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Non-detriment finding for golden lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus rosalia*)

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Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests in relation to this NDF.

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Scientific name: *Leontopithecus rosalia* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Common name: Golden lion tamarin

Norwegian name: Løvetamarin

Type of permit: CITES Appendix I; Norwegian CITES Regulation Annex 1, list A

Country of Export: Norway (NO)

Country of Import: Ireland (IE)

Purpose and source: The proposal concerns the export (purpose-of-transaction code Z) of one live male golden lion tamarin bred in captivity (source code C) from Kristiansand Dyrepark AS (Norway) to Dublin Zoo (Ireland).

For Appendix I species (Norwegian Cites Regulation Annex 1, list A) it is required to establish that export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species, in compliance with CITES Article III.

VKM has adopted the definition of detriment, cf. Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) suggested by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Scientific Authority:

1. Harvest that is not sustainable.
2. Harvest that harms the status of the species in the wild.
3. Removal from the wild that results in habitat loss or destruction, or that interferes with recovery efforts for a species.

Conclusion

VKM concludes that the export from Norway to Ireland of one live golden lion tamarin that was bred in captivity will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

The conclusion is based on the following factors:

- The individual was bred in captivity at Kristiansand Dyrepark AS and the export does not involve harvest or removal from the wild.
- The transfer is between EAZA zoos and part of the EAZA Ex situ Programme (EEP) for the species.

1. Biological information

Distribution

The golden lion tamarin is native to Brazil. The species inhabits lowland seasonal rainforest of the Atlantic coast in Rio São João, state of Rio de Janeiro. The golden lion tamarin is arboreal, foraging in the canopy during daytime and sleeping in hollows at night. It can survive in degraded and secondary forests (Ruiz-Miranda et al., 2021).

Life history

Golden lion tamarins live in extended family groups of 4-8 individuals sharing a territory. They breed once or twice per year and usually only one female per group will reproduce. Groups cooperatively care for infants; fathers being particularly involved. The average lifespan in the wild is 15 years (Ruiz-Miranda et al., 2021).

Role in the ecosystem

The golden lion tamarin is omnivorous. The diet consists of plant parts such as fruits, flowers, nectar, and gums as well as small animals such as insects, spiders, snails, frogs, and lizards. Predators include raptors, felids, and snakes. Golden lion tamarins compete for resources with introduced common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*), and hybridization with introduced golden-headed lion tamarins (*L. chrysomelas*) occurs (Ruiz-Miranda et al., 2021).

2. Population trend

The last IUCN assessment of population size was done in 2015 and the population size was estimated to 1,400 mature individuals and decreasing (Ruiz-Miranda et al., 2021). The population has been through extreme fluctuations. Habitat destruction and capture of animals for zoos and pet trade reduced the species to near extinction in the 1970s (Dietz et al., 2019). Repopulation from private collectors and zoos took place during the period 1984–2000 which led to recovery, and in 2014 the population size was estimated to 3,700 individuals including juveniles (Ruiz-Miranda et al., 2019). However, in 2016 yellow fever led to 32% reduction from census made in 2014, and the new estimate in 2018 was 2,516 individuals (Dietz et al., 2019).

3. Conservation status

IUCN Red List of Threatened species (Ruiz-Miranda et al., 2021): Endangered (EN). The species was downlisted from Critically Endangered in 2003.

4. Threats

Historically, habitat loss due to deforestation, combined with hunting and capture for pet/zoo trade has been the main threat to the golden lion tamarin. Habitat destruction and fragmentation caused by urbanization is still a major threat, and in recent years also a yellow fever epidemic has hindered recovery of the population (Dietz et al., 2019).

5. Conservation and management measures:

International legislation

The golden lion tamarin has been listed on CITES Appendix I since 1975 and under the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations Annex A since 1997 (UNEP, 2024).

Conservation measures

The golden lion tamarin is included on the Brazilian Official List of Species Threatened with Extinction (Brazil, 2014), and on the regional threatened species list of the state of Rio de Janeiro. A nongovernmental organization (NGO) Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado, AMLD, (or the golden lion tamarin association) is dedicated to keeping the species from extinction by working for increases in population size and area of occupancy (Ruiz-Miranda et al, 2019).

6. Trade/use

Legal

The species is included on the Brazilian Official List of Species Threatened with Extinction (Ruiz-Miranda et al, 2021).

Illegal

Illegal capture for trade is presently not considered to be a main threat (Ruiz-Miranda et al, 2021).

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