

Psittacus erithacus Linnaeus, 1758

FAMILY: Psittacidae

COMMON NAMES: Grey Parrot (English); Jacko, Jacquot, Perroquet Gris, Perroquet Jaco (French); Loro Yaco, Yaco (Spanish).

GLOBAL CONSERVATION STATUS: Listed as: Least Concern in the 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, currently under review (IUCN, 2004).

SIGNIFICANT TRADE REVIEW FOR: Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya; Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda.

Range States selected for review

Range State	Exports* (1994-2003)	Urgent, possible or least concern	Comments
Angola	191	Least concern	Low levels of exports reported
Benin	13	Least concern	Low levels of exports reported
Burundi	0	Least concern	No reported exports
Cameroon	156,855	Urgent concern	Little recent population information, however indications of localised declines and range contraction; export quotas (which have regularly been exceeded) may be high relative to sustainable offtake; suspected illegal trade a concern
Central African Republic	228	Least concern	Low levels of exports reported
Congo	31,946	Possible concern	Exports increasing in recent years; quotas regularly exceeded; little recent population information, scientific basis for quotas and non-detrimental nature of exports not clear
Côte d'Ivoire	**18,903	Urgent concern	Exports increasing in recent years; quotas regularly exceeded; little recent population information but habitat disappearing; scientific basis for quotas and non-detrimental nature of exports not clear; suspected illegal trade a concern.
Democratic Republic of Congo	118,780	Possible concern	Little recent population information; scientific basis for quotas and non-detrimental nature of exports not clear; suspected illegal trade a concern
Equatorial Guinea	770	Possible concern	Recent increase in exports; scientific basis for quotas and non-detrimental nature of exports not clear
Gabon	382	Least concern	Low levels of exports reported
Guinea	6,465	Urgent concern	Population believed to have declined significantly with concern that permitted exports may not be within sustainable levels; suspected illegal trade a concern
Guinea-Bissau	69	Least concern	Low levels of exports reported
Kenya	503	Least concern	Negligible international trade reported recently; earlier trade based on import records so could reflect reporting error
Liberia	11,045	Urgent concern	Species regarded as depleted, export levels likely not to be sustainable; suspected illegal trade a concern
Mali	66	Least concern	Low levels of exports reported
Nigeria	539	Least concern	Authorized international trade at low levels; high national demand; illegal exports, and possibly imports, believed to be substantial and require attention.
Rwanda	0	Least concern	No exports reported
Sierra Leone	10,911	Urgent concern	Preliminary calculations suggest current exports are unsustainable
Togo	116	Least concern	No viable population; low level of exports reported likely to have originated elsewhere; the origin of any further exports requires confirmation
Uganda	41	Least concern	Low levels of exports reported

* Excluding re-exports

** Figures for *P. erithacus* and *P. e. timneh*

SUMMARY

The Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* is one of the most popular avian pets in Europe, the United States of America and the Middle East, owing to its longevity and unparalleled ability to mimic human speech and other sounds. It has a large range in West and Central Africa, extending marginally into East

Africa, with an estimated global extent of occurrence of some 3,000,000 km². The global population size has not been quantified, but is presumed to be large. Global population trends have not been quantified although declines have been reported in a large portion of the range, specifically in Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda and parts of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is unclear if the species approaches the thresholds for the population decline criterion of the IUCN Red List Vulnerable category (i.e. declining more than 30% in three generations). It is currently classified as Least Concern, but will be subject to a category review in the near future. It is estimated that 15-30% of the population breeds in any one year, with an average productivity of 0.4 nestlings per nest. Population density is very variable: estimates in different areas and different habitats vary from 0.15 birds per km² to two breeding pairs per km².

Trapping for the wild bird trade has been implicated as a major cause of decline, with habitat loss also believed to have significant impacts throughout West and East Africa. While there has been some domestic demand within range States e.g. in Nigeria, most impacts seem to be due to international trade, probably owing to the high value of this species.

The species is heavily traded: from 1994-2003, just under 360,000 wild-caught individuals were reported exported from range States, with the great majority (98% during this period) coming from Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo and Côte d'Ivoire, the last two countries having significantly increased exports in recent years. In addition to recorded trade, there is believed to be a high level of illegal trade, including undeclared trade between range States.

Virtually all trade is in live birds. Recorded trade levels declined markedly after 1992, from an annual average of just under 56,000 birds for 1984-1992 to around 31,000 per year for the period 1993 to 1998. They increased again, to around 41,000 per year for 1999-2003, largely owing to increased exports from Congo and Côte d'Ivoire. The dip was partly due to the United States 1992 (effective 1993) import ban on all wild individuals of this and other CITES-listed bird species (1992, US Wild Bird Conservation Act), as the country was previously a significant importer. Currently the vast majority of reported exports go to Europe, around 80% directly and a further 13% via South Africa.

Post-capture, pre-export mortality estimates for the species in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria average 30-40% (overall between 15 and 66%).

All range states apart from Angola are Parties to CITES, one only recently (e.g., São Tomé and Príncipe in 2001). The species is protected in most if not all range States, with exports either regulated or banned. However, implementation of trade controls is often insufficient to ensure that exports are in accordance with national legislation and/or CITES. In some cases trade bans resulted in a shift in trade routes and mechanisms rather than its cessation. Each of the top four exporting countries have established export quotas, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo having had these for the whole of the period under review, Congo since 2000 and Côte d'Ivoire since 1998. Trade records indicate that exports have exceeded export quotas in one or more years in which they have been in place.

Psittacus erithacus was included was reviewed under the CITES Significant Trade Review process established by Resolution Conf. 8.9, the recommendations from this review being communicated to the relevant Parties in mid-1992 (see below). Exports from Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire have been the subject of CITES Notifications in response to that earlier review and/or concerns with trade controls more generally. Each was also subject to recommendations to importing countries to suspend imports of the species until various problems (including permitting irregularities and non-adherence to quotas) had been resolved.

Surveys have been undertaken in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Nigeria, some as a direct result of the Significant Trade Review process.

Preliminary analysis, based on levels of trade (legal and suspected illegal) and likely population levels, indicate that trade in the species should be considered of *Urgent* Concern in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and of *Possible* Concern in Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Togo. Trade from other range States under review is considered of Least

Concern. In addition, ongoing reports of illegal and/or poorly documented trade, and the significant increase in the trade of birds reported as, or claimed to be, captive-bred, merit increased attention.

