

Poicephalus senegalus Linnaeus, 1766

FAMILY: Psittacidae

COMMON NAMES: Senegal Parrot (English); Perroquet à Tête Grise, Perroquet Youyou, Youyou (French); Lorito Senegalés, Papagayo Senegalés (Spanish).

GLOBAL CONSERVATION STATUS: Listed as Least Concern A1bcd in the *2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (IUCN, 2004).

SIGNIFICANT TRADE REVIEW FOR: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

Range States selected for review

Range State	Exports*	Urgent, possible or least concern	Comments
Benin	0	Least concern	No exports reported.
Burkina Faso	13	Least concern	Exports minimal.
Cameroon	1,687	Least concern	Significant exports only recorded in 1997 and 1998
Chad	0	Least concern	No exports reported.
Côte d'Ivoire	1,193	Least concern	Significant exports only recorded in 2002 and 2003; if exports increase further information would be required to support non-detriment findings
Gambia	12	Least concern	Exports minimal.
Ghana	1	Least concern	Exports minimal.
Guinea	164,817	Possible concern	Exports have declined since 1998, but remain significant. Further information required to confirm non-detrimental nature of exports.
Guinea-Bissau	132	Least concern	Exports minimal.
Liberia	4,860	Possible concern	Not believed to be a range country for this species but significant exports reported 1999-2003 whose origin should be clarified
Mali	60,742	Possible concern	Exports have increased significantly since 2000. Status of the species is poorly known; no systematic population monitoring.
Mauritania	0	Least concern	No exports reported.
Niger	0	Least concern	No exports reported.
Nigeria	301	Least concern	Exports minimal.
Senegal	173,794	Possible concern	Consistently exported high numbers since 1982; species apparently remains common but no population monitoring known to be in place
Sierra Leone	0	Least concern	No exports reported.
Togo	3,109	Least concern	Current export quotas almost certainly within sustainable levels.

*Excluding re-exports.

SUMMARY

Poicephalus senegalus is one of the most popular avian pets, regarded as a small, quiet bird that bonds well. This species is considered common in suitable habitat through most of its wide range, with an estimated global extent of occurrence 2,500,000 km² through the savannah woodland belt of West Africa. The species is currently classified as Least Concern by IUCN. *P. senegalus* was included in CITES Appendix II with all Psittaciformes in 1981 and was the subject of a previous significant trade review. This resulted in recommendations in 1995 for one range State, Senegal, chiefly that a cautious export quota be set (the CITES Secretariat advised 12,500 a year). Senegal in fact has set a quota of 16,000, which has been exceeded in a number of the years from 1994 to 2003.

This species has been heavily traded: from 1994-2003, over 410,000 wild-caught live individuals were exported, with the majority (97% during this period) coming from Senegal, Guinea, and Mali. The majority of birds were exported to Europe. There is little national demand. Despite the large quantities

in trade, significant population declines have not been reported. However there is little detailed recent information on the population status or trends of the species in much of its range.

Senegal exported almost 174,000 *P. senegalus* from 1994-2003. There is evidently no systematic population monitoring in place, and the basis on which current export volumes are authorised is unknown. Although the species is said to remain common, there are reports that trappers now have to travel further to obtain stock, indicating a likelihood of at least local depletion. Therefore trade in the species from Senegal is considered of Possible Concern.

Trade in the species should be considered of Possible Concern from Guinea and Mali, both countries exporting significant numbers in recent years with no information available regarding the basis of non-detriment findings. *P. senegalus* is not known to occur naturally in Liberia and if present the native population would be rare; there is an introduced population. Given the export of large quantities reported as originating from Liberia in recent years, trade is also of Possible Concern from that country. Elsewhere the quantities being exported are largely negligible. If exports from Côte d'Ivoire increases in future, additional information would be required to confirm that such trade was not detrimental.

SPECIES CHARACTERISTICS

Poicephalus senegalus is currently recognised as a single species by CITES and BirdLife International (Sibley and Monroe, 1990; 1993), with two or three recognised subspecies. This species occurs through the savanna woodland belt of West Africa, north of the rainforest belt from Mauritania through to southwestern Chad, northeastern Cameroon, and northern Central African Republic. Range States are: Benin; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Côte d'Ivoire; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Mali; Mauritania; Niger; Nigeria; Senegal; Sierra Leone; and Togo. The species might occur in Liberia, but if so, it is likely very rare. The species undertakes seasonal movements in at least parts of its range, moving into dryer areas during the wet season. Except for Chad and Burkina Faso, where the limits of its range are perhaps reached, it is common and widespread throughout its range in suitable habitat, and has not been noted as declining.

