



Species Survival Network

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SSN urges the Parties to support

APPENDIX II LISTING FOR RED AND PINK CORALS CORALLIIDAE (CoP15 Prop. 21)

Red and Pink Corals Meet the Criteria for Appendix II Listing

- Primary threat is over-harvesting for the international trade in precious corals; harvest has declined over 80% since the 1980s. Over-exploited areas contain few remaining live colonies.
- Sustainable harvesting of *Coralliidae* is not possible; colonies are extremely slow growing; depleted beds of red and pink corals take hundreds of years to recover. Small colonies have low reproductive output.
- *Coralliidae* habitat in harvested areas is dominated by small, immature colonies, yet even the smallest colonies are collected, ground into coral powder, mixed with resin, and made into jewelry.
- Mediterranean populations are depleted; Pacific populations, if not already depleted, are exhausted within 4-5 years after discovery; poaching in national waters in the Pacific by IUU vessels is common.
- Use of trawls, dredges and nets to harvest the deeper-dwelling species destroys entire colonies and severely damages their associated habitat and ecosystems.
- There are no international controls or comprehensive monitoring programs for *Coralliidae* and they are not managed by FAO or any regional fisheries management organization.
- Listing Black Coral (*Antipatharia*) on Appendix II has improved ability to monitor the trade. An Appendix II listing for *Coralliidae* would require exporting countries to certify that trade, including trade from the high seas, will not be detrimental to the species.
- Seven *Coralliidae* species are traded worldwide as jewelry, but identification to species level is not possible in finished products.