

## CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

**Other proposals**A. Proposal

Transfer of *Eunymphicus cornutus uveaensis* from Appendix II to Appendix I. The Uvéa parakeet has been and will continue to be affected by trade. The wild population is very small and is vulnerable because it is found only at a few places and its habitat is very reduced.

B. Proponent

France, at the request of New Caledonia

C. Supporting Statement1. Taxonomy

- 1.1. Class: Aves
- 1.2. Order: Psittaciformes
- 1.3. Family: Psittacidae
- 1.4. Genus: *Eunymphicus*  
 species: *Eunymphicus cornutus*  
 subspecies: *Eunymphicus cornutus uveaensis* Layard and Layard 1882
- 1.5 Scientific synonyms:
- 1.6 Common names: English: Uvéa horned parakeet, Uvéa parakeet  
 French: Perruche d'Ouvéa, Nymphique d'Ouvéa  
 Spanish: Perico cornido de Uvéa  
 German: Uvea-Hornsittich
- 1.7 Code numbers: CITES A-218.003.022.001

2. Biological Parameters

## 2.1 Distribution

The Uvéa parakeet is endemic to the island of Uvéa in the Loyalty Islands. Its main population is found in the "Grande forêt" in the northern part of the island, an area of about 2000 hectares (Robinet *et al.* 1996), but some parakeets (including breeding couples) are also found in strips of forest on the isthmus and even in the southern part of the island.

## 2.2 Habitat availability

The typical habitat of this parakeet is the primary forest and forest in all stages of degradation, from fallow Melanesian fields to secondary forest. This species lives primarily under the forest canopy. Its distribution is very heterogeneous. This type of habitat covers 2000 hectares in the northern part of the island and 4600 hectare in the southern part, for a total of only 6600 hectares of potential habitat (Robinet *et al.* 1996).

This forest is increasingly threatened by man. Uvéa is a small island (132 square kilometres), whose human population is young and constantly increasing (almost 4000 inhabitants and more than 50 per cent of the population is less than 20 years old). The increase in population leads to more and more destruction of the forest for housing, cultivated fields and plantations, especially coconut palms, the main resource of the island's inhabitants.

### 2.3 Population status

The following estimates have been made of this population: 100 (Hahn 1993) to 200 specimens (King 1981; Lambert *et al.* 1992). In 1993, Robinet *et al.* carried out the first survey of the Uvéa parakeet and estimated the population to be 650 specimens, of which there were about 100 nesting couples, found mostly on the northern part of the island (Robinet *et al.* 1996). A survey carried out in 1998 by the technical services of the Province of the Loyalty Islands and the Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Perruche (ASPO) estimated the total population to be 800 specimens (Primot).

### 2.4 Population trends

In five years (between 1993 and 1998, the year of the most recent survey), the population has only barely increased. The total population will always remain low because of the limitation on its habitat.

### 2.5 Geographic trends

This parakeet is confined to Uvéa, without any possibility of expanding. The population in the southern part of the island has not increased between 1993 and 1998.

In 1963, the territorial technical services released 15 specimens on the neighbouring island of Lifou, but there is no longer any specimen on this island. One of the hypotheses is that they returned to Uvéa; another theory is that they were unable to reproduce because of the presence of rats on Lifou. Unfortunately, little information is available on this operation.

### 2.6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

This parakeet probably plays a role in the dissemination of several seeds that it eats, especially several species of *Ficus*.

### 2.7 Threats

Heavy predation is carried out by the goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus vigilax*) on juveniles and probably adults. The barn owl (*Tyto alba lifuensis*), feral cats, the Pacific rat (*Rattus exulans*), the Pacific boa (*Candoia bibroni*) and the coconut crab (*Birgus latro*) probably also prey on nestlings, to some degree.

The impact of the electric ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*), introduced in the 1990s to Uvéa, should be studied.

The low rate of predation observed at the nest is related to the absence of the common rat (*Rattus rattus*) and the Uvéa rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) (Robinet and Salas 1996), although these rodents are present on the other Loyalty islands and on Grande Terre. Preventive measures at the port and the airport have been taken to prevent the introduction of these two major predators of nestlings. These measures should be reinforced and continued in the future.

The nests suffer from considerable capture by humans. The damage is made worse because habitat is decreasing, access to the nests is increasingly easy and the proportion of nests gathered is increasing.

A hole is usually dug in the tree trunk to capture the fledglings, rendering the nest unusable for later nesting.