SPECIES CHARACTERISTICS

The species has an overall distribution extending from Guinea-Bissau east through the Guinean Forests of West Africa to Cameroon, and thence in the Congo forests to just east of the Albertine Rift (up to the shores of Lake Victoria) and south to northern Angola. Range States are: Angola; Benin; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Kenya; Liberia; Nigeria; Rwanda; São Tomé and Príncipe; Sierra Leone; Tanzania; Togo; and Uganda. Populations west of eastern Côte d'Ivoire, including those in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau, are of the subspecies *P. e. timneh*.

The species' preferred habitat is moist lowland forest, although it is found up to 2,200 m altitude in the east of its range. An association within this range for *Elaeis* palm fruit has been noted. At least in West Africa, the species makes seasonal movements out of the driest parts of its range in the dry season. Although typically inhabiting dense forest, birds are commonly observed in or at forest edges, clearings, gallery forest, mangroves, wooded savannah, cultivated areas, and even gardens (Juniper and Parr, 1998). However, habitat alteration often reduces nest-site availability but allows sizeable populations of large frugivores to persist owing to increased food availability in secondary forest and anthropogenic habitats. Such long-lived birds may remain common for some period after populations are no longer self-sustaining. In captivity, birds have a mean lifespan of around 45 years, and first breed at about five years of age. Clutches comprise three to five eggs and wild productivity is around 0.4 chicks/nest (Fotso, 1998b).

Gatter (1997) estimated two breeding pairs/ km² in logged forest north of Zwedru, Liberia. McGowan (2001) provided similar estimates of nest densities in Nigeria of 0.5-2.1/km², believing the higher end to be more accurate. This would indicate 4.2 breeding birds/km² plus non-breeding birds (the remaining 70-85% of the population, as estimated by Fotso (1998b), giving estimates of 4.9-6.0 birds/km². These estimates are substantially higher than those of 0.3-0.5 birds/km² in good habitat in Guinea (Dändliker, 1992a) and 0.9-2.2 birds/km² (in evergreen forests) or 0.15-0.45 birds/km² (in semi-deciduous forests) in Ghana (Dändliker, 1992b). Using these density estimates, the overall population in West Africa (including *P. e. timneh*) was estimated at 160,000 to 360,000 birds; Central African populations are much larger (Dändliker, 1992a).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Psittacus erithacus is one of the most popular parrots in international trade. Virtually all trade is in live birds. Over half a million birds were reported in international trade between 1980 and 1995 (Mulliken, 1995); the gross export (excluding re-exports) of just under 360,000 birds was reported between 1994 and 2003, the period of the present study. Recorded trade levels declined markedly after 1992, from an annual average of just under 56,000 birds for 1984-1992 (Valaoras, 1998) to around 31,000 per year for the period 1993 to 1998.

P. erithacus was included in CITES Appendix II in 1981, and has been the subject of two previous significant trade reviews. The first, which took place prior to the establishment of a formalized review process, determined that trade in the species was a "possible problem" (Inskipp *et al.* 1988). The second was completed in 1992 under Phase I of the process established via Resolution Conf. 8.9, and concluded that "the impact of current levels of trade and/or the conservation status of the species was insufficiently known (Inskipp and Corrigan, 1992). Based on the information provided, at their seventh meeting, the CITES Animals Committee formulated recommendations for five Parties. These were subsequently communicated by the Secretariat to the Parties concerned (Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Togo) in June 1992 (AC.8.10, AC.8.10.5). These recommendations and subsequent responses by the Parties, Animals and Standing Committees, and the CITES Secretariat are detailed under the relevant country accounts.

Post-capture, pre-export mortality estimates for the species in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria average 30-40% (overall between 15 and 66%) (Dändliker, 1992a,b; Fotso, 1998b; McGowan, 2001; Ngenyi, 2002).

Table 1: Exports (excluding re-exports) of live *Psittacus erithacus* from range States, 1994-2003.

Range State	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Totals	
Angola	17	15	29	9	36	56		11	10	8	191	
Benin	5	2	1				1		4		13	
Burundi			1	1			1	2		13	18	
Cameroon	1744 3	20797	22408	4564	12717	1922 1	1752 9	14965	16402	10809	156855	
Central African Republic	29	44	30	22	30	25	16	15	10	7	228	
Congo	310	5	4	1	2606	1073	2102	8272	8205	9368	31946	
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>P. erithacus</i> [§]	12	12	28	79	38	53	78	1111	958	4388	6757
	<i>P. e. timneh</i>	1			3	2	2103	2676	1940	2778	2643	12146
Democratic Republic of Congo	1347 8	10333	10679	10825	12834	1476 3	1429 2	10383	5867	15326	118780	
Equatorial Guinea	1	10	1	2	1	3	5	3	8	736	770	
Gabon	23	29	20	29	37	40	44	82	33	45	382	
Ghana	5	9	2	4	1		1	1		5	28	
Guinea	443	504	599	852	536	237	875	764	603	1052	6465	
Guinea-Bissau	5	32	12	4	6	2	1	1	4	2	69	
Kenya*	8	6	1	329	126	6	1	20	6		503	
Liberia				500	2500	3450	2100	2075	420		11045	
Mali		4	42		20						66	
Nigeria	8	8	19	159	314	8	5	6	11	1	539	
São Tomé & Príncipe		1	70	20	22		40	18			171	
Sierra Leone	891		2000	500	2500	1000	1100	820	200	1900	10911	
Togo*	15	42	13	3	8	6	3	13	6	7	116	
Uganda	2		2	5	1	3	7	15	5	1	41	
Totals	32696	31853	35961	17911	34335	42049	40877	40517	35530	46311	358040	

(Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK)

Figures in this table derived from UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade Database. *Figures reported by Management Authority differ.

[§]Data not reported at subspecific level so may relate to both *P. e. erithacus* and *P. e. timneh*.

Table 2: Export quotas for live *P. erithacus* from range States, 1994-2003

Exporting country	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cameroon	1200 0 [†]	1200 0 [†]	1200 0 [†]	1200 0 [†]	1200 0	1200 0	1200 0	1200 0	1200 0	1200 0	1200 0	1200 0	1200 0
Congo							6000	6000	6000	8000	8000	8000	8000
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>P. e. erithacus</i>					0		500	1000	1000	-**	1000	1000
	<i>P. e. timneh</i>				2000	2000		2000	2000	2000	-**	2000	2000
Democratic Republic of Congo	1000 0 [#]	1000 0 [†]	1000 0 [†]	1000 0	1000 0	1000 0	1000 0	1000 0	1000 0 [#]	1000 0	1000 0	1000 0	1000 0
Equatorial Guinea					500								
Gabon						500	500	200	200	250	250	250	250
Guinea	450 ^{†, #}	450 ^{†, #}	450 ^{†, #}	450	450	450	450	750	750	750	450	450	450
Liberia						2500	2500	3000					
Sierra Leone				1000	1000	1000	2000	2000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Quota figures in bold denote years in which quotas appear to have been exceeded; see country sections for additional information, particularly with regard to exports from DRC. Figures in this table for 1994-2004 derived from CITES Species Database except [†]Species Survival Network (2001), [#]van der Heijden (2003), and [†]Notification 1994/797. Figures for 2005 and 2006 from www.cites.org.

