

VKM assessment:

Non-detriment finding for red panda

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Scientific name: *Ailurus fulgens* F.G. Cuvier, 1825

Common name: Red panda

Norwegian name: Rødpanda

Type of permit: CITES Appendix I (Norwegian Cites Regulation Annex 1, list A)

Country of Export: Norway

Country of import: Czech Republic

Purpose and source: The proposal concerns the export of one live female red panda from Kristiansand Dyrepark AS in Norway to Zoo Zlín-Lešná in the Czech republic, purpose code Z. The red panda and both its parents are bred in captivity, source code C.

Appendix I species bred in captivity are traded as if they were Appendix II species (Norwegian Cites Regulation Annex 1, list B) with the requirement to establish that exports are not detrimental to the survival of wild populations, in compliance with CITES Article IV.

VKM has adopted the definition of detriment, jf. Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) suggested by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Scientific Authority (<https://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/archive/workshop-american-ginseng-cites-non-detriment-findings.pdf>), which defines it as:

1. Harvest that is not sustainable.
2. Harvest that harm 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 of one red panda bred in captivity will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

The conclusion is based on the following factors:

- The individual and both of its parents are bred in captivity and the import will not have any harmful effect on the conservation status of the species.
- Zoos play a role in international conservation efforts for red pandas.

1. Biological Information

Distribution

The red panda is found in Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal. Its presence in Lao People's Democratic Republic is uncertain. The red panda is restricted to forested areas at altitudes between 2,500 and 4,800 meters above sea level. Its distribution range is disjunct and populations inhabiting different parts of the Tibetan Plateau are fully separated and genetically differentiated. Division into two species has been proposed (Groves, 2011).

Life history

Red pandas reach maturity at 1.5 years of age and females will normally have 1-2 offspring per year. The average life expectancy is 10 years (12-14 in captivity). The species is not adaptable to rapid environmental changes (Gatson et al., 2015).

Role in the ecosystem

The diet of the red panda consists of 98% bamboo. It builds nests in the canopy and is mainly tree living. The main predator is snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*).

2. Population status and trend

The population is fragmented and decreasing. The population size is unknown (Glatson et al., 2015).

3. Conservation status

IUCN: Endangered (Glatson et al., 2015). Due to rapid population decline, the species was uplisted from Vulnerable since the last assessment in 2008.

4. Threats/causes of extinction

The main threat to red pandas is habitat loss caused by deforestation, ruining nesting spots and the bamboo understorey it relies on for food. Poaching for meat and pelts and capturing of animals for illegal pet trade are threats in parts of the range, particularly in Myanmar (Glatson et al., 2015).

5. Conservation and management measures

International legislation

The red panda has been listed on CITES Appendix I since 1995. Before that it was on Appendix II since 1975. It has been listed in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations Annex A since 1997.

Conservation measures

Protected areas are established within all of the range states. Protection of habitats is the main priority. A Global Species Management Plan for red pandas includes zoos around the world.

6. Trade/use

Legal

The majority of trade of red pandas registered in the CITES trade database (trade.cites.org) is live captive bred animals destined for zoos. In the years 2010-2020 the number of exports registered were 103 while the number of recorded imports were 81.

Illegal

In an assessment of illegal trade total of 13 seizure records (a total of 29 pelts) were collected in Nepal during the period 2016–2019 (Badola et al., 2020). Myanmar, where most illegal hunting is suspected to take place, was not part of the assessment.

References

Glatston, A., Wei, F., Than Zaw, Sherpa, A. 2015. *Ailurus fulgens* (errata version published in 2017). *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2015: e.T714A110023718.

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Badola, S., Fernandes, M., Marak, S.R. and Pilia, C. 2020 Assessment of illegal trade-related threats to Red Panda in India and selected neighbouring range countries .TRAFFIC, India office.