

**PRESS CONFERENCE
WANPI ZOO GIRAFFE IMPORTS
7 JULY 2021
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OPENING STATEMENT

For this Press Conference, I will explain HOW and WHY the import of reticulated giraffes by the Wanpi Zoo violates CITES regulations **and** suggests possible involvement in a conspiracy designed to hide the FACT that the action is detrimental to the survival of giraffes in Africa by trafficking in a species that is threatened with extinction.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

- At CITES COP18, in Geneva, Switzerland, held in August 2019, Swaziland was in favor of the motion for split-listing giraffe subspecies that would include seven subspecies on Appendix II, but leave the South African and Angolan giraffe subspecies off of the Appendix.
- The motion for split listing failed.
- The motion [Proposal 5] to list *Giraffa camelopardalis* on Appendix II passed with 83% of delegations voting in favor.
- Swaziland filed a 'reservation' and doesn't want to adhere to CITES.
- ***However, by supporting the split listing, Swaziland was in favor of ADDING RETICULATED GIRAFFES TO CITES APPENDIX II. Their reservation was based on the foundation that SOUTH AFRICAN AND ANGOLAN GIRAFFE SUBSPECIES should not be listed.***
- ***THEREFORE, the export of reticulated giraffes is CONTRARY to the opinions shared in Geneva at CITES COP18 by the Swaziland delegates, who were IN FAVOR of putting reticulated giraffes on Appendix II via a split listing.***

To now support the export of the endangered reticulated giraffes from Swaziland is equivalent to what we call 'throwing the baby out with the bathwater' in the USA.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE is that filing a 'reservation' by a country does NOT remove an endangered species from a CITES APPENDIX listing. Anybody can look online and see that *Giraffa camelopardalis* is presently listed under CITES Appendix II.

SOME FACTS ABOUT GIRAFFES

First, adult male giraffes spend most of their time alone in their natural habitat.

Second, adult female giraffes spend most of their time with family and friends in their natural habitat.

Third, moving giraffes from country-to-country can break up social bonds among giraffes, including separating mothers from children.

Fourth, NO HISTORICAL WRITTEN RECORDS, going back to 1750, exist that anybody saw a giraffe in Swaziland until introduced from South Africa in the early 1960s.

Fifth, the IUCN Red List notes that ALL giraffes in Swaziland have been “INTRODUCED” to the country and are considered “EXTRA LIMITAL”.

Sixth, genetic analysis has shown that the southern African giraffes introduced to Mbuluzi Game Reserve, in Swaziland, in the 1990s are highly inbred **and the captive group in Mbuluzi has less genetic variation than wild reticulated giraffes.**

Seventh, the natural habitat and geographic range of reticulated giraffes is limited to three countries: Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

Eighth, about 100 reticulated giraffes, or even fewer, might live in Somalia.

Ninth, about 100 reticulated giraffes, or even fewer, might live in Ethiopia.

Tenth, nearly all reticulated giraffes live in the northeast corner of Kenya, in dry/arid regions.

Eleventh, ONLY about 3,000-6,000 adult female reticulated giraffes live in the wild in their natural habitat.

Twelfth, the IUCN Red List classifies “Giraffes” as “Vulnerable” to extinction, and the subspecies, “Reticulated Giraffes” as “Endangered” or more threatened with extinction than the African population as a whole.

Thirteenth, the importation of a species threatened with extinction, such as Giraffes, that are listed on CITES Appendix II is a VIOLATION of CITES standards, and, therefore, directly contradicts the official position of the Bureau of Foreign Trade, as stated on their website

[<https://www.trade.gov.tw/English/Pages/detail.aspx?nodeID=102&pid=701680>].

SOME UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED IMPORT OF GIRAFFES

Where did the reticulated giraffes in Swaziland originally come from?

How many giraffes were in the founding population?

When were they brought to Swaziland?

Where is the import document showing that reticulated giraffes were legally obtained from Somalia, Ethiopia, or Kenya?

What is the age/sex composition of the 18 giraffes destined for Taiwan, information that should be shared by the 'captive breeding' facility?

Are the animals inbred, as at the Mbuluzi Game Reserve, which could create genetic and health problems in the future?