**No quotas communicated to the CITES Secretariat and presumably none established.

COUNTRY ACCOUNTS

Angola

Status:

Uncommon to common presumed resident (no breeding records) in the northern enclave of Cabinda, and in the far north-east in north-east Lunda Norte province (Dean *et al.*, 1988; Dean, 2000).

Management and trade:

Relatively low levels of trade reported (imports from Angola of just under 200 in the period 1994-2003) and therefore of Least Concern, but as a non-CITES Party Angola does not report on exports so may be a source of some of the undocumented birds arriving in international trade. Totally protected (S. I. No. 2873, 11 December 1957) (Inskipp *et al.*, 1988). No information available on national trade.

Benin

Status:

Brunel (1958) thought that if it occurred at all, it was certainly very rare; he did not see any during 20 months of observation. Reported as very rare in the forested region north of Sakété (Bouet, 1961). The species is not listed for Benin by Dowsett and Dowsett-Lemaire (1993) or Dowsett and Forbes-Watson (1993).

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported and therefore of Least Concern. No information available on national protected status.

Burundi

Status:

Resident, with a few pairs breeding at least in the 1970s in the western part of Kibira Forest (now Kibira National Park). Fairly abundant in montane forest 50 years ago, but now very rare (Vande Weghe *in litt.*, 2005).

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported and therefore of Least Concern. In 1992, Burundi, in order to protect its endangered population of *Psittacus erithacus* and to contribute to the protection of the species in neighbouring countries, suspended issuance of export permits and re-export certificates (Notification 1992/681). At least until 1995, some local birds were taken from nests and sold to people in Bujumbura (Vande Weghe *in litt.*, 2005).

Cameroon

Status:

Common resident in the south of the country (Benson *et al.*, 1988; Dowsett and Forbes-Watson, 1993; Eisentraut, 1973; Louette, 1981; UNEP-WCMC, 2004). However, habitat loss and fragmentation is increasing the vulnerability of the species to trapping. Together, these are reported to be leading to local declines and range contraction (Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett, 2000; Fotso, 1998b; Tamungang *et al.*, 2002). The population in 1996 was estimated at 300,000-500,000 birds (CITES Management Authority Cameroon *in litt.*, 2004; Fotso, 1998b).

Management and trade:

Cameroon is the major recorded exporter of *Psittacus erithacus*; CITES trade records indicate that just under 160,000 birds were exported during the review period. In addition to capture for export, there is

a small domestic demand for body parts for medicine, magic, and clothing. The species is not protected nationally, but permits are required for its capture under the Wildlife and Fisheries Law of 1994 (Fotso, 1998b; van der Heijden, 2003).

Many of Cameroon's exports of *P. erithacus* are known to originate from two mineral licks in the south-east within Lobeke National Park (Ngenyi, 2002) and in the centre of the country just to the east of Mbam and Djerem National Park (Maisels *in litt.*, 2006). Since the latter site was only discovered a year ago, it is highly possible that other major trapping sites have not yet been discovered. Lobeke is near the borders of Central African Republic and Congo and evidently attracts parrots from both these countries, so that trapping here may be expected to have impacts in these range States (Rainey *in litt.*, 2006). Fotso (1998b) noted that while it was difficult to determine the number of birds exported illegally, this probably involved thousands of birds each year.

Psittacus erithacus was included in Phase I of the Significant Trade Review, the Animals Committee subsequently formulating the following 'secondary' recommendation, which was communicated to Cameroon's CITES Management Authority in June 1992: The Management Authority of Cameroon should carry out a status survey and should inform the Secretariat of the scientific basis for its export quota (AC Doc. 8.10), which was for 12,000 birds in 1990 (Inskipp and Corrigan, 1992). The Management Authority responded in July 1992 that a status survey was being undertaken through support from traders, but did not subsequently provide information on the basis for its export quota (H1 sigtrad1.ref, CITES Doc. SC.30.6.1). As a result, in November 1993, the CITES Standing Committee recommended that Parties suspend imports from Cameroon (Notification 1993/775). The recommendation was withdrawn in April 1994, following Cameroon's communication to the Secretariat that it had established an annual export quota of 12,000 birds (CITES Notifications No. 1994/794 and 1994/800). It is unclear whether additional information concerning the justification for this quota, which was at the same level as that for 1990, was also provided at that time. According to the CITES Management Authority Cameroon (*in litt.*, 2004), the current quota of 12,000 birds is based on the population estimate of Fotso (1998).

In November 1996, the CITES Secretariat recommended that CITES export permits for *P. erithacus* be rejected from Cameroon as permits for a minimum of 2,000 birds more than the 12,000 bird quota established had been issued at the time the Notification was issued (CITES Notification No. 1996/945). This was followed by a subsequent recommendation from the Standing Committee that no imports of this species be accepted from Cameroon until 31 December 1997, with the justification that the 23,000 birds exported in 1996 covered the annual quotas for both 1996 and 1997. In addition, the Standing Committee requested Cameroon's CITES Management Authority to provide the Secretariat with a report of its system for monitoring application of its export quota, and directed the Secretariat to notify the Parties of Cameroon's 1998 export quota only when it was satisfied with the report received. Parties were also advised that shipments from Cameroon had taken place with export permits from other countries, and therefore cautioned to confirm the origin of shipments, particularly from countries bordering Cameroon (CITES Notification No. 1997/993). The Secretariat reported in March 1998 that it had received the report requested by the Standing Committee, and that it was satisfied that "the measures proposed by Cameroon will minimize the possibility of exceeding its export quota". The Secretariat also undertook to conduct a mission to Cameroon, as recommended by the Standing Committee, and to report its findings to that Committee (CITES Notification No. 1998/05). Cameroon's CITES Management Authority (*in litt.*, 2004) considers that the key problem is not the quotas but rather the need to continue to combat fraud within and beyond the country's borders.

Fotso (1998b) on the basis of available information on the status of the species in Cameroon at that time, believed that a quota of 10,000-12,000 birds (with a maximum capture permitted of 14,000) was feasible.

Given the relatively high level of trade (legal and suspected illegal), likely population levels and indications of local declines and range contraction, the levels of export are considered of Urgent Concern.

