



WILL THE BCF SAGA BE RESOLVED ONCE AND FOR ALL IN JANUARY 2020? PHOTO: JOHN DAWES

ENCOURAGEMENT WITH 'STRINGS ATTACHED' FOR THE BCF

"Indonesia is encouraged to continue its conservation and management measures to ensure the sustainability of international trade in *Pterapogon kauderni*, and is invited to report progress on these measures, in particular on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the Animals Committee at its 30th meeting, to the Animals Committee at its 31st meeting".

So... what does all this mean?

In short, it means that, while Indonesia's efforts to conserve and manage its Banggai cardinalfish (BCF) populations are being acknowledged positively, they are not fully being given the green light... at least, not until January 2020, which is when the Animals Committee (AC) next meets.

While this may sound as if the AC is leaving the door open to block international sales of the BCF in the future, there is a positive aspect in that it is satisfied with the progress that Indonesia has made since it was invited to submit a management and conservation programme to AC30, following the 17TH CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 2016.

Indonesia had already submitted an initial progress report at AC29. This was welcomed by the AC who "encouraged" Indonesia to "share any preliminary data" at AC30, while recognising that this might "consist of early results of work intended to extend beyond 2018."

As Svein Fosså, OFI's CITES Representative, who attends all CITES CoPs and AC meetings, comments: "... all the information available at the moment indicates that Indonesia is fully capable of managing the habitat and species well. We do not expect to see further listing proposals, which most likely only would be counterproductive to the conservation efforts."

The listing proposals referred to above are:

- > 2007 CITES CoP – the US proposed Appendix II listing for the BCF at the 14th CoP but withdrew its proposal following strong opposition from Indonesia.
- > 2016 CITES CoP – the EU proposed Appendix II listing at CoP 17, but the proposal failed and was, consequently,