Hong Kong, SAR and 227 reported by importers).

**Table 1:** Direct exports of *Malacochersus tornieri* from Tanzania, 2014-2016.

Term	Purpose	Source	Reported by	2014	2015	2016	Total
live	P	F	Importer		4		4
			Exporter				
	T	F	Importer	466	417	100	983
			Exporter	658	311		969

Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, downloaded on 01/07/2018

**Future trade:** The MA of Tanzania (pers. comm. to Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that there was no intention to export wild-sourced specimens of this species, and confirmed that only specimens bred in captivity would be exported. There are currently two zoos that hold the species in the country, and six breeders (MA of Tanzania, pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

### *Prunus africana*

**Trade:** According to data within the CITES Trade Database, no direct or indirect trade in *P. africana* from or originating in Tanzania was reported 2014-2016.

**Future trade:** The MA of Tanzania (pers. comm. to Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that there was an intention to export wild-sourced products of this species.

### Consultation with the range State

Whilst Tanzania did not provide a full written response to the consultation, the Management Authority (MA) met with the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC in the margins of AC30 (July 2018). The following information relating to the long-standing recommendations to suspend trade from Tanzania was provided by the MA of Tanzania (pers. comm. to Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, 2018) and in some later follow up (pers. comm to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Progress on recommendations:** It was noted that studies have not been implemented due to a lack of financial capacity within the country. However, a precautionary national moratorium on exports of all live specimens had been implemented from 2016, and would remain in place until the end of 2019 to provide an opportunity for monitoring of populations of commercially exported species. However, no further specific details were provided. According to the CITES Trade Database, no exports of live specimens have been reported by Tanzania since 2016, however some imports from Tanzania were reported (some of which could represent trade reported that was exported from Tanzania in 2015).

It was noted that no progress had been made on the AC/PC recommendations for *Balearica regulorum* and *Prunus africana* respectively, and these trade suspensions should remain. For *Balearica regulorum*, recommendation a) to implement a quota of 50 specimens was previously supported by Tanzania, but this recommendation may no longer be appropriate given population declines in the country (see SC66 Doc 31.2 Annex 2). The AC recommendations for *Malacochersus tornieri* are considered no longer relevant (as no wild-sourced exports are anticipated). Although an export quota of 200 specimens was proposed for *Agapornis fischeri*, population surveys were also proposed to develop a more robust non-detriment finding for a potentially higher quota. If the proposed quota of 200 is accepted, a new recommendation could be formulated along the following lines:

*“Any proposed increases to the interim quota should be communicated by the Management Authority of the Tanzania to the Secretariat and Chair of the AC along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable offtake that make use of best available scientific information.”*

**Challenges faced and identification of needs:** In general it was noted that removing species from trade suspensions resulting from the Review of Significant Trade process was very difficult, and frustration with the



process was expressed. It was noted that there had been difficulties in obtaining funding for surveys for species subject to trade suspensions as donors appeared less interested in these taxa than charismatic species such as lion and elephant. Funds were still being sought to undertake surveys of *Balearica regulorum*, *Agapornis fischeri* and *Malacochersus tornieri*, as well as inventories of *Prunus africana*. It was noted that Tanzania had been unsuccessful in an application for funding to the CITES Trees Programme for *Prunus africana*. Technical skills were not considered a primary limiting factor to addressing the AC/PC recommendations; Tanzania noted that expertise exists to conduct surveys within the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and national universities. However, advice on conducting non-detriment findings and the establishment of monitoring programmes as well as inventories for *Prunus africana* was also welcomed.