Central African Republic

Status:

Present only in the extreme south of the country, where reported in 1991 as at least locally abundant (Green and Carroll, 1991).

Management and trade:

Low levels of trade reported therefore is considered as Least Concern (just under 200 exported in total in the period 1994-2003). However, populations of this species in the country are limited, and may be being lost to Cameroon via Lobeke (see above). No information available on national trade or national protected status.

Capacity for enforcement of regulations concerning wildlife is said to be very low, except where assisted by non-governmental organizations (Maisels *in litt.* 2006).

Congo

Status:

Common breeding resident apparently throughout the country (Benson *et al.*, 1988; Dowsett and Dowsett-Lemaire, 1989; UNEP-WCMC, 2004), but previously reported as declining near large cities (Inskipp *et al.*, 1988).

Management and trade:

Congo was the third largest recorded exporter of *Psittacus erithacus* in the period 1994-2003, with gross exports of around 32,000 birds recorded, 80% in the last three years (2001-2003). Exports reported by Congo exceeded export quotas in the last three of the four years that they have been in place. Current quotas do not appear to have a scientific basis (Maisels *in litt.*, 2006). Levels of authorized exports should therefore be considered of Possible Concern.

The species is not nationally protected, but a 'permis de detention' is required to trade or own this species. However, enforcement is likely to be weak (Rainey *in litt.*, 2006).

Côte d'Ivoire

Status:

Resident in south of the country, where reported in the 1980s as common (Benson *et al.*, 1988, Thiollay, 1985). According to the CITES Management Authority of Côte d'Ivoire (*in litt.*, 2004), *P. e. erithacus* also occurs in the southeast and central region and is regularly observed in over 60 classified forests. *P. e. timneh* is found in over 100 classified forests and also in rural areas, where it occurs e.g. in large private oil palm plantations. Both subspecies are present in national parks and nature reserves. Neither species is considered threatened. Dändliker (1992a) estimated the population at roughly 65,000 to 160,000 of which around 85% were the subspecies *P. e. timneh*. Another study (Yaokokoré-Béibro, 2004) suggested some 250,000 birds, of which 60% were *P. e. timneh*, based on the preliminary results from a population survey. It is expected that identification of major roosting sites would give better population estimates (CITES Management Authority Côte d'Ivoire *in litt.*, 2004). Rainey (*in litt.* 2006) believes that the 2004 estimate is not reliable, and considers that even the earlier estimate needs revision owing to massive habitat loss since it was made.

Management and trade:

Trade data indicate that Côte d'Ivoire was the fourth largest exporter of *P. erithacus* during the period 1994-2003, accounting for just under 19,000 birds recorded in trade of which two-thirds were identified as *P. e. timneh*. Virtually all recorded trade has taken place from 1999 onwards, with numbers exported increasing in each of the years. Quotas have been established for each subspecies, based on 3-5% of the estimated population size, taking into account population status and expected

sustainable off-take, national demand and 'trade needs' expressed by legal bird traders (CITES Management Authority Côte d'Ivoire *in litt.*, 2004). Quotas have generally been exceeded. Côte d'Ivoire was also reported as the origin of over 600 birds reported as captive-bred was also reported from 2001-2004, the majority of these reported as imported by Singapore in 2003 (100 birds) and 2004 (370 birds).

Trade reported by a number of importing Parties greatly exceeded exports reported by Côte d'Ivoire during the period 2000-2004, as shown in Table 3 and 4, below. In the case of South Africa, this may reflect the fact that annual reports are based on permits issued rather than actual trade. Further information is required to confirm whether this might also be case for other countries, e.g. Portugal.

Table 3. Comparison of exports* reported by Côte d'Ivoire with imports reported from Côte d'Ivoire (1995-2004).

Year	Exports reported by CI	Imports reported from CI
2000	1,981	2,506
2001	2,607	1,519
2002	2,161	3,297
2003	2,338	6,915
2004	3,013	5,219
Total	12,100	19,456

*Excludes captive-bred specimens exported by or imported from Cote d'Ivoire.

Table 4. Comparison of exports* of *P. erithacus* reported by Côte d'Ivoire with imports reported by major importing Parties (2000-2004)

Importer	Imports reported	Exports reported
Belgium	800	1
Czech Republic	550	350
Malaysia	300	20
Mexico	420	150
Netherlands	400	604
Portugal	6,550	4,006
Quatar	550	2
Senegal	0	108
Singapore	956	51
South Africa	2,002	503
Spain	492	452
Ukraine	0	378
United Arab Emirates	1,098	85

*Includes specimens reported as captive-bred.

In 1993, noting that previous population estimates of this species were believed to be exaggerated, that surveys of wild populations were needed, and that the majority of *P. erithacus* exported from Côte d'Ivoire originated in Ghana and other countries, it was recommended that Parties not accept exports of this species from Côte d'Ivoire until surveys of wild populations were completed and a management plan for trade was established based on such surveys (CITES Notification No. 1993/746).

The recommendation was subsequently withdrawn in late 1999 (DeMeulenaer, *in litt.* 2005). There is no information to indicate whether a population survey had been undertaken as of that date. A population survey was being conducted from June 2003 – June 2005 (CITES Management Authority Côte d'Ivoire *in litt.*, 2004).

At present, given that civil strife has led to lack of government control over some major forest areas, according to Rainey (*in litt.*, 2006), controls on cross-border trade to Liberia and Guinea should be considered generally ineffective. However, under national legislation, hunting and trapping are not permitted in classified forests and protected areas, where management capacity and control have

recently been reinforced by local communities (CITES Management Authority Côte d'Ivoire *in litt.*, 2004).

Export levels (legal and suspected illegal) and likely population levels indicate that trade in the species should be considered of Urgent Concern.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Status:

Found throughout the country, principally in forest zones (CITES Management Authority Democratic Republic of Congo, *in litt.* 2004). Breeding resident except in the south (Benson *et al.*, 1988; Chapin 1939; Lippens and Wille, 1976). Formerly in large flocks (up to 200) around Kinshasa, but decline by 1970s, possibly attributable to trapping (Lippens and Wille, 1976), although still present in some numbers in 2005 (Van de Weghe *in litt.*, 2005), and commonly seen in the city in small flocks (De Meulenaer *in litt.*, 2006).

Management and trade:

According to CITES trade data, the Democratic Republic of Congo was the second-largest recorded exporter of *P. erithacus* in the period 1994-2003, accounting for some 120,000 individuals. Annual recorded exports have fluctuated from just under 6,000 to over 15,000 with no discernible trend.

