

VKM assessment:

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

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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

Country of import: Australia

Purpose and source: The proposal concerns the export of 2 live male golden lion tamarins from Kristiansand Dyrepark AS to Tasmania Zoo in Australia, purpose code Z. The two golden lion tamarins and both their 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 two live golden lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus rosalia*) bred in captivity, is **not detrimental** to the survival of the species.

The conclusion is based on the following factors:

- The individuals and both their parents are bred in captivity and the export will not have any harmful effect on the conservation status of the species.
- Ex-situ conservation is considered to be of importance for the future survival of *Leontopithecus rosalia*.

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, 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, 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, 2021).

2. Population status and trend

The last IUCN assessment of population size was 1,400 mature individuals (IUCN, 2015), the population is decreasing. 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 (Diez 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 (Ruiz-Miranda, 2019). However, in 2016 yellow fever led to 32% reduction from census made in 2014, and the new assessment in 2018 was 2,516 individuals (Dietz et al. 2019).

3. Conservation status

Endangered (IUCN, 2019). The species was downlisted from Critically Endangered in 2003.

4. Threats/causes of extinction

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 (Diez 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.

Conservation measures

The golden lion tamarin is included on the Brazilian Official List of Species Threatened with Extinction (Lista Nacional Oficial de Espécies da Fauna Ameaçadas de Extinção MMA, 2014), and on the regional threatened species list of the state of Rio de Janeiro. A non-governmental organization (NGO) Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado, AMLD, (or the golden lion tamarin association) is dedicated to keep the species from extinction by working for increases in population size and area of occupancy (Ruiz-Miranda et al, 2019).

6. Trade/use

Legal

In 1968, the Brazilian Fauna Protection Law forbade the capture, hunting, purchase, sale and exportation of golden lion tamarins. There is some trade in animals born in captivity, and in 2017 Brazil exported 79 specimens originating in the wild to Great Britain.

Illegal

Illegal capture for trade is presently not considered to be a significant threat.

References

Dietz, J.M., Hankerson, S.J., Alexandre, B.R., Henry, M.D., Martins, A.F., Ferraz, L.P. & Ruiz-Miranda, C.R. 2019. Yellow fever in Brazil threatens successful recovery of endangered golden lion tamarins. *Sci Rep* **9**, 12926. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-49199-6>

Ruiz-Miranda, C., de Moraes, Jr., M. M., Dietz, L. A., Alexandre, B. R., Martins, A. F., Ferraz, L. P., Mickelberg, J., Hankerson, S. J., and Dietz, J. M. 2019. Estimating population sizes to evaluate progress in conservation of golden lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus rosalia*). *PLoS ONE* **14**(6): e0216664.

Ruiz-Miranda, C.R., Pissinatti, A., Kierulff, M.C.M., Oliveira, L.C., Mittermeier, R.A., Valença-Montenegro, M.M., de Oliveira, P. & Jerusalinsky, L. 2021. *Leontopithecus rosalia* (amended version of 2019 assessment). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2021: e.T11506A192327291. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2021-1.RLTS.T11506A192327291.en>. Accessed on 11 December 2021.