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.