Quotas have been in place since the beginning of the period under review. It appears that these have routinely been exceeded, with CITES-reported gross exports (less re-exports) being higher than quota levels for every year but 2001. This is likely to relate in large part to problems with misuse of CITES export permits issued by the Management Authority as explained below.

In February 2001, the CITES Secretariat reported that there was evidence of large-scale abuse (including altering quantities authorised for export) of export permits issued in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This appeared to have taken place on a regular basis since 1998 or earlier, the majority relating to exports of parrot species. The Secretariat requested that permits therefore not be accepted until they had confirmed their validity (CITES Notification No. 2001/002). Owing to continued evidence of fraudulent use of export permits issued by the Management Authority, the Standing Committee recommended in July 2001 that all trade in CITES-listed species with the Democratic Republic of Congo be suspended. This recommendation was to stand until the Management Authority put in place measures to eliminate, as far as reasonably practical, the abuse or misuse of permits and certificates issued; and implemented adequate export controls, particularly for live specimens (CITES Notification No. 2001/039). This recommendation was withdrawn in December 2002 following two verification visits to the country by the Secretariat and extensive correspondence (CITES Notification No. 2002/65). However, in May 2003 the Secretariat once again notified the Parties of problems with export permits from the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a request that none be accepted before the Secretariat had confirmed their validity (CITES Notification No. 2003/040). The Management Authority also voluntarily stopped issuing further export permits (CITES Notification No. 2003/062). Permit issuance resumed in October 2003. This included the issuance of export permits for birds already held in captivity under export quotas for 2002 (up to 4,000 birds) and 2003 (up to 10,000 birds) with the provision that no additional wild specimens would be allowed to be harvested until 2004 (CITES Notification No. 2003/062).

Exports reported by the Democratic Republic of Congo have been compared with imports from that country reported by other CITES Parties for the period 1995-2005 (Table 3). Based on this, it appears that exports reported by the Management Authority exceeded the annual export quota of 10,000 during four of the six years covered. The Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of Congo has disputed the conclusion that exports are being allowed over quota, noting that permits may be issued in one year for birds included in the quota but not exported, the previous year (Caldwell *in litt.*, 2006). The reported import of 20,000 birds in 2004 seems likely to reflect exports of birds from the 2002 and 2003 as well as 2004 quotas. In addition, export permits for a significant number of birds reported as imported in 2004 were issued in late 2003 (Caldwell *in litt.*, 2006). It is worthwhile to note that reported imports from the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the 10-year period 1995-2004 averaged just over 10,000 birds per year, a figure roughly equivalent to the annual export quota.

Table 5. Comparison of exports reported by DRC with imports reported from DRC (1995-2004).

	Exports reported by DRC	Imports reported from DRC
1995	9,946	8,598
1996	10,172	9,327
1997	9,874	7,339
1998	11,080	10,743
1999	9,903	14,543
2000	10,024	14,269
2001	0	10,383
2002	5,867	2
2003	11,375	10,319
2004	10,357	20,339
Subtotal	88,598	105,862
2005	13,270	Not Avail.

(Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK (March 2006))

In a review of the illegal trade ivory, TRAFFIC (2002) concluded that wildlife law enforcement effort and efficiency in the country had been demonstrated to be “very poor”, the CITES Secretariat therefore organizing training both in 2003 and on two occasions in 2005 (De Meulenaer *in litt.*, 2006).

Hunting is regulated under Act No. 82-002, dated 28 May 1982. A fixed period for harvest of *P. erithacus* is set under Decree No. 014/CAB/MIN/ENV/2004. Capture is only allowed in specified sites and by agreed teams of trappers and is controlled via capture permits. Mechanisms are in place to address illegal trade and fight against fraud (CITES Management Authority Democratic Republic of Congo, *in litt.* 2004).

Up to *ca.* 50 birds were readily available for sale in Kinshasa in 2004 and 2005 (Pilgrim *in litt.* 2006; Vande Weghe *in litt.* 2005).

Given the absence of information on current population levels or the basis of non-detriment findings, significant levels of export and previous evidence of illegal exports, trade in the species from the Democratic Republic of Congo is considered of Possible Concern.

Equatorial Guinea

Status:

Resident (breeding unproved) on mainland Mbini (Rio Muni) and on Bioko (Fernando Poo). On Bioko, was considered more common in south, where human pressure is less and oil palm plantations more extensive (Eisentraut, 1973; Pérez del Val, 1996). In 1987, the Equatorial Guinea Commission of Experts on Flora and Fauna put the total population of *Psittacus erithacus* in the country at “no less than 2,500,000” (Obama, 1987) but this would equate to 90 birds per km² across the whole country and therefore seems barely credible (UNEP-WCMC 2004).

Management and trade:

Equatorial Guinea first set an export quota in 1998, and first recorded significant exports (over 700 birds) in 2003. Concern has been expressed that exports might increase in conjunction with the expansion of extractive industries in this country and a consequent increase in expatriate workers from countries in which there is a market for this species (Maisels *in litt.*, 2006). Within the country, the species is hunted for meat (Fa and Yuste, 2001) and the tail feathers are used as talismans (Pérez del Val, 1996). No information is available on national protected status. Additional information is required to determine whether imports are within sustainable levels, with exports from Equatorial Guinea therefore of Possible Concern.

Gabon

Status:

Breeding resident throughout, densities varying with habitat - lower in mountains, higher near clearings and in riverine and secondary forest. Up to 10,000 birds recorded at roosts (Benson *et al.*, 1988; Brosset and Erard, 1986), but more recent maxima around 5,000 (Maisels *in litt.*, 2006). The species does not appear to be declining (Christy *in litt.*, 2005).

Management and trade:

Reported international trade is considered negligible in relation to probably large populations of the species in the country, and has not exceeded quotas in any year they have been in place. The few specimens exported mainly concern birds kept as pet by ex-patriots (CITES Management Authority Gabon *in litt.*, 2004). The species is partially protected in Gabon, meaning that commercial trapping requires a permit (Christy *in litt.*, 2005). No information available on national trade. International trade is considered of Least Concern.

Guinea

Status:

Resident (breeding unproved) in the south of the country, where previously common (Benson *et al.*, 1988, Morel and Morel, 1988), but found to be uncommon in Diecke, common in Dere (but this area is now c. 80% deforested), and absent in Pic de Fon (Demey and Rainey, 2004; Demey and Rainey *in press*). In 1992 Dändliker (1992a) estimated the population at 5,000 to 10,000. The species is now said to be seriously threatened by a combination of harvesting and habitat loss in Guinea (Clemmons, 2002), with the latter likely now posing the biggest threat (Rainey *in litt.*, 2006).