The number of juveniles gathered each year was estimated at 30 to 40 according to a survey in 1993. An important effort to promote awareness has been carried out since 1992 by ASPO to inform the population and limit capture.

### 3. Utilization and Trade

#### 3.1 National utilization

Several inhabitants of Uvéa capture and tame these birds, which are usually kept in cages in interior patios.

#### 3.2 Legal international trade

Six fledglings were exported to Germany in 1980, two others in 1992 and four more in 1993 (Bregulla 1993). Trade in birds bred in captivity is not quantifiable at this time.

#### 3.3. Illegal trade

The birds are shipped mostly to Grande Terre by aeroplane, but more now by boat since inspections are being carried out at the airport for internal flights.

The captive population at Nouméa is estimated to be 100 to 150 parakeets according to several private breeders.

In spite of trade with Europe (the importance of which is unknown), the captive population of Uvéa parakeets outside of New Caledonia is small.

It is estimated that 30 to 40 birds are captured annually on Uvéa.

#### 3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Trade represents a true threat to the survival of this species, because it is supplied exclusively with specimens taken from the wild.

#### 3.5 Captive breeding or artificial propagation for commercial purposes (outside country of origin)

There are several breeders of Uvéa parakeets, primarily in Europe.

### 4. Conservation and management

#### 4.1 Legal status

##### 4.1.1 National

Deliberation 387 dated 26/04/1972 - Territory of New Caledonia (hunting, capture and illegal possession).

##### 4.1.2 International

This species is listed in Appendix II of CITES.

#### 4.2 Species management

##### 4.2.1 Population monitoring

A conservation plan for this species was prepared by a scientific committee and experts in November 1996 (Robinet and Salas 1997). This plan is being implemented by an association (Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Perruche d'Ouvéa) with the support of the Province of the Loyalty Islands. This association includes private individuals, institutions and tribal authorities from Uvéa.

Everyone intends to work toward the preservation of this treasure of the island's heritage.

One of the main points of the plan is the monitoring and study of the wild population. The population is surveyed regularly; the most recent survey was in December 1998 (Primot). The next survey is to be carried out in 2000.

The nests are also monitored regularly. They are recorded, their status is observed and the young birds identified.

#### 4.2.2 Habitat conservation

Three types of conservation action are carried out within the conservation plan:

- restoration of nests destroyed by smugglers (obstruction of the hole for capturing);
- study and perfection of an appropriate nesting box;
- promotion of awareness in the population of wiser use of the forest.

#### 4.2.3 Management measures

Three types of measures have been implemented:

- information and awareness campaigns:
  - A quarterly bulletin, "Baginy", provides information on progress with the conservation plan, news about ASPO and varied information about the Uvéa parakeet.
  - Information displays have been set up in the schools and whenever there is an opportunity to sensitize the local population. A permanent display has been created at the site of the administration of the province of the Loyalty Islands.
  - Several promotional articles are sold for the benefit of the ASPO in order to spread the message encouraging protection of the Uvéa parakeet.
  - Three jobs have been created.
- conservation measures and the study of existing populations including observation of parakeets in their natural environment:
  - banding of the birds
  - survey of nests
  - taxonomic study
  - prevention of any introduction of predators, especially rats, by the creation of a trapping mechanism near potential places of introduction (boat landings)
- steps to encourage breeding:
  - Relocation is taking place in order to reinforce the population in the southern part of the island. After a study of the possibilities offered by the forest area appropriate for the birds, carried out in collaboration with the Orstom/Latical centre in Nouméa with the use of GIS, an area for release has been selected. A cage for the breeding has been installed in which the captured birds are held for two months.
  - The birds are followed by remote radio monitoring from the time they are released.

### 4.3 Control measures

#### 4.3.1 International trade

This species is listed in CITES Appendix II.

#### 4.3.2 Domestic measures

Deliberation no. 387 dated 26/04/1972.

Draft regulations are being prepared, aimed at protecting wild fauna and flora.

## 5. Information on Similar Species

This species can be easily confused with the horned parakeet subspecies (*Eunymphicus cornutus cornutus*).

Listing of both subspecies in the same CITES Appendix is justified because the two subspecies are rather similar. There is a risk that smugglers may attempt to substitute Uvéa parakeets for horned parakeets.

The confirmed population of these birds fully justifies that it also be listed in Appendix I.

