

CITES Cop18

Captive Breeding Potential of selected Reptiles and amphibians



Project to assess the captive breeding potential of reptile and amphibian taxa newly listed and/or moved between Appendix I and II since the last CITES CoP18

Call for participation

As published in the „elaphe“ 3/2020 (pages 88-90), last year the DGHT successfully completed a pilot project to assess the captive breeding potential of selected reptile taxa included in Appendix I and II at the 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES (CITES Cop17) in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2016.

The project was sponsored by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). Thanks to the participation of several specialists, and the work done by Christian Langner and Beate Pfau, the German governmental agencies for nature conservation can benefit from the outcome of the project.

The outcome should assist the authorities in plausibility checks on

the origin of specimens of the taxa concerned. An English-language version, co-authored by Clara Arranz, was also made available to the CITES authorities of the European Union (EU) and the CITES Secretariat in Geneva via BfN.

Following the successful completion of the project, the BfN has now commissioned a follow-up project for the period 2020/2021. Its aim is to assess the captive breeding potential of further reptile and amphibian taxa newly listed and/or moved between Appendix I and II at the last CITES CoP18 in Geneva in 2019.

As the number of specimens declared as bred in captivity increases in the international market, it becomes more challenging for CITES authorities to prove the declared origin. Furthermore, the number of protected species increases with each CITES Conference of the Parties for which often no data on their captive breeding potential is available. Yet, the verification of breeding claims is essential to ensure the sustainable trade of protected species.

The aim of the project is, similar to the former pilot project, to assist the authorities in the difficult task of verification of breeding claims. The intent of this project is to assess the captive breeding potential of these taxa, and provide the authorities with fact sheets to facilitate plausibility checks of breeding data.

Currently 884 reptile and 197 amphibian species are listed in Appendix I (107 and 24, respectively) and II (777 and 173, respectively) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (source: www.speciesplus.net, as of July 2020).

Of these, the following reptile and amphibian species have been newly listed and/or moved between CITES Appendix I and II since the last CITES Cop18 in Geneva in August 2019:

The following reptile species were newly listed in Appendix I (six Taxa):

- *Cophotis ceylanica* (Ceylon deaf agama)
- *Cophotis dumbara* (Dumbara agama)



Cophotis ceylanica Photo: H. Mohr



Ctenosaura alfredschmidti Photo: Ch. Langner

- *Ceratophora erdeleni* (Erdelen's horned lizard)
- *Ceratophora karu* (Karu's horned lizard)
- *Ceratophora tennentii* (leaf-nosed lizard)
- *Gonatodes daudini* (Union Island gecko)

The following reptile species have been moved from Appendix II to Appendix I (five taxa):

- *Cuora bourreti* (Bourret's box turtle)
- *Cuora picturata* (Southern Vietnamese box turtle)
- *Mauremys annamensis* (Vietnamese pond turtle)
- *Geochelone elegans* (Indian star tortoise)
- *Malacochersus tornieri* (Pancake tortoise)

