

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

AMAZONA FARINOSA, *ARA ARARAUNA*, *ARA CHLOROPTERUS* / SURINAME

This information document has been submitted by Suriname in relation to agenda item 12*.

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To the attention of:

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Subject: Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

Paramaribo, July 13th 2018

Mr. Meulenaer,

In reference to your letter of September 20th 2017, with reference number TDM/KG/ep regarding the request of the CITES secretariat that the CITES Authority Suriname provide the scientific basis by which Suriname has determined that the exports of *Amazona farinosa*, *Ara ararauna* and *Ara chloropterus* from the country are not detrimental to the survival of the species concerned, we hereby provide the following information:

The wildlife annual export quota with a quantity of 450 for the *Amazona farinosa*, 650 for the *Ara ararauna* and 250 for the *Ara chloropterus* was set in the late nineties, based on a 5% harvest of the total population of this species, based on inventory done by Drs. K. Schouten in 1994 – 1995 from which the hard copy report "THE STATUS OF AND TRADE IN PSITTACINES AND OTHER BIRDS, FROM SURINAME" is available and has already shared been with the CITES secretariat on earlier occasions.

Another inventory "MONITORING OF PSITTACINES IN NORTH-WEST SURINAME 2004" was done in 2004 by Dr. O. Ottema with assistance of staff members of the Nature Conservation Division of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management and volunteers. The draft report of this study has not been finalized since the execution of the survey, but is attached to this letter as well the map containing the flying route.

An estimated overview of the exported species over the last 5 years (verification pending):

Species	Annual quota	Realization/ 2012	Realization 2013	Realization 2014	Realization 2015	Realization 2016
<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	450	175	81	50	147	144
<i>Ara ararauna</i>	650	531	336	649	536	574
<i>Ara chloropterus</i>	250	196	132	245	222	198

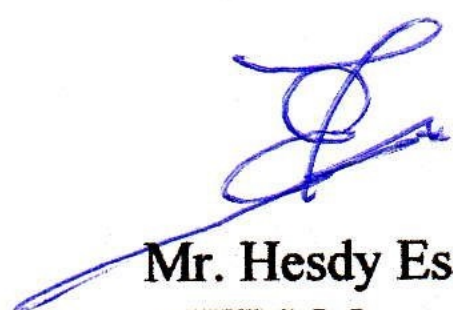
The CITES Management Authority Suriname has not been able to secure sufficient funds since the survey of 2004 to execute any follow-up population counts and is addressing the issue of a lack in scientific expertise and sufficiently skilled employees to support the work of the CITES Management Authority Suriname. In light of our current capacity issues, we have requested the support of the National Zoological Collection of Suriname (NZCS) / Environmental Research Center (CMO), an institute of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, to design a monitoring plan for the three parrot species in question. Please find the proposal to conduct the study attached. The Ministry has requested financial support from the Suriname Conservation Foundation (SCF) to help finance this survey plan and is currently still in the process of submitting the necessary paperwork to get the grant request approved.

Worth mentioning is that the CITES Management Authority of Suriname will in the near future be able to benefit from the regional project for management, monitoring and control on wild flora and fauna endangered by trade run through the Amazon Cooperation Treaty office in Brasilia ("ACTO KfW project") and will be in the position to apply for capacity building and technical support to do Non Detriment findings on 10 – 15 most traded species or groups of species.

The CITES Authority of Suriname welcomes any guidance and support that the CITES secretariat could provide to Suriname in regard of the aforementioned and wishes to reiterate its commitment to building its capacity in order to successfully execute Suriname's commitments under CITES and to the reform of the legislation of Suriname so as to be in compliance with the Category 1 requirements under the NLP.

The CITES Management Authority of Suriname takes this opportunity to assure the CITES secretariat of its highest consideration,

Kind regards,



Mr. Hesdy Esajas
CITES Management Authority Suriname
Head of the Suriname Forest Service

Implementation of *Amazona/Ara* monitoring Suriname

Paul E. Ouboter, 2 May 2018

Introduction

As many other countries in the tropics, Suriname is exporting Parrots (Psittacidae), being one of the most valuable wildlife export species. To protect the natural populations of these species, a limit to the number of specimens allowed to be exported (quota) is set for every species. These numbers are advised by the national Nature Conservation Committee, which is also the present CITES Scientific Authority for Suriname. Unfortunately these numbers are not based on solid scientific information derived from the natural populations.

September 2017 the CITES Management Authority for Suriname received the request to submit information on the Review of Significant Trade by the Suriname CITES Scientific Authority for three species of Psittacidae: *Amazona farinosa*, *Ara ararauna* and *Ara chloropterus*. Since actual field data on these species are not available, the National Zoological Collection of Suriname (NZCS) / Environmental Research Center (CMO), an institute of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, was requested by the Suriname CITES Management Authority to design and implement a monitoring plan for these three species.

Baseline information on *Amazona farinosa*, *Ara ararauna* and *Ara chloropterus*

Amazona farinosa is present in savanna forests, riparian forests and high dryland forests. Outside of the breeding season it is also present on forested sand ridges (young coastal plain) and according to Haverschmidt & Mees (1994) is very numerous there during July-August (end of long rainy season). Schouten (1995) counted 520 individuals flying from a roost of an estimated 1500 birds on August 14, 1994, but gives no locality. Spaans et al. (2016) lists *A. farinosa* as common for the northern Savanna Belt and lowland tropical rainforests.