Are any of the animals adult males ? **if there are multiple adult males in a small enclosure then it could cause serious fighting between the males.**

Are any of animals females who have relatives remaining behind in the 'captive breeding facility'?

Are any of the animals young calves that might be orphans and dependent upon extensive caretaking?

What are the plans for these giraffes by the Wanpi Zoo?

- a. If for breeding, then where will the offspring be exported, since the species is listed under CITES Appendix II?
- b. If not for breeding, then have all subjects been neutered or are there plans to neuter them?
- c. If for display, then how can Wanpi Zoo educate guests about the plight of giraffes when they are importing an endangered species?

Why does the paperwork on the export/import of these giraffes not include crucial details about these animals?

Is the export/import sale of reticulated giraffes based upon commercial, and not conservation, purposes?

Why is this endangered subspecies of giraffes being brought to Taiwan?

Given the lack of transparency about the history of these giraffes, and the opaqueness of the composition of the giraffes intended for Wanpi Zoo, then isn't it possible that Wanpi Zoo is complicit in conducting illegal activities by purchasing giraffes that were obtained by kidnapping wild animals from Northeast Africa and smuggling them to Swaziland as part of a network of criminal syndicates that specialize in trafficking in wild animals, as well as animal parts and people (for sexual slavery)?

CLOSING REMARKS

SWAZILAND IS NOT THE NATURAL HABITAT FOR GIRAFFES AND RETICULATED GIRAFFES ARE LISTED AS 'ENDANGERED' ON THE IUCN RED LIST AND INCLUDED ON CITES APPENDIX II.

IMPORTING GIRAFFES TO TAIWAN WITHOUT PROVIDING TRANSPARENCY ABOUT THE ORIGIN, AGE, AND SEX OF THE 18 SUBJECTS IS NOT ONLY VIOLATING CITES STANDARDS, BUT COULD MEAN THAT WANPI ZOO IS WORKING WITH CRIMINAL SYNDICATES THAT TRANSPORT ANIMALS AND PEOPLE ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

FINALLY, ZOOS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE A MISSION OF SAVING THE BIODIVERSITY ON EARTH, SO IGNORING CITES APPENDICES AND IMPORTING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES OBTAINED UNDER DUBIOUS AND QUESTIONABLE CIRCUMSTANCES CONTRADICTS AND CONFLICTS WITH THE MISSION OF MODERN ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS.

□ 野生動物保育生物學家/長頸鹿專家 Fred Bercovitch

Fred Bercovitch 開場：「這場記者會，我將會解釋為什麼頑皮世界進口網紋長頸鹿是違反 CITES 規範、頑皮世界不但進口瀕臨絕種的物種，且這次輸入長頸鹿可能牽涉到的陰謀、以及頑皮世界想隱藏其中將對動物福利造成傷害的真相。」

概要：

「在 2019 年 8 月，CITES 第 18 次締約國會議中史瓦帝尼投票贊成「分裂名單(split-listing)」長頸鹿的七種亞種到附錄二，但是不應包含安哥拉長頸鹿與南非長頸鹿等兩亞種。但此提議失敗。不過將長頸鹿全數放入附錄二的提議得到 83% 的高票通過，而史瓦帝尼選擇對此提議提出保留權表示不想遵循 CITES。不過，根據史國對於 split-listing 的贊成，也表示他們支持將網紋長頸鹿加入 CITES 附錄二，而反對將安哥拉長頸鹿與南非長頸鹿列上附錄。因此，此次出口網紋長頸鹿的舉動明顯違背了他們在 CITES 第 18 次締約國會議上持有的立場。」