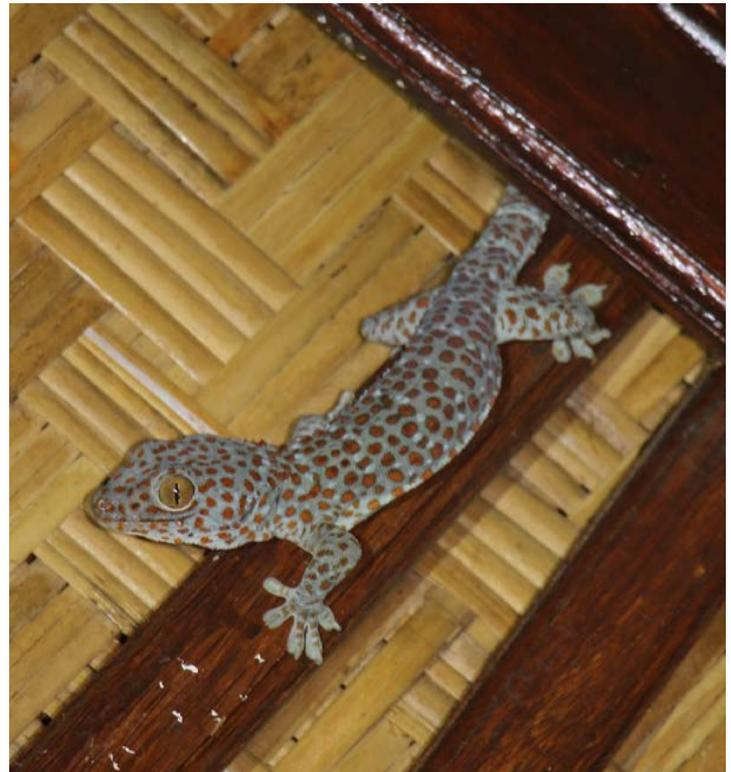


Cuora picturata Photo: B. Pfau

The following reptile species/genera have been newly listed in Appendix II (38 taxa):

- *Ceratophora aspera* (Sri Lanka horned agama), O-Quota for wild specimens for commercial use)
- *Ceratophora stoddartii* (Mountain horned agama), O-Quota for wild specimens for commercial use)
- *Lyriocephalus scutatus* (Lyres head lizard), O-Quota for wild specimens for commercial use)

- *Goniurosaurus* spp. (Tiger geckos, all species other than those native to Japan; 14 Taxa)
- *Gekko gekko* (Tokay gecko)
- *Paroedura androyensis* (Grandidier's Madagascar ground gecko)
- *Ctenosaura* spp. (all spiny-tailed iguanas sensu lato, also incl. genus *Cachryx*; 18 Taxa, four of which were already listed in Appendix II)
- *Pseudocerastes urarachnoides* (spider-tailed horned viper)



Gekko gekko Photo: A. Kwet

Following amphibian species/genera have been newly listed in Appendix II (41 taxa):

- *Echinotriton chinhaiensis* (Chinhai spiny newt)
- *Echinotriton maxiquadratus* (Mountain spiny crocodile newt)
- *Paramesotriton* spp. (all warty newts; 14 Taxa,



Ctenosaura alfredschmidti Photo: Ch. Langner

listed in Annex D of Regulation [EC] 338/97 until EU implementation)

- *Tylototriton* spp. (all crocodile newts; currently 30 Taxa, listed in Annex D of Regulation [EC] 338/97 until EU implementation)



Tylototriton vietnamensis Photo: T. Ziegler

As a result of this project, the DGHT will provide fact sheets for all the above listed species. At the end the necessary information on reproductive biology, breeding and husbandry of the species will be collected by evaluating questionnaires sent to breeders, institutions / zoos and specialists whose collaboration is essential for the success of this project. Additionally, literature research will be conducted to gather all available information. The data collection, which should be completed by 1 December 2020, will be the base for the preparation of species-specific fact sheets containing the essential biological information.

The project will be managed by the DGHT and Beate Pfau, in close cooperation with Christian Langner, Felix Hulbert, Uwe Gerlach, Marta Bernardes and Clara Arranz as well as many other specialists and helpers who have an essential role for the collection of all available data on the captive breeding potential of these species. To this end, a close involvement of the corresponding DGHT working groups is particularly important, especially the AG Agamen, AG Echsen, AG Iguana, AG Schildkröten, AG Schlangen and AG Urodela, whose members have valuable, often unpublished data from decades of successful breeding and own research. A broad network of contacts to private breeders and keepers, also outside the DGHT, should provide ac-

cess to further information on CITES-relevant target taxa.

The DGHT and the BfN, who commissioned the study, hope for an active participation of all DGHT members who keep and breed (or have already kept and bred) the target species, and also of as many external (non DGHT members) keepers and experts as possible.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity to call on all keepers and breeders of the above mentioned species to participate in this task. A documentation of successful breeding by filling out the (anonymized) questionnaires can significantly contribute to the assessment. Furthermore, the information collected in the project of the necessary conditions for keeping and breeding can also be used to improve conservation breeding projects.

For further information and if you are interested in participating in this important project, please contact the DGHT project coordinator Dr. Beate Pfau (pfau@dght.de).

IMPRESSUM

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde e. V.

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Registernummer: VR 700620

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