**Submission theme: Marine Biodiversity and Threatened Marine Species**

**Toward CITES listing of some commercial sea cucumbers from the Indo-Pacific: the teatfish *Holothuria (Microthele)* spp.**

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**Background:** some species of holothurians constitute a marine resource, exploited in the Indian ocean since a very long time, mostly for export as the dried product, trepang or beche-de-mer, for oriental consumers. Recent studies have shown that they are now mostly overfished in most countries. Attention for protection is presently developing. The teatfish from the Indian ocean *Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogilva*, *H. (M.) nobilis* are high value species, as *H. (M.) fuscogilva, H. (M) whithmaei* in the tropical Pacific and need conservation of their populations.

**Methods:** among several approaches a CITES listing, in one of the three existing Appendices, is a possibility which has been developed recently first presented by the French Scientific Authority at the 79th meeting of the Scientific Review Group (SRG) (June 2017) where it was favorably received by the other EU Member States, then at the Animals Committee, the technical committee of scientific experts of the Parties to CITES, in Geneva in July 2018 and under the EU delegation. The proposal, after some corrections, mainly suggested during a very recent FAO meeting (January 2019), will be presented by the EU at the next CITES CoP in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the end of May 2019, with the support of several countries.

**Results:** a careful analyse of the various bibliographical resources (scientific publications as well as country reports) has allowed to synthetize the present knowledge on the biology, ecology and fisheries of these important species and their importance for the fishers and the trade. The discussions have already concerned the number of species to list and the choice of the species, as these fisheries are now developing worldwide.

**Conclusion:** there is a the long way toward listing in CITES Appendix II for most marine species, but this proposal is well advanced and will allow other species of commercial holothurians to be added in the future.