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# Viet Nam

## *Hippocampus kuda*

### A. Summary and recommendations

Substantial research on *Hippocampus* spp. exploitation and trade in Viet Nam has been undertaken since SC66, including data collection to provide quantitative estimates of annual catch rates, trade volumes and prices, and assessment of temporal trends in landings. Findings show that >16 million seahorses are estimated to be caught annually in Viet Nam, the majority as by-catch by bottom trawling. A domestic trade for consumption exists, with *H. kuda* being the third most frequently encountered *Hippocampus* species within trade premises. Annual reports were submitted by Viet Nam for all three years 2014-2016. No trade in *H. kuda* was reported by Viet Nam during 2014-2016, but trade in 280 live source F individuals originating in the country was reported by importers 2014-2015. Viet Nam responded to the consultation relating to the RST long-standing suspensions. The Management Authority (MA) did not consider that it had enough information to make a non-detriment finding for the export of wild-sourced individuals of *H. kuda*, stating that efforts to characterise the population status, distribution and population trends of *H. kuda* were too range restricted, and that the species “had not been surveyed as a whole”. The findings of Foster *et al.* (2017), that the acquisition of several thousand wild-sourced *H. kuda* individuals annually to augment breeding programmes may be tolerable (provided there is monitoring and adaptive management in response to indices relating to health of wild populations (notably CPUE)), were endorsed by the MA of Viet Nam. Whilst there is currently no monitoring system in Viet Nam for seahorse catches and no regulations outside of protected areas that limit the capture of *H. kuda*, Viet Nam is developing a decree to include *H. kuda* in a list of endangered, precious and rare aquatic species whose exploitation for commercial purposes is banned (except for scientific and initial breeding purposes). There appears to be no intention to trade in wild-sourced individuals of this species and a zero quota for wild-sourced individuals is proposed, which if implemented, addresses the short-term AC recommendation b). Accordingly, **the removal of the suspension may be warranted**. The need for a monitoring system aligned to long-term AC recommendation g) appears to remain relevant. Viet Nam could be requested to report on such a system within two years. Any additional concerns relating to the captive-breeding of this species could be considered under Resolution 17.7 (*Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*). Discrepancies between actual exports of dried *Hippocampus* spp. (bodies) from Viet Nam and that reported in the CITES Trade Database were also highlighted, which may suggest illegal trade or non-reporting of trade.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Remove suspension for  
*Hippocampus kuda* (Yellow  
seahorse)

## B. Previous AC Recommendations and SC66 outcomes

**Table 17:** Recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee (AC26) and SC66 outcomes. Progress on recommendations is summarised in Table 4.

Taxon	Suspension valid from	Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC26 (March 2012)	SC66 outcome
<i>Hippocampus kuda</i>	02 May 2013	<p><b>Within 90 days the Management Authority should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Clarify what legal protection is afforded to the species and inform the Secretariat whether the present policy allows for export of wild-taken specimens;</li> <li>b) If there is no intent to allow export of wild specimens of this species for the foreseeable future establish a zero export quota which should be communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat; or</li> <li>c) If trade is to be allowed, provide a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that export is not detrimental to the survival of the species and is in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, taking into account any potential unregulated and/or illegal off-take and trade;</li> <li>d) Initiate measures to ensure that descriptions on all CITES permits are standardized such that trade is only permitted at <b>species level</b> and that, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.3, XIV e), trade ceases to be reported or permitted at higher taxon levels (genus or family).</li> </ul> <p><b>Within 2 years the Management Authority should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e) If trade in wild specimens is anticipated in the future conduct a study of the life history parameters of <i>H. kuda</i>, including growth rate, size and age at maturity, average annual reproductive output and annual survivorship of different age classes and make the results available to the Secretariat. Based on the outcome of this study, model population responses to exploitation pressures in order to review and revise export quotas; and if they <i>intend</i> to trade the species in the future,</li> <li>f) Provide to the Secretariat a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that any proposed export quota for wild specimens of <i>H. kuda</i> will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and is in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3;</li> <li>g) If trade in wild specimens is anticipated in the future, establish a detailed monitoring program of landings of <i>Hippocampus kuda</i> at representative sites, taking into account different gear types and means of extraction and recording catch and effort metrics and provide a report to the Secretariat.</li> </ul>	The trade suspension was maintained on the basis that it had not been demonstrated that intended exports would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV.