Management and trade:

According to trade data, Guinea exported around 7,500 birds during the period 1993-2004, with recorded annual exports ranging from just over 200 to over 1,000. For the period 1994-2000, Guinea's export quota was 450 birds a year; for 2001-2003 it was increased to 750 birds a year; for 2004-2005, it was returned to 450 birds a year. Gross exports (less re-exports) exceeded the quotas in eight out of the ten years, however in some, but not all, of these years this may reflect 'double counting' as a result of permits issued in one year being used in another.

Table 6. Comparison of exports reported by Guinea with imports reported from Guinea (1995-2004).

	Exports reported by GN	Imports reported from GN	Gross exports
1994	443	400	443
1995	504	304	507
1996	536	554	596
1997	752	616	852
1998	537	492	537
1999	237	0	237
2000	875	850	875
2001	764	753	764
2002	203	600	603
2003	202	850	1,050
2004		650	650

*Excludes captive-bred specimens

Psittacus erithacus was included in Phase I of the Significant Trade Review, the Animals Committee subsequently formulating the following recommendations, which were communicated to Guinea's CITES Management Authority in June 1992: The Management Authority of Guinea should establish an annual export quota, based on the results of the preliminary survey, and should advise the Secretariat on the distribution of the subspecies of *P. erithacus* in the country (primary rec.); The Management Authority of Guinea should undertake population surveys of the species (secondary rec) (AC Doc.

8.10). In November 1993, the CITES Standing Committee recommended that Parties suspend imports of the species from Guinea due to lack of response to these recommendations (CITES Notification No. 1993/775). Following establishment of an annual export quota of 450 birds in April 1994 based on the study results (Dändliker, 1992a), this recommendation was withdrawn. All Parties were requested to consult the Secretariat before accepting permits authorising export or re-export of the species from Guinea to ensure that the export quota was not exceeded (Notification 1994/794).

The magnitude of exploitation in the country is difficult to ascertain as there is reportedly widespread illegal import and export of birds and a lack of capacity in the country to monitor the situation (Rainey *in litt.*, 2006). Dändliker (1992a) estimated illegal trade quantities as around twice legal exports.

It is legal to live-trap this species in Guinea but not to hunt it. Nonetheless, some birds are hunted for food (Clemmons, 2002).

Following a survey undertaken in the early 1990s, Dändliker (1992a) recommended an annual export quota of 400-450 birds/year. A more recent study recommended suspension of exports from the country (Clemmons, 2002). Surveys to establish scientifically justifiable quotas have been recommended, and approved, but Guinea has indicated that no funding is available for such studies, and, according to van der Heijden (2003), requested an increase in quotas to 3,000 birds/year. However, 2004 and 2005 quotas remained at 450 *P. e. timneh* per year. Given the apparent declining status of the species, the level of exports from Guinea are of Urgent Concern.

Guinea-Bissau

Status:

A small and declining population exists on the Bijagos Archipelago, seriously threatened by a combination of harvesting and habitat loss, with mainland populations now possibly gone (Benson *et al.*, 1988; Clemmons, 2002; Frade and Bacelar, 1955). The species also breeds in groups on the coast (CITES Management Authority Guinea-Bissau *in litt.*, 2004). Dändliker (1992a) estimated the population at 100-1,000 birds. CITES Management Authority of Guinea-Bissau (*in litt.*, 2004) notes it is nationally listed as a rare species.

Management and trade:

Negligible exports from this country reported, due to a moratorium on trapping, and no national demand (Clemens, 2003). However, significant re-exports of *P. erithacus* (ca. 3600) said to have originated from Guinea-Bissau were reported during the mid-1990s, the majority of which were exported by Senegal. The CITES Management Authority of Guinea-Bissau (*in litt.*, 2004) reports that it is protected nationally and suggests that control on harvest and trade be strengthened as capture continues, with the majority of birds trapped illegally exported to Senegal for sale as cage birds. Authorized international trade from Guinea-Bissau is nevertheless of Least Concern, however suspected illegal trade merits further attention.

Kenya

Status:

Occurs in humid forests above 1000 m (Lewis and Pomeroy, 1989). Resident (breeding unproved) in west, at Kakamega and Nandi (Benson *et al.*, 1988), where locally common in 1980s (Lewis and Pomeroy, 1989), but only 10 reportedly survived into the mid-1990s (Zimmerman *et al.* 1996); birdwatchers reported a foraging flock of 6-10 birds moving between Yala Nature Reserve and the Isecheno Forest Reserve (CITES Management Authority Kenya *in litt.*, 2004). The remaining Kakamega forest is highly fragmented and under threat from human activities (Njoroge and Bennun, 1999)

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported recently and therefore is Least Concern. The 450 birds reported as imported from Kenya by South Africa 1997-98 were presumably re-exports given that this species no longer has a viable population in Kenya, or reflect incorrect reporting of country of export by South

Africa. Totally protected (Act No. 1, 1976) (Inskipp *et al.*, 1988). No information available on national trade.

Liberia

Status:

Bannerman (1951) judged that the species occurred commonly over most parts of the country, but more recent observers have considered the species uncommon or rare (Colston and Curry-Lindahl, 1986; Rand, 1951), suggesting declines. Gatter (1997) described the species as “not uncommon to locally common”, but rare in the north and north-west. Indeed, in 1988-1990, only feral birds were observed other than in Sapo National Park, a decline believed to be due to the wild bird trade (Collar, 1997). Apparently not aware of such declines, Dändliker (1992a) estimated the population at 11,000-18,000 birds.

Management and trade:

Trade data indicate export of over 11,000 specimens from Liberia in the period 1994-2003, virtually all in the period 1998-2001. No trade was reported in 2003, but exports of 875 reported in 2004 (of which 575 reported by Singapore as captive-bred).

Psittacus erithacus was included in Phase I of the Significant Trade Review, the Animals Committee subsequently formulating the following recommendations, which were communicated to Liberia's CITES Management Authority in June 1992: The Management Authority of Liberia should advise the Secretariat of the current status of its draft wildlife conservation regulations (primary rec.); and should carry out a population survey of *P. erithacus* if trade is to continue (secondary rec.) (AC Doc. 8.10). In 1993, Liberia satisfied these recommendations by stating that it had prepared a proposal for population surveys (Doc. SC30.6.1), however the surveys were not undertaken due to lack of funding. No exports were legally permitted before 1998 (CITES CoP Doc. 11.41.1). In the following three years, export quotas were in place, although they were exceeded in 1999. No information is available on national trade or national protected status. International trade from Liberia, taking into consideration the conservation status of the species in the country, is therefore of Urgent Concern.

