

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at CoP15

	Species	Comment	Recommendation
10	<i>Uromastyx ornata</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 10 [Israel]. Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I.</p> <p><i>Uromastyx ornata</i> is one of 17 currently recognized species of spiny-tailed lizards in the genus <i>Uromastyx</i>—all listed in Appendix II of CITES. Until 2004 <i>U. ornata</i> was regarded as a subspecies of <i>U. ocellata</i>, but is now recognized in CITES taxonomy as a full species. It occurs in Egypt (Sinai Peninsula), Israel, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, but overall range and population size for the species are unknown; maximum estimates for Israel are 270 km² and 4000 individuals, respectively. <i>Uromastyx</i> species are harvested for food, use in traditional medicines and for the international pet trade, and may also be threatened by habitat loss and climate change. The extent of these threats and levels of both legal and illegal international trade in <i>U. ornata</i>, however, are uncertain, and further clarification is not provided in the supporting statement.</p> <p>Despite the fact that <i>Uromastyx ornata</i> has been listed in Appendix II since 1977, historical patterns of trade in the species are difficult to determine owing to past taxonomic uncertainties surrounding <i>U. ornata</i> and <i>U. ocellata</i> and difficulty in the identification of specimens and their associated records in the CITES trade database. Egypt banned the export of <i>U. ornata</i> in 1992 and since 1995 there have been only two recorded cases of imports of wild-taken specimens from a range State, Yemen, totalling almost 900 specimens. Since 2003, there has been a significant increase in the number of reportedly captive-bred specimens of <i>U. ornata</i> reported in global trade, however the species still does not appear to be commonly found on the international market.</p> <p>Available information on population size, area of distribution and decline for <i>Uromastyx ornata</i> is limited and mainly qualitative. However, there is no compelling case that the species meets the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Although misidentification and past taxonomic uncertainties are clearly problems for determining the levels of trade in the species, evidence to demonstrate substantial legal or illegal trade in wild-taken <i>U. ornata</i> is lacking.</p>	REJECT