## C. Updates to the information provided in SC66 Doc. 31.2 Annex 2

**Taxonomy:** A taxonomic revision for *Hippocampus* was published in 2016 (Lourie *et al.*, 2016). The taxonomy of *H. kuda* is still unresolved, and the authors were unable to uphold some purported species within the *H. kuda* complex as valid (Lourie *et al.*, 2016). This was due to (a) overlapping traits, (b) parphyly among purported species, (c) genotypes from different barcode identification numbers in the same populations, and (d) a lack of diagnostic morphological differences (Lourie *et al.*, 2016). According to B. Giles (*unpublished data* in Foster *et al.*, 2016), *H. kuda* has probably been highly overused in CITES trade data, and may incorporate a variety of Indo-Pacific species, including *H. comes* and *H. fuscus*. An identification guide to the seahorses of Southeast Asia is available (Project Seahorse, 2016); a version in Vietnamese has been provided to the Vietnamese CITES authorities (S. Foster *pers. comm.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

**Biology:** A number of new estimates regarding the life history parameters of cultured *H. kuda* have been published. According to breeders in Viet Nam, male *H. kuda* were observed pregnant at c. 12-15cm in height (Foster *et al.*, 2017). A Vietnamese breeder reported that c. 70% of F1 *H. kuda* survived to reach 9-10 c; this was similar to survivorship of wild-taken *H. kuda* cultured India, where 76% survived to six months (Murugan *et*

*al.*, 2017). Two breeders in Viet Nam reported that wild broodstock lived for an average of 2-3 years, with maximum life expectancy of four years (Foster *et al.*, 2017).

**Population status and trends:** In a study by Foster *et al.* (2017), 95% of 93 fishers that were interviewed in Viet Nam reported a decline in seahorse CPUE over a 10-year period. The mean decline was 59%, but varied from 48.5% reported by fishers in Khanh Hoa to 93.3% reported by fishers in Thua Thien-Hue. Most fishers also reported a decline in body height (mean decline 44%) and in increase in the price of seahorses over the same 10 year period; 17% of buyers also reported a decline in seahorse supply over a 10 year period, whereas two breeders described declines in wild broodstock of c. 80% (Foster *et al.*, 2017). The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC) considered that population trends were considered to be based primarily on inadequate observation of domestic trade in the species.

**Threats:** The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) considered that the main threats to the species were (i) unintentional fishing activities outside of marine protected areas, (ii) the use of fishing nets that do not follow regulations; (iii) excessive tourism in coral reefs and seagrass beds; and (iv) climate change affecting coral reef and seagrass ecosystems which are habitats for seahorses.

**Trade:** Annual reports were submitted by Viet Nam for all three years 2014-2016. Direct trade in *H. kuda* from Viet Nam 2014-2015 comprised live, captive-born (source F) individuals traded for commercial purposes, reported by importers in 2014 and 2015 (270 and 10 respectively). The main importer was Austria (71%). Indirect trade in *H. kuda* originating in Viet Nam 2014-2016 consisted of live, wild-sourced and captive-born individuals (ten of each term) re-exported for commercial purposes in 2014, reported by re-exporters only and wild-sourced scientific specimens re-exported in 2016 (40 as reported by re-exporters and 20 reported by importers). Viet Nam's Management Authority stated that no *H. kuda* had been exported since 2013 (CITES MA of Viet Nam *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

Foster *et al.* (2017) noted discrepancies between the trade reported in dried *Hippocampus* spp. reported to CITES and the trade recorded by surveys; a high number of dried individuals were exported according to customs data, but no bodies reported were exported from Viet Nam since 2011 according to the CITES Trade Database<sup>12</sup>. Foster *et al.* (2017) inferred that either that permits are being issued but not reported to CITES Trade Database, or that exports are conducted illegally.

Since the recommendation to suspend trade in *H. kuda* in 2013, it was noted that the number of source code F exports of *H. comes* increased by more than 500% from Viet Nam (Foster *et al.*, 2017); *H. comes* from Viet Nam was selected for review at AC29 under Resolution 17.7 on "Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity".

**Trade in *Hippocampus* spp. in Viet Nam:** The following section summarises recent findings of a study by Foster *et al.* (2017) which aimed to provide (a) a qualitative description of the seahorse fishery and trade in Viet Nam, (b) quantitative estimates of trade volumes and prices, and (c) temporal trends in seahorse landings, in the hope that its findings could be used to evaluate long term changes, set a new baseline for ongoing monitoring, and develop management practices for the species; all of which would be required for Viet Nam to make an NDF for *H. kuda*. All information is from Foster *et al.* (2017) unless otherwise stated.