而現在反而支持出口網紋長頸鹿的舉動，在美國我們稱之為：「把嬰兒與洗澡水一起倒掉。」（類似因為想捨棄某物不好的地方而丟掉了寶貴的部分，因小失大、不分青紅皂白。）

切記：：：對任何議題提出保留權，不代表將瀕臨絕種的動物將附錄中移除。任何人都可以上網去 CITES 附錄二上找到長頸鹿及其亞種。

Fred 提出有關長頸鹿的事實：

- 成熟的雄性長頸鹿通常獨居在野外；成熟的雌性長頸鹿則多半與朋友、家人一起生活，而將長頸鹿在國與國之間移動是破壞了他們彼此間的緊密社交連結，包含母子之間的連結。
- 在歷史上，從 1750 年以來的記載的文獻中，從來沒有人在史瓦帝尼看過長頸鹿，直到 1960 年代從南非引進。
- 在 IUCN 紅皮書上註記，所有在史瓦帝尼的長頸鹿都是從他處引進，非原生種。
- 一項基因分析指出，1990 年代被引進史瓦帝尼 Mbuluzi Game Reserve 中的南非長頸鹿被嚴重的近親交配，這批動物跟肯亞野外的網紋長頸鹿比較起來，基因多樣性少很多。
- 地理上而言，網紋長頸鹿的自然棲息地與活動範圍僅限於三個國家：索馬利亞（僅存 100 隻以下）、衣索比亞（僅存 100 隻以下）以及肯亞，幾乎所有的網紋長頸鹿分佈在肯亞的東北角，那裡有著炙熱且極乾燥的氣候。
- 全世界只有將近 3000-6000 隻成熟的雌性網紋長頸鹿居住在野外的原生地。
- IUCN 紅皮書將長頸鹿列為「易危物種」，且其亞種網紋長頸鹿列為「瀕危物種」，比其他非洲長頸鹿族群更受絕種威脅。進口受威脅且列入 CITES 附錄二的物種，例如：長頸鹿，是違反 CITES 標準且直接與國貿局在網站上聲明的內容背道而馳的。
<https://www.trade.gov.tw/English/Pages/detail.aspx?nodeID=102&pid=701680>

Fred 針對這次進口提出的問題

- 這次從史瓦帝尼進口的長頸鹿原本是從哪裡來的？
- 這個原始的群體中有多少隻長頸鹿？
- 他們什麼時候進入到史瓦帝尼？
- 請問哪裡有相關的資料顯示他們是合法的從索馬利亞、衣索比亞或肯亞進口？
- 請問這次台灣要進口的 18 隻長頸鹿，他們的性別、年齡組成為何？如果是從人工圈養機構取得，他們應該會提供相關的資訊？

- 他們是像 Mbuluzi Game Reserve 的長頸鹿一樣近親繁殖嗎？如果是的話勢必會造成未來健康狀況的疑慮？
- 進口的動物中有任何雄性嗎？將多隻雄性長頸鹿關在窄小的空間內，勢必會有嚴重打架的問題。
- 即將被輸入台灣的雌性動物中，牠們會有家人/親戚被留在史瓦帝尼的“人工圈養”場所內嗎？
- 即將輸入台灣的動物中，有任何是從母親身邊帶走的幼年個體嗎？這些孤兒會需要仰賴密切的照護。

想請問頑皮世界對於這些長頸鹿的計畫是什麼？

- a. 如果是繁殖，既然他們是 CITES 附錄二的物種，那請問牠們的後代會被輸出到哪裡？
 - b. 如果不是繁殖，那請問這些動物都已經絕育了嗎？或是會有相關絕育計畫？
 - c. 如果是為了展示而引進瀕危絕種的動物，你們要如何正當性的教導民眾有關長頸鹿在全球生態的困境？
- 為什麼在進出口的文件中，並沒有納入這 18 隻長頸鹿重要的相關資訊？
 - 這樣的網紋長頸鹿進出口是否基於商業而非保育的目的？

為什麼瀕臨絕種的長頸鹿被帶進台灣？

頑皮世界不透明化的長頸鹿來源以及組成，是不是代表著頑皮世界有可能涉及非法行為，例如購買這些來路不明的動物，其實是來自於專門走私野生動物、動物身體部位甚至人口的犯罪組織，他們從東北非強行掠奪野生的網紋長頸鹿，走私進入史瓦帝尼，最後賣進頑皮世界手中？

結語

史瓦帝尼不是長頸鹿的天然棲息地，且網紋長頸鹿不僅在 IUCN 紅皮書上被列為瀕危物種，也被列入 CITES 附錄二。

不提供透明化資訊，例如：來源、年齡與性別就讓 18 個個體進入台灣，不止違反了 CITES 標準，也代表著頑皮世界正在與犯罪集團共同合作將動物運輸到世界各地。

最後，世界上所有的動物園都有保存地球上基因多樣性的任務，所以忽視 CITES、引進來源可疑且含糊不清的瀕危物種，可說是嚴重的違反了現代動物機構的使命。