

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

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Telephone 0117 372 8000

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Date 30 July 2005

Dear Consultees

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO PROHIBIT THE KEEPING OF CERTAIN CITES SPECIMENS

I am writing to invite your comments on the enclosed consultation paper on whether, and if so to what extent, it would be appropriate to use the powers available under Article 8.2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 to prohibit the keeping of certain species of wild fauna and flora.

Also attached is a list of consultees and a Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). Please let us know if there are any other interested persons or organisations, not already listed, who you believe should be included in this consultation exercise.

This consultation package sets out the rationale for action together with a number of options on the key issues under consideration and seeks your view accordingly. We should particularly like to know whether there are any:

- a) individuals or small businesses that are likely to be adversely affected;
- b) potential conservation benefits from introducing possession controls for the types of specimens identified below;
- c) disadvantages in introducing such controls;
- d) resource implications either for Defra or other affected bodies;
- e) other potential uses that could be made of this power;

and whether this would:

- take away scarce resources from other conservation priorities;
- place unreasonable burdens being placed on the legitimate trade in CITES specimens; or
- place unreasonable restrictions being on the right of individuals to the use and enjoyment of their property.



Awarded for excellence

We should particularly welcome your views on these, or any other, potential negative impacts. We would also appreciate your views on how the proposed reserve power for the Secretary of State to make exemptions from the proposed prohibitions might be exercised.

Comments should be sent to Eddie O'Sullivan at Defra via:

- by letter (Zone 1/16, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EB);
- fax (0117 3728373); or,
- e-mail (eddie.o'sullivan@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

not later than **Monday 31 October 2005**. If you have any questions about the issues raised in the document please do not hesitate to contact me. You may telephone, fax or e-mail me, whichever is the most convenient

Transparency Policy

In line with Defra's policy of openness, copies of the responses we receive may be made publicly available at the end of the consultation period through the Defra Information Resource Centre, Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR. The information they contain may also be published in a summary of responses.

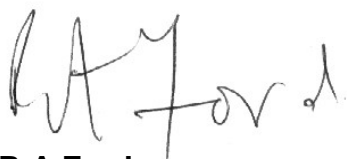
If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated confidentially. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request. You should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which Defra will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations.

The Information Resource Centre will supply copies of consultation responses to personal callers or in response to telephone or e-mail requests (tel: 020 7238 6575, email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk). Wherever possible, personal callers should give the library at least 24 hours' notice of their requirements. An administrative charge will be made to cover photocopying and postage costs.

Should you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process (as opposed to comments about the issues which are the subject of the consultation) they should be addressed to Lance Boxall, Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7D Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR. Email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



R A Ford
Global Wildlife Division