**Catch estimates:** Viet Nam's total catch of seahorses was estimated at c. 16.7 million individuals per annum, based on multiplying Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) data calculated from interviews with fishers with reported fleet sizes in each province (see below for further details). Three quarters of the country's annual catch was estimated to be landed by pair trawls, but *Hippocampus* spp. were reportedly caught by seven types of fishing gear (including single trawls, seine nets, basket divers, general divers, and electric shock fishing). Catch rates were reported to vary seasonally, with the high season varying in length and time-of-year at different locations; however it was generally reported to run from April to July. The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), however noted that there was no clear high and low season for seahorse catch.

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<sup>12</sup> Verified by UNEP-WCMC, data downloaded 2 August 2018

Mean CPUE varied significantly among gear types (see Table 1), from 0.5 seahorses per day per vessel for seine nets, to 15.1 seahorses per day per pair trawler<sup>13</sup>. Pair trawlers and basket diving were the two fishing methods with the highest CPUE. Enough data on single trawl CPUE was collected to allow for comparison between provinces; mean and maximum CPUE were not reported to significantly differ among them, but minimum CPUE was. The CPUEs reported are roughly 3-30 times higher than those reported in Giles *et al.*, (2006) and Meeuwig *et al.* (2006), although different provinces were surveyed in these studies.

**Table 1)** CPUE and annual catch rate estimates for the *Hippocampus* fishery in Viet Nam. Table adapted from Foster *et al.* (2017).

Gear type	CPUE (seahorses vessel <sup>-1</sup> day <sup>-1</sup> ) [95% CI] (n)	Days month <sup>-1</sup> [SE] (n)	Months year <sup>-1</sup> [SE] (n)	Annual catch rate (seahorses vessel <sup>-1</sup> year <sup>-1</sup> ) [95% CI]
Basket diving	<b>10.5</b> [3.7-17.3] (4)	22.5 [4.7] (2)	9.2 [1.2] (5)	<b>2,173</b> [766-3,581]
Crab net	<b>1.3</b> [0.8-1.8] (4)	21.3 [1.3] (2)	10.0 [0.2] (4)	<b>276</b> [70-383]
Diving	<b>5.2</b> [2.7-7.7] (10)	24.3 [1.5] (7)	10.0 [0.3] (9) Not	<b>1,263</b> [656-1,871] 2,025
Electric shock	<b>7.5</b> [2.6-12.4] (1)	27.0 [0] (1)	Not reported*	<b>2,025</b> [702-3,348]
Seine set	<b>0.5</b> [0.5-0.5] (2) 7.9	25.0 [0] (1)	Not reported*	<b>125</b> [125-125]
Trawl (single)	<b>7.9</b> [4.8-11.0] (61)	21.6 [0.6] (32)	10.0 [0.1] (57)	<b>1,706</b> [1,037-2,376] 4,485
Trawl (pair)	<b>15.1</b> [10.8-19.4] (5)	30.0 [0] (5)	9.9 [0.2] (5)	<b>4,485</b> [3,207-5,762]

\* estimated at 10 fishing months per year when no responses were given, which is the mean reported months fished per year across all other gear types

For comparison, disaggregated CPUE data for target and non-target fisheries from a study by Stocks *et al.* (2017) in Phu Quoc Island were reported to be as follows:

**Table 2)** CPUE and annual catch rate estimates for *Hippocampus* trawl and compressor fisheries of Phu Quoc island. Fleet size and fishing days per annum were estimated using interviews with fishers in communities across Phu Quoc Island, and consultations with Vietnamese fisheries officials. Table adapted from Stocks *et al.* (2017).

