



CoP20 Preparation Meeting – 25 August

Comments of the Parrot Breeders Association of South Africa

Prop. 5 *Okapia johnstoni* Appendix I

The CoP20 proposal to include the Okapi in Appendix I must be rejected.

Appendix I will not address local consumption or the illegal cross-border movement of the species and will not stop the main threats, which are habitat loss and deforestation.

- **Par. 7.1:** National legislation and a ministerial decree are in place to protect the species in the wild. Only enforcement of these legal instruments will protect wild populations, while Appendix I will be detrimental to the management of captive specimens in non-range states.
- **Par. 6.2 & 7.2:** Without legal harvesting or international trade from the wild, an Appendix I listing is meaningless.
- **Par. 2:** The IUCN Red List classification has remained “Endangered” for 13 years without moving to “Critically Endangered,” suggesting that population declines may have stabilised.
- **Par. 4.2 & 6.4:** With a population of 35,000 to 50,000 individuals, the illegal cross-border trade of 120 specimens per year represents less than 0.5% offtake from the wild population. Certainly, with a population larger than that of giraffes in South Africa, we cannot support an Appendix I listing of the Okapi.

Although this species is not native to South Africa, we must take a position on principle.

An Appendix II listing may be beneficial for monitoring international trade volumes, conducting ongoing population studies, and leaving open the possibility of establishing *in situ* and *ex situ*

breeding programmes, while also facilitating the international transfer of live specimens between breeding programmes.

As a SADC member, South Africa should engage with the DRC on this matter before CoP20 to avoid opposing our neighbours at the Conference.

Prop. 2 Dorcas Gazelle Appendix II

Reject, as information on the status and use of the species in the range state (Chad), which holds the largest population, is lacking. Legislation appears to be in place in range states where the species is used, and prohibitions exist where the species is threatened with extinction. The existing Appendix III listing is sufficient to monitor volumes of legal trade and the requirements for Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) to establish sustainable harvesting from the wild. CITES Appendix listings do little to stop illegal activities.

Prop. 3 Saiga tatarica Annotation

Support, but the annotation should be removed from the Appendix II listing entirely. It is the duty of the Animals Committee (AC) and the Standing Committee (SC) to establish export quotas annually or every three years. The current listing effectively amounts to an Appendix I listing.

With a population of several million individuals, the species hardly qualifies for an Appendix II listing.

Particular attention should be given to Par. 6.5 (trade impacts) to justify the removal of the annotation and to support other proposals to un-ban trade in valuable animal products.

Prop. 6 Striped Hyena Appendix I

Reject. The species has a very large distribution, from North Africa through the Middle East to India, and only 58 specimens were traded over 10 years = 6 per year. Even at the lowest population estimate, this represents less than 0.2% offtake from the wild population.

National laws protecting the species are already in place; an Appendix listing will not address the problems of illegal offtake, damage-causing animal (DCA) control, cultural beliefs, or habitat restoration.

Prop. 17 *Falco peregrinus* — downlisting to Appendix II

Support, the species no longer meets the criteria for Appendix I.

Prop. 15 Hornbills Appendix II

Cautious support. Appendix II will not address illegal trade but can generate NDFs, population studies, and habitat studies through CITES for regulated legal trade.

Prop. 16 Vultures Appendix I

Reject. Appendix I will be detrimental to the species. Under Appendix II, the Animals and Standing Committees can initiate population studies, habitat studies, and NDFs for legal trade to the benefit of the species, while Appendix I will remove all these measures and benefit only poachers and smugglers.