

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Aonyx microdon* in Appendix I

B. PROPONENT

Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Mammalia

1.2 Carnivora

1.3 Mustelidae

1.4 *Aonyx microdon* (Pohle, 1920)

1.5 Common names: Cameroon clawless otter (English)
Kamerun-Otter (German)

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution: River systems and adjoining wetlands of the western part of Cameroon and the neighbouring province of Cross River in Nigeria.

2.2 Population: Declined to a critically small residual population (precise figures are, however, not known).

2.3 Habitat: Inhabits rivers, but is probably more terrestrial in its habitats than related species. It feeds mainly on relatively soft matter, such as small land vertebrates, eggs and frogs rather than on fish.

2.4 Migrations: A small proportion of the population lives in border waters and migrates both as the water level changes as a result of seasonal variations in the climatic conditions and to its feeding-grounds.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threat to the population: Owing to uncontrolled (illegal) use of the very small residual population.

3.2 Habitat destruction: Presumably none at present.

3.3 Indirect threat: Not known

3.4 Threat especially connected with migrations: Lacking coordination of protective measures.

4. Protection status and needs
 - 4.1 National protection status: Catching requires a permit to be issued by the competent authority.
 - 4.2 International protection status: Included in Class B of the African Convention (1969), i.e. it may be hunted or collected only under special authorization granted by the competent authority. Included in Appendix I of the Washington Convention.
 - 4.3 Additional protection needs: Effective ban on hunting, if necessary, also establishment of reserves (an ecological survey is urgently required to assess its range and present status and to propose measures for its conservation, including preservation of representative samples of its habitat).
5. Range states
Cameroon, Nigeria
6. Comments from range states
None
7. Additional remarks
The species is listed in the IUCN Red Data Book as being "endangered".
8. References
Goodwin et al. (1978): Red Data Book, Vol. 1 - Mammalia, Sheet 12.105.24.1
Harris, C.J. (1968): Otters. - London (Weidenfield & Nicolson)