Fishery	Number of fishing trips sampled	Mean CPUE (±SE)	Estimated fleet size	Estimated fishing days per year	Annual landings seahorses year <sup>-1</sup> (95% CI)
Target divers	15	<b>31.8</b> (±5.6)	6	150	<b>28 620</b> (18 742 – 38 498)
Indiscriminate divers	117	<b>1.3</b> (±0.2)	40	150	<b>7800</b> (5448-10 152)
Target trawls	42	<b>23.3</b> (±2.9)	24	200	<b>111 840</b> (84 557-139 123)
Indiscriminate trawls	123	<b>2.5</b> (±0.8)	100	200	<b>50 000</b> (18 640 – 81 360)
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>198 260</b> (127 386-269 134)

Foster *et al.* (2017) estimated the total volume of seahorses fished in five Vietnamese provinces for several gear types, based on fleet sizes that were available from Vietnamese provincial governments (Table 3). National (RIMF) reported variations in fishing effort and national fleet size tallies (which were available for single and pair trawls only) gave a lower national catch estimate (for both gears) of 14 333 464 individuals per annum (95%CI 8 318 837 -15 039 409).

**Table 3)** Estimated total volume of seahorses extracted in Viet Nam. Total estimates were calculated by multiplying the annual catch rate (see Table 1) by the fleet size. If no fleet data was available, a volume of zero

<sup>13</sup> The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) stated that different gears caught seahorse at rates of 1-90 individuals per day, however it is unclear whether the data referenced is the same dataset that was detailed in Foster *et al.* (2017), as the response provided by the MA did not cite a source. Foster *et al.* (2017) and Stocks *et al.* (2017) were assumed to be the outputs referred to by the MA of Viet Nam. These studies included a focus on the seahorse “hotspot” Phu Quoc (in 2014) and trade research across Viet Nam in late 2016/early 2017, as detailed in Table 4).

was allocated for that particular province; hence the estimates in Table 2 are conservative. Table adapted from Foster *et al.* (2017).

Gear type	Provinces with data available	Total volume of seahorses extracted (number of individuals) [95%CI]
Basket diving	None	0
Crab net	Kien Giang	<b>794 880</b> [489 600 - 1 103 040]
Diving	None	0
Electric shock	None	0
Seine net	Thua Thien-Hue	<b>89 125</b>
Trawl (single)	Phu Yen, Binh Thuan, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Kien Giang	<b>3 302 816</b> [2 007 632- 4 599 936]
Trawl (double)	Kien Giang	<b>12 558 000</b> [8 979 600 – 16 133 600]
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16 744 821 [11 565 957- 21 925 701]</b>

The report also identified *Hippocampus* fishing hotspots within the country, which could potentially be used as sites from which to monitor seahorse landings. The majority of the country's seahorse catch was reported to originate in the province of Kien Giang, which accounted for c. 85% of the country's catch (~16.7 million individual seahorses per annum). Fishing pressure on populations around Phu Quoc island (one of the major sources of seahorses in Viet Nam) was also considered to be high, with approximately 127 000 to 269 000 individuals taken per year from a fleet of 124 trawl boats and 46 compressor diver boats (Stocks *et al.*, 2017).

The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) reported that, when fishers caught seahorses, they would only be put back in the water if they were still alive and smaller than 30mm, however, some fishers reported keeping seahorses regardless of their size.

The proportion of seahorses that are retained for domestic consumption and the proportion that are exported was reported to remain unknown, but the most commonly cited destinations for seahorses by traders were within the same province. *H. kuda* was the third most frequently encountered *Hippocampus* species in Foster *et al.* (2017)'s survey of buyer's premises, and was the only species observed in photographs from Thua Thien-Hue province. The authors noted that both dry and live seahorses landed by fishers appeared to be used in tonics and medicines; there was no obvious live trade for aquaria displays. The largest number of exporters was reported to be in the Kien Giang province, and China was the most commonly reported export destination.

**Management:** Because the majority of seahorses in Viet Nam are caught as bycatch in untrammelled bottom trawling (Foster *et al.* 2017; MA of Viet Nam *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018), Foster *et al.* (2017) considered the key management action needed to ensure sustainability of Viet Nam's *H. kuda* fishery was the regulation of these nonselective and destructive fisheries. The authors additionally considered the need to establish and enforce many more MPAs to be a conservation measure that would be a valuable tool to develop Viet Nam's capacity to make an NDF for *H. kuda*. The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) reported that *H. kuda* was mainly found in the country's central, southeast and southwestern waters, which do not have any specific reserves [assumed to mean protected sites], although it was also noted that seahorses are strictly protected in the country via a system of 16 marine protected areas (of which 10 have so far been put into operation).