The species occurs in a variety of wooded habitats, but prefers open savanna woodland with *Adansonia digitata* or *Parkia filicoidea* below 1,000 m altitude. This habitat preference is likely to have helped the species tolerate, if not benefit from, widespread loss of closed-canopy forests in West Africa. It raids maize, millet and ground nut fields in some areas, and is consequently persecuted by farmers. In captivity, birds have a mean lifespan of 20-30 years. Females are sexually mature at around two years old, males a year later. However, first breeding does not usually take place until three to four years of age. Clutches comprise two to four eggs (Juniper and Parr, 1998).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Poicephalus senegalus is one of the most popular avian pets, being regarded as a small, quiet bird that bonds well. As a result of concerns about international trade in parrots more generally, *P. senegalus* was included in CITES Appendix II with all Psittaciformes in 1981. *Poicephalus senegalus* was included in Phase 2 of the Significant Trade Review, which concluded that current international trade levels are probably not a threat to the survival of the taxon on a global basis. Information compiled by the consultant (Inskip) who undertook the review was provided to the CITES Animals Committee at its seventh meeting. The Committee considered the information provided and formulated recommendations for a single Party, Senegal, which were communicated in January 1994 (AC.8.10, AC.8.10.5). These recommendations and subsequent responses by Senegal, the Animals and Standing Committees, and the CITES Secretariat are detailed under the country account for Senegal, below.

The majority of *P. senegalus* exports between 1994-2003 were direct to Europe (particularly Portugal, France, Spain, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic; together accounting for 86% of wild-caught imports in this period).

Table 1: Export excluding re-export of live wild *Poicephalus senegalus*, 1994-2003.

Export Country	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Totals
Burkina Faso	1				8	1	2		1		13
Cameroon				800	887						1687
Côte d'Ivoire	1	1	1		2		4	31	402	751	1193
Gambia	6				5			1			12
Ghana							1				1
Guinea	8325	1162	1070	1617	4014	3732	1294	1176	8144	7672	164817
Guinea-Bissau		12	71	32	5			2		2	132
Liberia [†]						950	800	1210	900	1000	4860
Mali			1038	3536	2475	1269	1484	6732	1135	1572	60742
Niger				9					1		10
Nigeria				1		300					301
Senegal	2292	2605	1826	1192	1715	1543	1765	1289	1380	1769	173794
Senegal ^l	2124	2199	1729	1192	1695	1543	1615	1179	1362	1664	
	6	2	7	7	6	4	6	2	5	3	
Togo			100	60	167	635	728	373	690	252	104
Totals	3127	3889	3260	3154	6040	5592	3851	3793	3922	4435	410 671
	1	0	1	5	8	2	0	9	8	7	

Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK (Viewed October 2005)

[†]Liberia is not believed to be within the native range of this species.

^l Figures based on Senegal's annual reports, except for 1997 for which no exports were reported and for which net import figure is used.

Table 2: Export quotas for live birds from range States, 1995-2003. No quotas available 1994.

Range State	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Benin					100	100	181	50				
Guinea						1500	0	9000	9000	9000	9000	-
Mali							1900	1900	1900	1900	1900	1900
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senegal	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600
	0 [†]	0 [†]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Togo	300 [†]	300 [†]	300	300	300	300	300	300	300			

NB: Quota figures in bold denote years in which gross exports exceeded quota levels. Quota figures in this table derived from CITES-listed species database, October 2005, except [†]Species Survival Network (2001).

COUNTRY ACCOUNTS

Benin

Status:

The species has been recorded in the northwest and centre of the country but the population status is unknown (Cheke, 2001; Holyoak and Seddon, 1990; Inskip *et al.*, 1988).

Management and trade:

Set quotas from 1999 to 2002, but did not report any exports, with trade therefore of Least Concern at present. No information was available on national trade or national protected status.

Burkina Faso

Status:

Rare throughout (Bannerman, 1931; Lungren *et al.*, 2001).

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported, and therefore of Least Concern. No information was available on national trade.

Cameroon

Status:

Found only in the northeast, where regarded as not threatened, although status unclear (CITES Management Authority of Cameroon, 1987; Fotso *et al.* 2001).