This species is not listed as game bird, but considering its resemblance to *Amazona amazonica* (which is listed as game bird), it will be killed as game regularly.

The 1997-2017 export quota for this species was 450. Highest export numbers were reached in 2002 (449) and 227 individuals were exported in 2011 (UNEP-WCMC, 2012)

Ara ararauna has a wide distribution in Suriname, occurring in lowland high tropical rainforest, swamp forest and grass swamps. It is especially abundant in swamps with *Mauritia flexuosa* palms. According to Spaans et al. (2016) it is common in the old coastal plain, in lowland tropical rainforests and at the Sipaliwini Savanna (southern Suriname). Haverschmidt & Mees (1994) present

numbers crossing some of the big rivers in the late afternoon: Coppename River: 342; Marowijne River between Galibi and Albina: 60. Schouten (1995) reports counting 1800 individuals from the air and 685 at a roosting place in the area between the MCP Channel and the Coppename River. In April 2018, biologists linked to NZCS saw *A. ararauna* to be abundant in the area of the Perica Creek. In the Hunting Law *A. ararauna* is listed as game bird with an open hunting season between July and November.

The 1997-2017 export quota for this species was 650. Highest export numbers were reached in 2002 (771; quota was temporarily set at 806). In 2011 504 birds were exported (UNEP-WCMC, 2012).

Ara chloropterus is a relatively common macaw in undisturbed lowland tropical rainforest. Haverschmidt & Mees (1994) mention it as common for most of the interior, but list several locations where the species has almost disappeared by now, mostly the areas that are easily accessible. Schouten (1995) counted 147 individuals from the air on 9 August 1994 in the Raleighvallen area. Spaans et al. (2016) lists it as common for lowland tropical rainforest. We saw it to be abundant at Raleighvallen (middle Coppename River) in April 2018 (P. Ouboter, pers. obs).

In the Hunting Law *A. chloropterus* is listed as game bird with an open hunting season between July and November.

The 1997-2017 export quota for this species was 250. Highest export numbers were reached in 2010 (290, 40 being attributed to the 2009 quota). In 2011 204 birds were exported.

***Amazona/Ara* monitoring plan**

In general a countrywide monitoring of species is quite difficult in Suriname, because many areas are difficult to access or can only be accessed by airplane, which is expensive. The good thing of course is that the inaccessibility also limits potential hunters and catchers.

There have been two former attempts to monitor parrots. Schouten (1995) carried out surveys on request of the wildlife exporters in 1994. He reports only maximum numbers of parrots counted. A second and third survey were carried out by Ottema in 2007 and 2008, but from this survey no report could be found. Both surveys were carried out from the air, counting parrots from a small airplane in the late afternoon.

We propose a completely different methodology. Casagrande & Beissinger (1997) evaluated four methods to estimate the population size of parrot species in the Llanos of Venezuela. They conclude that the most successful method was using a line transect. However, they worked in the rather open Llanos, a savanna area. Because of the ease to see and count parrots while they are crossing wide rivers on their way to the roost in the late afternoon, and because some counts are already available from 1994, we developed the following protocol:

- Survey a 5 km transect following a relatively wide river by boat

- Start and end points of the survey will be predetermined based on knowledge of the area, literature data, GIS modeling and GPS location
- The speed of the boat should be limited to 2-3 km/hour
- Start the survey at 16:30 continuing to 18:30
- All parrots flying over will be identified to species and counted
- Surveys will be carried out on two successive days in the long rainy season (July-August) and long dry season (September-October), totaling 4 days
- Locations identified for the baseline survey are:
 - Lower Corantijn River
 - Middle Corantijn River/Lower Kabalebo River
 - Lower Maratakka River
 - Upper Maratakka River
 - Lower Coppename River
 - Middle Coppename River (Raleighvallen)
 - Cottica River/Perica Creek
 - Lower Marowijne River
 - Sinabo/Orleanekreek, in het distrikt Commewijne
 - Boskamp/Coppenamepunt, distrikt Saramacca
 - Apoera, West Suriname
 - Clara Polder, MCP Kanaal, South Drain, distrikt Nickerie
- Surveys will ideally be repeated every 3 to 5 years. Although it is important to use the same locations for monitoring, the choice of locations could be adapted slightly for the second survey based on the results of the baseline survey,

All locations chosen can be reached by road or river, thereby keeping expenses down.

Please note that other species of parrots, not mentioned here, will be counted as well.

Research team

To Be Determined

Time schedule

Activity	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Preparations								
Reservations								
Rainy season surveys								
Dry season surveys								
Analysis of results								
Reporting								

References

Casagrande, D.G. & S.R. Beissinger, 1997. Evaluation of four methods estimating Parrot population size. *The Condor* 99: 445-457.

Haverschmidt, F. & G.F. Mees, 1994. *Birds of Suriname*. Vaco, Paramaribo.

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Spaans, A.L. O.H. Ottema & J.H J.M. Ribot, 2015. *Field Guide to the Birds of Suriname*. Brill Acad. Publ., Dordrecht.

UNEP-WCMC, 2012. Review of species subject to long-standing positive opinions: mammals and birds from the Americas. UNEP-WCMC.