## 6. Other Comments

## 7. Additional Remarks

## 8. References

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- Hannecart F., Letocart Y., 1983, Oiseaux de Nouvelle Calédonie et des Iles Loyauté, Tome II, Les Editions Cardinalis, Nouméa, Nouvelle Calédonie.
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- Robinet O., 1997, Ecology and Conservation of the Ouvéa Parakeet (*Eunymphicus cornutus uvaensis*), PhD Thesis, Auckland Univ.
- Robinet O., Salas M., 1997, Plan de Sauvegarde de la Perruche d'Ouvéa (1997-2002), Province des Iles Loyauté-Cirad, Nouméa.

## Annexes

- Summary of registered exports between 1972 and 1998
- Summary of the main points of the draft regulation on protection of fauna and flora in New Caledonia
- Map of the distribution of the Uvéa parakeet

**FICHE CITES RECAPITULATIVE**

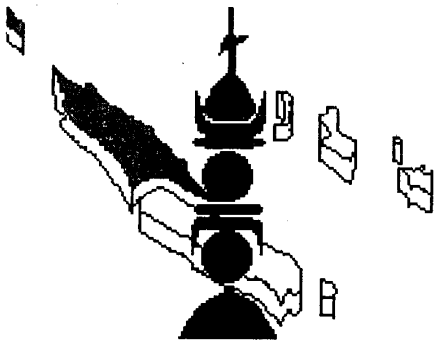
**FAUNE**

**OISEAUX**

**Perruche d'Ouvéa**  
(*Eunymphicus cornutus Uveaensis*)

**ANNEXE II**

N° CITES	EXPEDITEUR	DESTINATAIRE	DESIGNATION	QTE	OBSERVATIONS
2/92	Nouméa	Belgique		2	Elevage en captivité
3/92	Nouméa	France		2	2eme génération
7/92 bis	Nouméa	Allemagne		1	2eme génération
8/92 bis	Nouméa	Allemagne		1	2eme génération
9/92	Nouméa	Allemagne		1	2eme génération
10/92	Nouméa	Allemagne		1	2eme génération
11/92	Nouméa	Allemagne		1	2eme génération
12/92	Nouméa	Allemagne		1	2eme génération
13/92	Nouméa	Allemagne		1	2eme génération
1/93	Nouméa	Allemagne		4	Elevage en captivité 2eme génération
17/93	Nouméa	Allemagne		4	Elevage en captivité 2eme génération
1994	NEANT	NEANT	NEANT		
3/95	Nouméa	Allemagne	2 Femelles + 1 Mâle nés en captivité	3	Elevage personnel
7/95	Nouméa	France	1 couple nés en captivité	2	Elevage
1996	NEANT	NEANT	NEANT		
279/97	Nouméa	Nouvelle-Zélande	Prélèvements sanguins	2	Scientifique
1998	NEANT	NEANT	NEANT		



NOUVELLE - CALEDONIE

ASSEMBLEE DE LA  
PROVINCE NORD

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DIRECTION DU DEVELOPPEMENT  
RURAL ET DE LA PECHE

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KOUMAC, le 1<sup>er</sup> AOUT 1999

## RAPPORT DE PRESENTATION

### --- PROTECTION DE LA FAUNE ET DE LA FLORE EN NOUVELLE CALEDONIE

Les trois Provinces de la Nouvelle Calédonie, compétentes en matière de protection et de gestion du patrimoine naturel ont pour objectif de voter fin 1999 - début 2000 une nouvelle réglementation sur les bases suivantes :

- affirmer la valeur et le respect de ce patrimoine naturel remarquable
- compléter les textes antérieurs de 1956 et 1972 par une réglementation moderne tenant compte de l'évolution des connaissances scientifiques et des pratiques de récolte, de pêche ou de chasse
- protéger les espèces animales et végétales locales présentant une valeur culturelle, écologique, symbolique ou marchande
- renforcer le contrôle des prélèvements, captures et dégradations d'espèces endémiques sur les sites naturels ainsi que celui des exportations
- interdire, sauf autorisation spéciale, l'introduction d'espèces exogènes en Nouvelle Calédonie
- contrôler les conditions et destinations des élevages et cultures d'espèces endémiques en Nouvelle Calédonie
- conserver les biotopes porteurs d'espèces rares ou menacées

L'application de cette réglementation sera contrôlée par les agents des Provinces, de Police, des Douanes et de Gendarmerie ainsi que par des gardes champêtres et gardes particuliers agréés.

Cette volonté des trois Provinces s'appuie sur le vœu officiel du Congrès de Nouvelle Calédonie émis le 26 Janvier 1996 en faveur des espèces menacées de faune et de flore.