S. Foster (*pers. comm.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) considered that sufficient information was now available for Viet Nam to be able to make NDFs for wild broodstock to be used in Viet Nam's culture operations to produce F generation *H. kuda* for export. It was considered that a country-wide extraction figure of several thousand wild *H. kuda* individuals for broodstock may be tolerable, "as long as there is as there is oversight and adaptive management in response to indices relating to health of wild populations (notably CPUE)" (Foster *et al.*, 2017). The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) agreed with this assessment. Protocols for (a) tracking the use of wild broodstock by seahorse farms in Viet Nam (developed by Project Seahorse and Viet Nam's Institute of Oceanography) and (b) tracking seahorse populations through monitoring fisheries landings (developed by Project Seahorse) were noted to be available (S. Foster *pers. comm.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

The completion of a robust NDF would additionally need to include details of a robust monitoring plan to be confident that harvest for broodstock was not damaging wild populations. It is suggested that this could be established by monitoring landings and fishing effort repeatedly (thus developing a time series) at representative sites throughout Viet Nam; possibly using the [protocols developed by Project Seahorse](#) (Foster *et al.*, 2014). S. Foster (*pers. comm.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that “monitoring should cover all species caught in Vietnamese fisheries, and sample across all gear types that catch seahorses, anchored in information from the trade analysis. It was considered particularly important to monitor the sites of Phu Yen (with high diversity of *Hippocampus* species) as well as the fishing gears employed, in addition to Phu Quoc, a fishing hot spot.

**Captive breeding:** Of five commercial facilities visited by Foster *et al.* (2017), only one was at that time, producing seahorses for sale; *H. kuda* was the major species bred. Commercial breeders of *H. kuda* were reported to mostly remain unable to close the life cycle on breeding (although the Viet Nam Institute of Oceanology (IO) was reported to have been successful); most facilities still produced mostly F1 generation individuals (young born in captivity to wild-caught males that were pregnant on arrival) for sale (Foster *et al.*, 2017). Wild broodstock were reported to produce bigger and healthier babies than F1 generation males.

The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that breeders were applying the production method developed by the Institute of Oceanology to use F1 generation parental stock so that facilities do not heavily depend on wild-sourced parental stock, except for augmentation to replace parents after a few years. Wild-sourced parental stock were reported to be supplied to breeding facilities by divers; they were thus selectively caught, and the practice was not considered to be harmful to seahorse populations and their habitats (MA of Viet Nam *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

Although robust numbers remain unavailable, Foster *et al.* (2017) estimated that the facilities visited in Viet Nam may only use a couple of hundred wild-sourced broodstock each year. Interviews with breeders Respondents estimated that 100 pregnant males could be used to produce 20 000 young, whereas another reported that 100-150 wild males could produce 30 000- 40 000 young (if bred multiple times). These figures were considered by the authors to be plausible.

Of the five commercial culture operations visited, three reported previously exporting, with one supplying the domestic trade only. Because of uncertainties in market demand, producers were reported to breed more seahorses than were demanded for export; one breeder reported releasing surplus seahorses into the wild, whereas another reported drying surplus seahorses for domestic sale.

**Legislation:** The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) noted that the species is listed as an endangered, precious and rare aquatic species prioritised for protection under Decision No. 82/2008/QĐ-BNNPTNT. In December 2017, Viet Nam’s National Assembly approved a new Law on Fisheries, which will come into effect on January 1, 2019 relating to these species. It was noted that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development are developing a decree whereby commercial exploitation of endangered, precious and rare aquatic species (including *H. kuda*) is banned, with exploitation allowed only for scientific and initial breeding purposes with a permit from the competent authority

Through its national legislation project, the CITES Secretariat categorised the national legislation in Viet Nam as legislation that is believed generally to meet all four requirements for effective implementation of CITES (CITES, 2017). This assessment was last updated in December 2017 (CITES, 2017).



