

Project S-99/03-P

CITES PROJECT PROPOSAL

SECTION 1 - PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

- 1.1 **Title of project** Status Assessment of the Iris Lorikeet *Psitteuteles (Trichoglossus) iris* in the Lesser Sundas, Indonesia.
- 1.2 **Project number** S-99/03-P
- 1.3 **Geographic Scope** Timor and Wetar Islands, Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia
- 1.4 **Implementation** Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI)
Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature
Conservation (PHPA)
IUCN/Species Survival Commission
BirdLife Indonesia Programme
- 1.5 **Duration of the Project.** Eight months, commencing as soon as funds are available
- 1.6 **Cost of Project** US\$ 58,000
- 1.7 **Project Summary**

Psitteuteles iris is endemic to the islands of Timor and Wetar in Indonesia, where its status is unknown, although it is thought to be scarce in part of its range. There are three subspecies: the nominate (*P. iris iris*) confined to West Timor; *P. iris rubripileum* in eastern Timor and *P. iris wetterensis* on Wetar. A population of 10,000 was estimated in 1993, based on anecdotal field information, and is regarded as possibly declining. Under the new IUCN Red List criteria, *Psitteuteles iris* is considered to be vulnerable.

Psitteuteles iris was reported to be the least common of the three species of lorikeets occurring on Timor, where recent observations suggest that it is scarce. Its status on Wetar is unknown. It was observed there in the vicinity of a village in 1990, but no ornithologists have visited the island recently.

International concern for the *P. iris* arose as a consequence of the paucity of information about its status; the setting of quotas with no biological basis and the international trade reported to CITES. As a result of a CITES Significant Trade review, the CITES Animals Committee recommended a moratorium on international trade in *P. iris* pending a field status survey. Commercial imports of *P. iris* into the European Union from Indonesia have been prohibited since 1989, and the species is presently the subject of a voluntary export moratorium imposed by the Indonesian government. The level of domestic trade is unknown.

This project seeks to address the concerns of the CITES Animals Committee by investigating the status and extent of harvest of this species in the wild.

SECTION 2 - BACKGROUND AND PROJECT CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL CITES IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Background

During 1985-1990, reported levels of trade in live *P. iris* ranged from zero in 1986 to 257 in 1988, with an annual average of 139 birds. Trade had decreased from a maximum of 685 in 1983 to zero in 1986, before increasing again to 257 in 1988 and 240 in 1990. Indonesia was reported as the major exporting country. Edwards and Nash (1992) reported that Indonesian trade data illustrate a general trend of decreasing exports for those species traded in the largest volumes but, in contrast, export volumes have increased for several species: e.g. *Trichoglossus* spp. Indonesian records differed slightly from the CITES statistics during 1988-1990; 1988 - 40, 1989 - 300 (PHPA in Edwards and Nash, 1992), the reason for this is unknown.

According to CITES statistics for 1987, exports exceeded capture quotas (see below) by 322 per cent. Capture quotas were then increased in 1988: quotas were set for the legal capture of *P. i. iris* as follows; 50 in 1987; 500 in 1988; 185 in 1989; 300 in 1990 and 1991 (Edwards and Nash, 1992). A quota of 100 was set for 1993 despite a recommendation from the CITES Scientific Authority for a zero quota (S. Nash *in litt.* to TRAFFIC International, 1993). Commercial imports of this species into the EU from Indonesia, have been prohibited since 14 December 1989 (COM import ban art. 10.1.(b): EU/CITES database).

International concern regarding the status of *P. iris* arose as a consequence of the paucity of information about this species, the setting of quotas without field assessments of population size and the international trade reported to CITES. This led to the inclusion of this species on the CITES Significant Trade List in 1991. Subsequently, as a result of a detailed desk review of the status of the species (Anon. 1992), the Animals Committee of CITES recommended a moratorium on the international trade pending a field survey to accurately determine the status of the species. This was adopted as Resolution Conf. 8.9. The species is presently the subject of a voluntary export moratorium imposed by the Indonesian Government (H. Jenkins *in litt.* May 1996).

2.2 Project contribution to the overall CITES Implementation

This project will ascertain whether the population of *P. iris* is sufficiently large to allow sustainable trade and make recommendations relating to the level of capture and the management of harvesters and harvesting practices. Recommendations relating to its conservation and the safeguarding of its habitat will also be made.

SECTION 3 - NEEDS AND RESULTS

3.1 Needs

It is important to have precise figures in order to decide if trade may become sustainable.