Management and trade:

Significant exports only reported in 1997 and 1998. Although Cameroon is a major exporter of other parrots (such as *Psittacus erithacus*), it is not expected to export *Poicephalus senegalus* in significant quantities, given the limited accessibility of its populations in the country, and the number of other supply countries. The species is not protected nationally, but permits are required for its capture under the Wildlife and Fisheries Law of 1994 (van der Heijden, 2003). No information was available on national trade. Trade from Cameroon is considered of Least Concern.

Chad

Status:

Only in the far south-west, where rare (Salvan, 1968).

Management and trade:

No international trade reported, with trade therefore of Least Concern. No information was available on national trade or national protected status.

Côte d'Ivoire

Status:

Common and widespread in suitable habitat such as forested areas and savannah, mainly in the northern and central part of the country (Thiollay, 1985; CITES Management Authorities *in litt.*, 2004), with more than 200,000 individuals estimated (Yakokoré-Béïbro, 2004). Not threatened according to CITES Management Authorities Côte d'Ivoire (*in litt.*, 2004).

Management and trade:

Export of significant numbers of birds only reported in 2002 and 2003. Côte d'Ivoire is believed to have a large national population of this species that can support such offtake, with this trade therefore of Least Concern at present. If increased exports of *Poicephalus sengalus* are planned, further information would be required to confirm non-detrimental nature of exports. National trade is not significant, comprising perhaps 260 individuals per year (CITES Management Authorities Côte d'Ivoire *in litt.*, 2004). No information was available on national protected status.

Gambia**Status:**

Common throughout in suitable habitat (Barlow and Wacher, 1997; Gore, 1990).

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported, and therefore of Least Concern. The species is totally protected (Act No. 1, 14 February 1977) (Inskip *et al.*, 1988). No information was available on national trade.

Ghana**Status:**

Common throughout in suitable habitat (Grimes, 1987).

Management and trade:

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

Guinea**Status:**

Has been recorded through much of the country, except the far southeast, but common only in the northwest and around Conakry (Clemmons, 2002; Juniper and Parr, 1998; Morel and Morel, 1988; Richards, 1982; Robertson, 2001a). No status or trend information was available

Management and trade:

Quotas were set from 2000 onwards, and only exceeded in 2001. Exports have declined since a peak of over 40,000 birds in 1998, although it is unclear whether this reflects changing market demand, competing supply from other countries, or a reduction of the species' population in this country. No information was available on national trade. The basis for the establishment of the quotas is unknown, and it would be important to confirm non-detrimental nature of the exports that are authorized. No known national legislative protection of this species. There was insufficient information available to determine whether current trade levels, which are relatively high, are likely to be sustainable, therefore trade in the species from Guinea should be considered of Possible Concern.

Guinea-Bissau**Status:**

Present throughout in suitable habitat, such as arid forests and wooded savannah, and said to be common (CITES Management Authority Guinea-Bissau *in litt.*, 2004; Juniper and Parr, 1998; Robertson, 2001b). Clemmons (2002) saw the species commonly in the Bijagos Islands and the neighbouring mainland.

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported recently, and negligible overall given likely populations of the species in this country, with trade therefore of Least Concern. Capture for domestic pet trade and illegal international trade is increasing. The CITES Management Authority for Guinea-Bissau (*in litt.*, 2004) reports that trappers from bordering countries are capturing birds from within Guinea-Bissau and believes this to be causing population declines requiring urgent protection measures. The species is totally protected nationally (S. I. No. 21/1980, 12 May 1980) (Inskipp *et al.*, 1988). No information was available on national trade.

Liberia

Status:

The range of this species is not believed to encompass Liberia (Inskipp *et al.*, 1988; Juniper and Parr, 1998), although an introduced population exists around Monrovia (Gatter, 1997). If it does occur naturally, it is likely very rare.

Management and trade:

Significant trade in this species from 1999-2003 from Liberia is of Possible Concern, since the species is not believed to be native to the country, and is at best very rare. These exports thus represent either re-exports of undocumented imports from other countries into Liberia, trade from an introduced population, and/or trade which would be severely impacting a small native population. No information was available on national trade or national protected status.

Mali

Status:

Present in the south (Robertson, 2001c), where common in suitable habitat (Collar, 1997 Lamarche, 1980).

Management and trade:

Export quotas for birds were from 2001 onwards, during which time exports have increased dramatically, putting Mali on a par now with Senegal as one of the biggest exporters of this species. While there is currently no evidence of population declines, the status of bird populations in Mali is poorly known, so the scientific basis of export quotas set by Mali and the sustainable nature of these exports are unclear. No information was available on national trade or national protected status, therefore trade in the species from Mali should be considered of Possible Concern.