## D. Consultation with the range State

**Progress on recommendations:** The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC) reported that they had gathered information and proposed survey and assessment activities to develop an NDF for *H. kuda*. It was noted that a trade survey carried out by the University of Columbia in Phu Quoc and Nha Trang<sup>14</sup> had taken place, but an NDF for export of wild-sourced specimens was not considered finalised because information on the population status, distribution and population trends of *H. kuda* “had not been surveyed as a whole”. Progress on the AC recommendations has been made (see Table 4). As only exports of captive-produced specimens were intended, the MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) requested that the recommendation to suspend trade for Viet Nam be removed. However, the AC recommendations relating to monitoring of landings of wild-specimens (long-term recommendation g)) may still be relevant in relation to offtake for breeding purposes.

**Future trade:** The MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018) confirmed an interest in future trade in this species from captive-production only. It was considered that the export of tens of thousands of F1 seahorses a year did not pose a threat to the species. It was anticipated that annually, 50 000 captive-bred individuals could be exported. Viet Nam noted that efforts to “finalise the breeding process” would continue, to ensure production of F2 generation.

**Challenges faced and identification of needs:** A number of challenges were outlined by the MA of Viet Nam (*in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018). It was noted that due to limited financial resources, surveys and evaluation of seahorse resources had been difficult. Control of the domestic trade was noted to be challenging, as there are no regulations pertaining to the exploitation of *H. kuda* from the wild, and no method to limit the amount caught unintentionally as bycatch. Domestic trade and use for medicines, food and pets was noted to continue. The cost of producing specimens to F2 generation on a controlled environment meant that breeding farms have used parental stock from the wild to reduce production costs. Further assistance was requested so that Viet Nam can continue to ensure that the exploitation of parental broodstock from the wild does not affect the species.

Additionally, it was noted that further assistance of the Secretariat, Parties, international organisations and NGOs to develop a project and Action Plan for the conservation of seahorses in Viet Nam. It was considered that a project was needed to (a) further investigate the population status of seahorses from the wild; (b) synthesize existing studies and (c) conduct a number of consultative workshops with experts to develop NDFs. It was also noted that awareness activities and demand reduction campaigns were necessary for seahorses in Viet Nam, and for *H. kuda* in particular.

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<sup>14</sup> Presumed to refer to studies by Stocks *et al.* (2017) and Foster *et al.* (2017).

**Table 4:** Comparison of AC recommendations and actions taken and planned by Viet Nam, with support from Project Seahorse. Updates were provided by S. Foster *in litt.* to UNEP-WCMC, 2018 .

Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC	Actions identified by workshop participants (Project Seahorse, 2015)	Status (Project Seahorse, 2015)	Status (Project Seahorse, 2018)
a) Clarify what legal protection is afforded to the species and inform the Secretariat whether the present policy allows for export of wild-taken specimens;	<b>Spatial and temporal protection for seahorses in VN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share various maps, including on current/proposed MPAs, distribution of seahorse habitat, current spatial and temporal fishing closures</li> <li>- Request relevant stakeholders to indicate spatial distribution of <i>H. kuda</i></li> <li>- Map <i>H. kuda</i> distribution in Viet Nam, based on information above and map overlay of <i>H. kuda</i> distributions and MPAs (and other spatial management) (also covers Recommendation f)</li> <li>- Work on publicizing iSeahorse (citizen science site for seahorses) (also covers Recommendation g)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Status of mapping unclear</li> <li>- Progress on understanding of seahorse distribution in VN</li> <li>- iSeahorse publicizing under way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information on seahorse distribution available from fisheries/trade surveys carried out in late 2016/early 2017 (Foster <i>et al.</i> 2017) – identified seahorse “hotspots” for monitoring and management purposes</li> </ul>
b) If there is no intent to allow export of wild specimens of this species for the foreseeable future establish a zero export quota which should be communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat; or			
c) If trade is to be allowed, provide a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that export is not detrimental to the survival of the species and is in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, taking into account any potential unregulated and/or illegal off-take and trade;	<b>NDF framework for seahorses (also covers Recommendation f)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Seahorse to revise NDF framework and CITES Viet Nam to consider</li> <li>- Review revised NDF framework</li> <li>- Finalise NDF for AC27</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NDF framework revised by PS, but unclear whether translated into Vietnamese</li> <li>- Unclear whether NDFs have been made by VN for seahorses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fisheries/trade surveys carried out by Project Seahorse in partnership with VN CITES Authorities have generated sufficient information on which to base an NDF for wild broodstock – NDF advice includes a precautionary annual quota for wild broodstock, monitoring of broodstock use by farms, and monitoring of fisheries landings (as a proxy for population monitoring) in at least two locations. Tools (in English) already developed for broodstock and fisheries monitoring.</li> <li>- NDF framework not translated into Vietnamese</li> </ul>
d) Initiate measures to ensure that descriptions on all CITES permits are standardized such that trade is only permitted at <b>species level</b> and that, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.3 , XIV e), trade ceases to be reported or permitted at higher taxon levels (genus or family).			<p>Viet Nam did not report any exports at the genus level during 2012-2016. Denmark reported imports of 350 live source F individuals of <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. from Viet Nam in 2016 (Source CITES Trade Database, data downloaded 12/8/2018).</p>



