



May 24, 2012

Good news: The EWA Board of Directors have agreed to an offer by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to settle the delisting petition lawsuit filed by EWA. The EWA filed a delisting petition two years ago asking for the USFWS to remove the "three species" from the restrictions of the Endangered Species Act in the United States based on the number of animals in this country. The EWA believed that, although these animals are certainly endangered in their native land, the numbers in this country warranted them being removed from the confines of the ESA.

The USFWS refused to act on this petition within 90 days as required by federal law and EWA filed a lawsuit to force the service to address this issue. After months of negotiations with the USFWS an out-of-court settlement has now been reached in which they have agreed to address the delisting issue within the next 12 months and reimburse the EWA a portion of our attorney fees. What this means for the "three species" is that USFWS biologists will have to use scientific data to consider the delisting of the animals. They will have to show scientific data that the populations of Scimitar Horned Oryx, Dama Gazelle, and Addax in this country are not sufficient enough to warrant being removed from the restrictions of the Endangered Species Act.

The decision on the part of the EWA Board of Directors to settle this issue was based on our attorney's recommendations. USFWS offered us what we were originally asking for in our delisting petition.

There are no guarantees what the outcome of this settlement will be, but it is a great first step in the delisting process.

Charly Seale
Executive Director
Exotic Wildlife Association