Mauritania

Status:

Present in the far south (Gee, 1984), but population status not known.

Management and trade:

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

Niger

Status:

Present in the far southwest as far north as Niamey and Dosso (Brouwer *et al.*, 2001; Brouwer *in litt.*, 2005), where relatively abundant (Brouwer *in litt.*, 2005). Also noted in the southern part of the

Maradi region (Giraudoux *et al.*, 1986). The national population is estimated to be in the thousands (Brouwer *in litt.*, 2005).

Management and trade:

Negligible international trade reported, and is therefore of Least Concern. Little national trade known. No national legislative protection of this species.

Nigeria

Status:

Widespread and common in suitable habitat (Elgood *et al.*, 1994; Ezealor, 2001; Hall *in litt.* 2006).

Management and trade:

International trade reported negligible in the context of the likely large population of the species in this country, and therefore of Least Concern. Although the species is totally protected nationally (Act No. 11, 20 April 1985) (Inskip *et al.*, 1988), trapping and widespread sale is reported, mostly for the national pet trade. Concerned that Nigeria had made insufficient progress in relation to its action plan concerning national wildlife trade legislation and controls (e.g., see CoP12 Doc. 34.1), the CITES Standing Committee recommended a suspension of all trade in CITES-listed species (CITES Notification No 2005/38).

Senegal

Status:

Widespread and common in suitable habitat (Barlow and Wacher, 1997; M. Diop *in litt.*, 2006). However, it was reported in 2006 that trappers now had to travel further into eastern Senegal than before to obtain stock, indicating a decline in the west at least, although whether this was because of trapping or habitat deterioration remains unclear (De Meulenaer *in litt.*, 2006).

Management and trade:

Poicephalus senegalus was included in Phase 2 of the Significant Trade Review, the Animals Committee subsequently formulating the following recommendations, which were communicated to Senegal's CITES Management Authority in January 1994: Provide details of the control measures in place to verify the country of origin of specimens of this species that are approved for export or re-export; and develop and implement a population monitoring programme for the species and advise the Secretariat of the details of the programme. The Standing Committee subsequently recommended to the Management Authority that, by 23 December 1994, it establish a cautious annual export quota or implement the outstanding Animals Committee primary recommendation(s).

In 1995, the CITES Secretariat advised Senegal to set a cautious export quota of 12,600 birds per year as a result of the Review of Significant Trade (van der Heijden, 2003). However, Senegal set its export quotas at 16,000 birds from 1995 onwards. However, Senegal's own export data indicate that its quotas were exceeded in six of ten years from 1994-2003. Senegal assured the CITES Secretariat in 1994 that it had adequate measures in place to verify the country of origin of traded birds (van der Heijden, 2003). No information was available to confirm that such controls remain in place. The CITES Secretariat, as an outcome of the review process, advised the establishment of a population monitoring programme in 1995, but there is no evidence that it has been put in place (van der Heijden, 2003). No information was available on national trade or national protected status.

Although there is some evidence that the species remains common in the country, there is no systematic population monitoring in place to determine the non-detrimental nature of the current exports and there are indications of at least local decline. Therefore the species is considered of Possible Concern. From 1994-2003, exports have exceeded levels advised by the CITES Secretariat for every year except 1997. Maintenance of exports within established quota levels is also problematic.

Sierra Leone

Status:

Occurrence reported (Dowsett and Dowsett-Lemaire, 1993), but probably very rare or an occasional visitor.

Management and trade:

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

Togo

Status:

Common in suitable habitat throughout (Cheke and Walsh, 1996).

Management and trade:

Export quotas of 300 birds per year were established from 1995 onwards, but trade data indicate that this has been exceeded in four of nine years. No information was available on national trade or national protected status. Current export quotas are almost certainly well within sustainable levels, with trade therefore of Least Concern in the context of non-detriment findings. Maintenance of exports within established quotas appears problematic, however.

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

Illegal trade of this species has been reported from some range States. The Management Authority of Guinea-Bissau reports that illegal exportation to neighbouring countries is decreasing. In 1996, 47 birds were confiscated as they were smuggled by air from Mali to the Russian Federation (Document 10.28).

Israel has reported imports of significant quantities of *P. senegalus* from non-range States with no country of origin recorded.

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