

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

Species	Comment	Recommendation
12 <i>Ctenosaura palearis</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 12 [Guatemala]. Inclusion in Appendix II.</p> <p>The Guatemalan Spiny-tailed Iguana <i>Ctenosaura palearis</i> is a Guatemalan endemic classified in 2004 by IUCN as Critically Endangered on the basis of an extent of occurrence of less than 10 000 ha, a severely fragmented population of fewer than 2500 adults, and habitat loss. However, another estimate indicates a range of over 100 000 ha and a population of 5000 adults.</p> <p>Suitable habitat for the species is undergoing degradation and conversion and only a very small proportion is included within protected areas. Other threats to the species include subsistence harvest for food and traditional medicines and export for the international pet trade. Information on international trade in this species is very limited and there are allegations of illegal international trade. In 2008, 240 individuals were imported into the USA for commercial purposes according to USFWS data, even though the species is legally protected by a number of laws. <i>Ctenosaura palearis</i> can only be used for scientific research and non-commercial breeding purposes aimed at the conservation of the species, by authorized persons under permit. Consequently, recorded commercial trade from Guatemala in the recent past has been illegal, in violation of national laws. Effective enforcement to address illegal harvest of wild specimens for commercial trade is needed.</p> <p>The population may be within the guideline figure for a small population given in Annex 5 of <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev CoP14)</i> and collection for illegal export has been implicated in the decline or extirpation of two sub-populations. <i>Ctenosaura palearis</i> may therefore meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in that regulation of trade may be necessary to prevent the species becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future.</p>	ACCEPT