

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

Species	Comment	Recommendation
13	<p><i>Agalychnis</i> spp.</p> <p>CoP15 Prop. 13 [Honduras & Mexico]. Inclusion in Appendix II.</p> <p>The genus <i>Agalychnis</i> is generally taken to comprise five species. Three of the species considered in the proposal (Blue-sided Treefrog <i>A. annae</i>; <i>A. saltator</i>, sometimes known as Misfit Leaf Frog; and Gliding Treefrog <i>A. spurrelli</i>) have been included for look-alike reasons, while the other two (Red-eyed Treefrog <i>A. callidryas</i> and Morelet's Treefrog <i>A. moreletii</i>) are of conservation concern. There are, however, evident characteristics that do allow differentiation between the species in their commonly traded form (as live mature frogs and sub-adults), with distinct iris coloration being particularly striking.</p> <p>The international market for <i>Agalychnis</i> spp. is almost entirely for <i>A. callidryas</i>. This species is found in Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, and has been in international trade in large numbers for many years, with Nicaragua providing the majority of specimens for trade from captive-breeding operations. This common species is classified as of Least Concern by IUCN and even inhabits disturbed habitats. There are no indications of decline caused by international trade, although some illegal trade exists. The species is either protected or trade is regulated in Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, with no commercial exports from the wild permitted. There is no regulation or protection in Mexico for the species.</p> <p><i>Agalychnis moreletii</i> occurs in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, and is classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN. The major concern for the species is the disease impacts of the fungus <i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i> and there have been drastic declines (more than 80%) in populations of the frog in the last 10 years. Belize, El Salvador and Guatemala do not allow trade from wild specimens. There is some trade from Guatemala in wild specimens to the USA (168 in 2007 and three in 2008), but there have been no legal exports from Guatemala over the past few years.</p> <p><i>Agalychnis moreletii</i> appears to meet criteria for inclusion in Appendix II, based on Annex 2 a A. of <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14)</i>. <i>A. callidryas</i> does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II, however, as there is no indication of</p>	<p>ACCEPT <i>A. moreletii</i></p> <p>REJECT <i>A. annae</i>, <i>A. saltator</i>, <i>A. spurrelli</i> and <i>A. callidryas</i></p>

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	<p>reduction of its wild populations as a result of harvest for international trade. Neither <i>A. callidryas</i> nor the three other species proposed appear to qualify for listing in Appendix II, based on Annex 2 b A. of <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14)</i>, as the vast majority of international trade in <i>Agalychnis</i> frogs is composed of live adult and sub-adult individuals showing the characteristics that make them recognizable as different species. Note that trade in tadpoles and very young forms will always remain an identification issue for frog species and this cannot be readily addressed, as numerous frog taxa look too similar as eggs or tadpoles to determine to species-level without sophisticated identification methods.</p>	