

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

	Species	Comment	Recommendation
20	<i>Dynastes satanas</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 20 [Plurinational State of Bolivia]. Inclusion in Appendix II.</p> <p><i>Dynastes satanas</i> is a large rhinoceros beetle confined to the moist green forests of the districts of La Paz and Cochabamba in Bolivia. Little is known of its biology and there are no published estimates of population numbers or trends for this species. However, locals harvesting <i>D. satanas</i> from the wild have reported a decline in the number of individuals being captured over the last eight years, despite an increase in collecting effort. Furthermore, the loss of <i>D. satanas</i> habitat, the result of settlement, deforestation and agricultural development, is known to be continuing.</p> <p><i>Dynastes satanas</i> beetles are sought after in Europe, the USA and parts of Asia (particularly Japan) for the pet trade, as fighting animals and for display. Wild-taken and captive-bred specimens (and those of unknown origin) are being sold on the Internet and individuals can fetch prices of up to USD220. Local communities in Bolivia collect specimens of this species and the closely related <i>D. hercules</i> for export, despite national laws prohibiting their harvest from the wild. In recent years, there have been a number of seizures of live and dead <i>D. satanas</i>, in Bolivia, Ecuador and the USA, in addition to two requests to export specimens from Bolivia (both denied)—providing further evidence that wild-taken specimens of this species are being traded on an international level.</p> <p>Although there is evidence of local declines in areas subject to harvest, it is not clear that there is any significant impact to the species population. Overall, evidence that <i>D. satanas</i> meets the criteria for Appendix II listing is not strong.</p> <p>The proponent could consider the inclusion of this species in Appendix III.</p>	REJECT