Recommendations and deadlines resulting from AC	Actions identified by workshop participants (Project Seahorse, 2015)	Status (Project Seahorse, 2015)	Status (Project Seahorse, 2018)
e) If trade in wild specimens is anticipated in the future conduct a study of the life history parameters of <i>H. kuda</i> , including growth rate, size and age at maturity, average annual reproductive output and annual survivorship of different age classes and make the results available to the Secretariat. Based on the outcome of this study, model population responses to exploitation pressures in order to review and revise export quotas; and if they <i>intend</i> to trade the species in the future	<b>Biological research – in situ</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop proposal and find funding for seahorse research in strategic areas of VN</li> <li>- Execute field work in strategic areas of VN (possibly Phu Quoc, Con Dao or Phu Yen)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding secured by Project Seahorse (PS) for research in Phu Quoc; research was carried out in 2014 – results being prepared</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research carried out in partnership with VN CITES Authorities. Included focused study in seahorse “hotspot” Phu Quoc (in 2014) (Stocks <i>et al.</i> 2017), and trade research across VN (in late 2016/early 2017) (Foster <i>et al.</i> 2017). All research has been made publically available in form of theses, published manuscripts and research reports. It was further shared with VN CITES Authorities and fisheries experts in a workshop in April 2017 (25 participants).</li> </ul>
f) Provide to the Secretariat a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that any proposed export quota for wild specimens of <i>H. kuda</i> will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and is in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3;	<b>Biological research – ex situ (also covers Recommendation e)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop list of questions for industry on matters on wild populations</li> <li>- Coordinate with industry to collate biological information on wild populations, based on accessing broodstock (where/how captured, what sizes, times of year, reproductive state, brood size, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Questions developed by PS and sent to VN; not clear whether VN sent to industry</li> <li>- VN Dept. of Fisheries will collect data from breeding operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No information on whether tools developed to monitor wild broodstock use by industry has been used by CITES Authorities.</li> </ul>
g) If trade in wild specimens is anticipated in the future, establish a detailed monitoring program of landings of <i>Hippocampus kuda</i> at representative sites, taking into account different gear types and means of extraction and recording catch and effort metrics and provide a report to the Secretariat.	<b>Research on trade:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop proposal for trade research in Viet Nam, secure funding, carry out field research, analyse data and write up results</li> </ul> <b>Fisheries research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore whether seahorses can be added to existing fisheries dependent monitoring in VN</li> <li>- Develop and send landing sampling protocol</li> <li>- Use sampling protocol to document seahorse landing in Phu Quoc and two other islands in Vung Tau</li> <li>- Prepare report on seahorse landing, by time and space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PS developed proposal for research</li> <li>- Portion of funds for research secured</li> <li>- Remaining funding required to start research and analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Seahorse secured the funds to carry out fisheries and trade research. Research carried out in partnership with VN CITES Authorities. Included focused study in seahorse “hotspot” Phu Quoc (in 2014) (Stocks <i>et al.</i> 2017), and trade research across VN (in late 2016/early 2017 (Foster <i>et al.</i> 2017)). All research has been made publically available in form of theses, published manuscripts and research reports. It was further shared with VN CITES Authorities and fisheries experts in a workshop in April 2017 (25 participants).</li> </ul>

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