Mali

Status:

There was reported to be an isolated population in the Mandingo Mountains and probably near the Guinea border (Benson *et al.*, 1988), but this appears to be an error – it is unlikely that the species has ever occurred in this region, and thus Mali should be deleted as a range country (Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett, 2005).

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported and therefore of Least Concern. No information available on national trade or national protected status.

Nigeria

Status:

Breeding resident in the forested south of the country (Benson *et al.*, 1988). It was previously locally not uncommon where large enough areas of mature high forest remain, but was reported in 1994 as having been becoming less numerous through human persecution and habitat loss (Elgood *et al.*, 1994). More recently it is reported as having suffered alarming reductions in numbers throughout, ascribed mainly to trapping (Hall *in litt.*, 2006). Hall (*in litt.*, 2006) estimated the national population as less than 5,000 birds in total, with around 100 birds in the south-west (particularly Okomu National Park), under 1,000 in the Niger Delta (the decline here reportedly owing to heavy recent trapping) and under 1,000 in the south-east (Hall *in litt.*, 2006).

Management and trade:

Reported exports (just over 500 in total for the period 1994-2003) were insignificant in relation to the presumed national population of the species, but illegal and unreported trade is believed to be an order of magnitude higher (McGowan, 2001).

Totally protected (Act No. 11, dated 20 April 1985) (Inskipp *et al.*, 1988). Nigeria's Management Authority placed a moratorium on the issuance of CITES permits for this species due to increasing awareness that its status in the country was not known, but this moratorium was lifted in March/April 2001 despite recommendations to the contrary by McGowan (2001). Based on consideration of a report on CITES implementation in and illicit trade from Nigeria, the CITES Standing Committee recommended suspension of all trade in CITES-listed species with the country in June 2005 (CITES Notification No. 2005/038).

Although there is national demand for heads, legs and tail feathers of this species for use as medicine or magical fetishes (Dändliker, 1992b), McGowan (2001) clarified that most trapped birds were exported.

Levels of authorized exports are unlikely to be unsustainable, and therefore trade from Nigeria is of Least Concern in the context of Article IV implementation. However, as noted below, suspected illegal trade in this species requires urgent attention.

Rwanda**Status:**

Breeding resident in the western half of the country (Benson *et al.*, 1988; Schouteden, 1966). Fairly abundant in montane forest 50 years ago, but now apparently very rare, with fewer than 50 breeding pairs in 1990 (Vande Weghe *in litt.*, 2005).

Management and trade:

No international trade reported and therefore of Least Concern. CITES recommended against trade in all listed species from the country from 2002-2003 (Notifications 2002/064; 2003/016) and from 2004 onwards (Notification 2004/024). The last few birds are reportedly being trapped and sold locally as pets (Vande Weghe *in litt.*, 2005). Exports are banned by law.

Sierra Leone**Status:**

Generally uncommon resident (breeding unproved), with large reported decline since the 1930s and 1940s, now confined to mangrove belts and forests of the east (Bannerman, 1921, 1953; Benson *et al.*, 1988; Dowsett and Dowsett-Lemaire, 1993; UNEP-WCMC, 2004). Dändliker (1992a) estimated the population at 11,000-18,000 birds. Sierra Leone's CITES Management Authority (*in litt.* 2005) believes the national population to be 'healthy and flourishing', reflecting a decrease in trapping and habitat disturbance in recent years, including as a result of decreased activities in the forests as a result of the civil war.

Management and trade:

Exports from Sierra Leone averaged approximately 1,100 birds between 1994 and 2002. Export quotas have been in place since 1995 (2,000 birds), with exports subsequently suspended for approximately three years on the recommendation of the Secretariat to allow for a census on which to base future quotas. Funds for such a survey were not identified, and the quota subsequently reduced to 1,000 birds. The Scientific Authority continues to lack the funding necessary to undertake such research (CITES Management Authority Sierra Leone *in litt.*, 2005). Reported exports exceeded quota levels in 1998 (by 1,500 birds) and in 2003 (by 700 birds).

Harvest for export is controlled via capture permits, which are only issued to approved exporters, and are based on the [export] quota. Capture permits are not issued for domestic use of the species, which does not occur. Small scale illegal harvest for subsequent illegal export via the seaport is reported. Export permit issuance is based on the export quota. CITES annual report data are based on permits issued rather than actual exports. This reflects the necessity to route the shipments via flights available from Guinea or Côte d'Ivoire, as international flights are not readily available in Sierra Leone. Increased efforts have been made to reduce smuggling via the sea port and other entry and exit points (CITES Management Authority Sierra Leone *in litt.*, 2005).

Levels of trade given the likely population levels indicate that trade in the species from Sierra Leone is of Urgent Concern.

Togo

Status:

Very rare resident (breeding unproved) or extinct, recorded in the south prior to 1923 and then once in 1979 (Cheke and Walsh, 1996). A survey concluded that there was no viable population in Togo (CITES Doc. SC30.6.1).

Management and trade:

Psittacus erithacus was included in Phase I of the Significant Trade Review, the Animals Committee subsequently formulating the following recommendations, which were communicated to Togo's CITES Management Authority in June 1992: The Management Authority of Togo should institute a moratorium on exports until it can provide evidence that the species occurs in sustainable numbers in the country (primary rec.); and should undertake population surveys of the species (secondary rec.) (AC Doc. 8.10). In October 1992 the Management Authority responded that, based on a survey conducted that year, there was not a viable population in the country, and therefore that no further export permits would be issued (PH1 sigtrad1.ref, CITES SC.29.11). Low levels of trade appear to have continued, however, with 14 birds reported as exported for commercial purposes from 1994–2004 (5 in 2004), with the remainder reported as exported primarily as personal specimens. Many are seen for sale nationally (Cheke and Walsh, 1996) and there is also some national demand for red tail feathers for medicine. The CITES Management Authority Togo (*in litt.*, 2004) notes that over the past 10 years the species has only been used nationally, as a pet. Even low levels of trade would seem significant given that the species has not been recorded recently in the wild in the country. Authorised trade from Togo is considered of Least Concern, however the origin of any birds exported in future should be confirmed prior to export, and any increase in trade levels would require urgent attention.

Uganda

Status:

Resident (breeding unproved) in west and south-east. Formerly common, especially on islands and shoreline of Lake Victoria, but now quite rare except in Mabira Forest; possibly threatened (Carswell *et al.*, 2005).

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported and totally protected (Act No. 4, dated 1959) (Inskipp *et al.*, 1988) therefore of Least Concern, but there is an active internal trade of live birds for pets and exhibition (Carswell *et al.*, 2005; Clemmons, 2002). Many captive parrots in Uganda are believed to come from Democratic Republic of Congo (Plumptre *in litt.*, 2005). The species is also hunted for meat and to supply heads, legs and tail feathers for use as medicine or magical fetishes (UNEP-WCMC, 2004).

PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED THAT ARE NOT RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE IV, PARAS 2(a), 3, or 6(a)

Illegal and/or poorly documented trade in *Psittacus erithacus*, including between range States, have been persistent problems prior to and throughout the period of the review. This has included exports of birds from non-range States (e.g. of over 3,200 birds from Senegal in 1995, most declared as *P.e. timneh* and therefore likely to have originated from Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia or Côte d'Ivoire); re-exports of birds imported without CITES documentation, e.g. the reported re-export from Senegal of several thousand birds said to have originated from Guinea-Bissau from 1995-1996, making use of forged documents (CITES CoP. Doc.10.28); trade occurring entirely outside of CITES trade controls, and a combination of these (e.g. see Mulliken, 1995 with regard to South Africa's trade in *Psittacus erithacus*).

CITES-reported exports from Nigeria are believed likely to be an order of magnitude lower than actual trade, with it having been estimated that 5,000-10,000 birds were being illegally exported each year (Borzello, 2004; McGowan, 2001), primarily to the Middle East – particularly Saudi Arabia (Hall *in litt.*, 2006; Maisels *in litt.*, 2006; McGowan, 2001). Nigeria has also been noted as an export destination for birds exported illegally from other countries, e.g. Ghana (Grimes, 1997) and Cameroon (up to 400 birds at a time) (McGowan, 2001). Alleged illegal trade from Nigeria may therefore involve re-exports as well as exports.

According to Fotso (1998b), thousands of *P. erithacus* were exported illegally from Cameroon each year, including in association with the mis-use or falsification of official documents; the species is also said to be regularly exported illegally from Cameroon to the Middle East (Maisels *in litt.*, 2006). Concerns regarding evidence of illegal exports of birds from Cameroon were highlighted in CITES Standing Committee Document SC38 (1997), as were illegal exports from Gabon, using permits issued by neighbouring countries, and indications of illegal export from Gabon via Cameroon without any documentation.

Fotso (1998a) reported that birds from Democratic Republic of Congo were illegally exported to Congo, Central African Republic, Uganda, and Zambia. Clemmons (2003) refers to illegal import of birds from Côte d'Ivoire, illegal export to Sierra Leone, and smuggling from Guinea to Europe, particularly Portugal, as well as fraudulent use of permits with regard to trade from Guinea. As noted above, there have been problems with the fraudulent use of permits issued by the Democratic Republic of Congo. Illegal export of birds by sea from Sierra Leone has been reported, but is now believed to be under control (CITES Management Authority Sierra Leone *in litt.*, 2005). Ongoing illegal exploitation of *P. erithacus* populations in Ghana is reported, and unconfirmed reports of illegal export to neighbouring countries noted (CITES Management Authority of Ghana, 2004).

CITES trade data show significant discrepancies between exports reported by, and imports reported from, individual Parties, and is of particular concern in cases where reported imports exceed reported exports. This is particularly evident for recent trade from Côte d'Ivoire, as noted above, but is also true for Guinea during 2002 and 2003. Further investigation is required to assess whether this represents problems with trade reporting or trade taking place in violation of CITES trade controls.

CITES data also show a very significant increase in the export of birds reported as captive-bred, particularly from South Africa (Table 7). Trade from Singapore primarily involved re-exports to Taiwan, Province of China, of birds imported from South Africa. By contrast, exports from the Netherlands and the Philippines primarily involved birds reported as captive-bred in those countries. Exports from the Netherlands could include birds bred in captivity elsewhere in the European Union.

Table 7. Countries for which total gross exports of *P. erithacus* reported as captive-bred exceeded 2000 (1994-2003)

Country	Taxa	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
South Africa	<i>P. erithacus</i>	249	159	190	789	2,695	3,317	4,573	6,874	10,146	14,162	43,154
South Africa	<i>P. e. timneh</i>	9	34	0	38	497	1,037	1,187	775	702	937	5,216
Philippines	<i>P. erithacus</i>	226	168	243	278	252	389	417	521	356	416	3,266
Netherlands	<i>P. erithacus</i>	182	226	115	163	48	93	383	504	626	562	2,902
Singapore	<i>P. erithacus</i>	56	0	20	64	40	90	118	331	437	1334	2,490

The data in Table 7 could involve some 'double-counting', as re-exports were not excluded and some *P. erithacus timneh* in trade may not have been recorded as such by either South Africa or the importing Party, with the result that corresponding trade records would have been treated as two separate records. A closer review of CITES-reported trade for South Africa showed that reported trade was still very significant, however, and that exports reported by that country were approximately double imports reported by importing Parties (Table 8).

Table 8. Reported exports of captive-bred *Psittacus erithacus* from South Africa (2000-2003)

Year	Exports reported by South Africa	Imports reported from South Africa
2000	11,525	5,888
2001	8,541	4,542
2002	6,113	3,290
2003	4,464	2,360

Reported exports during 2004 included 7,943 birds reported as captive-bred and a further 2,089 birds reported as captive-born (F). South Africa continues to be an important destination for birds exported by other countries, with total imports reported by South Africa of over 22,000 *P. erithacus* from 2000-2003, and a further 6,518 in 2004. Exports reported to South Africa were far lower, only 12,813 from 2000-2003. As noted above, this could reflect the fact that South Africa's annual reports are based on permits issued rather than actual trade. Further information is required to confirm that captive breeding facilities within South Africa are capable of producing these numbers of captive-bred birds, and further, that effective mechanisms are in place to ensure that wild-caught birds are not exported incorrectly declared as having been captive-bred. Such information would also be required with respect to captive breeding in the Netherlands and the Philippines.

Several range States were also declared as the countries of origin for significant numbers of captive-bred birds. For example, Guinea was reported as the country of re-export for 1,200 captive-bred birds reported as imported by Cyprus and Singapore in 2004, with other *P. erithacus* range States declared as the country of origin. A further 100 captive-bred birds were imported and reported as originating in Guinea. Imports of 442 captive-bred birds were reported from Cameroon from 1999-2003, although no exports reported by Cameroon were reported as captive-bred. Further information is also required to confirm the presence of captive breeding facilities in these countries.

OTHER COMMENTS

The single species currently recognized by CITES and BirdLife International (Sibley and Monroe 1990, 1993) consists of two subspecies, *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. e. timneh*, which are distinctive enough that BirdLife International is considering recognizing both as species in the future. The subspecies *P. e. princeps* of Bioko, São Tomé, and Príncipe has previously been recognized, but is now usually not considered valid.

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