3.2 Results

The result of this project will depend on the outcome of the status survey. It is likely that the project will result in recommendations relating to the setting of quotas for sustainable exploitation of the species.

3.3 Assumptions to achieve results

Funds available on time.

Permission for implementation granted by Indonesian authorities.

Suitable counterparts will be available for training and implementation.

Indonesian authorities provide adequate assistance to any external consultants to promptly obtain permits to initiate project and an exit visa to leave Indonesia.

Indonesian authorities will implement recommendations resulting from the study.

SECTION 4 - OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE, BUDGET, FOLLOW UP

4.1 Outputs

A comprehensive report (in English and Indonesian) to the Indonesian Scientific and Management Authorities and the CITES Secretariat regarding the status of the three subspecies of *P. iris*, with an assessment of the effects of past and present trade.

4.2 Activities

Field activities will take place on the island of Timor and Wetar for a period of 6 to 7 months. During this time, data will be collected on the distribution and status of the species in the wild, on the means of trapping, past and present trapping levels and trend in population size as judged by local people. Data on other psittacines that occur in similar habitats on Flores will also be collected. The first month of the project will be devoted to training of Indonesian scientists and counterparts participating in the project.

Field activities are timed to coincide with a joint WWF/BirdLife project on these islands that aims to assess relative biodiversity values of different types of forest. This project will be provided with vegetation maps for all of Timor (by the East-West Centre) which will facilitate planning and project execution. It is anticipated that the project staff will collaborate with the WWF/BirdLife project. The following main objectives will determine field activities:

to assess the present status of *P. iris* in the wild and to estimate maximum and minimum population sizes for each subspecies;

to establish the methodology, base line data and a framework for long-term monitoring of *P. iris* populations;

to collect biological and ecological data on the species, particularly with regard to habitat preferences, diet, breeding and annual ranging behaviour;

to provide training to Indonesian field staff from relevant institutions and to build up capacity to implement recommendations relating to the monitoring of population;

to assess whether current harvest levels are sustainable and to elucidate trade routes for this species;

to provide recommendations for the management and conservation of *P. iris* populations;

to provide information on the status of other endangered sympatric bird species, in particular those that are in trade and those considered to be threatened.

Methodology

The methodology will follow that used by Lambert (1992, 1997) in similar studies of psittacine species, relying primarily on Variable Circular Plot, transects and analysis of results with the programme DISTANCE. Interviews and observation will provide the basis for an analysis of the impact and level of present and past trade.

4.3 Workplan and Timetable

Processing necessary permits in Jakarta and Nusa Tenggara: 4 weeks

Fieldwork (including training): 23 weeks

Research and reporting: 5 weeks

Amending report after peer review: 1 week

Preparation of report for publication: 2 weeks

4.4 Budget

10	Project Personnel	USD
1100	Project personnel Salary, trainer (assumes 2.5 man months; responsible for training, data analysis & report.)	12,500
	Salary, Indonesian counterparts (PHPA/LIPI personnel)	7,000
	Field subsistence (all personnel under 1100)	8,000
1200	Consultants (Indonesian: responsible for data collection, with counterparts.)	12,000
1300	Administrative support personnel	2,000
1600	Travel on official business (includes vehicle hire, international and domestic flights)	6,000
40	Equipment and Premises	
4100	Expendable equipment	4,000
50	Miscellaneous	
5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment (includes repair and insurance of equipment)	500
5200	Reporting cost (includes review, translation, printing, distribution)	3,500
5300	Sundry (includes visas, permits and miscellaneous costs)	2,500
	TOTAL	58,000

4.5 Cash Advance Requirements

All funds for fieldwork are needed in advance of project implementation. Funds for publication and distribution of the final report, and final installments for consultant fees can be held back until completion of all tasks in terms-of reference and publication of the final report.

4.6 Follow up

Report should be distributed for peer review and subsequently submitted to CITES Animals Committee. PHPA and LIPI should be responsible for considering recommendations made by the project and implementing those that are agreed to be important.

SECTION 5 - INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

5.1 Institutional Framework

This project will be implemented by experts selected by the National CITES authorities in consultation with the CITES Secretariat.

5.2 Evaluation

Evaluation of the research findings and conclusions will be made during the peer review process.

SECTION 6 - MONITORING AND REPORTING

6.1 Progress reports Brief report to be submitted mid-way through the project.

6.2 Terminal reports Final report to be submitted within three months of completion of field work.

6.3 Financial Reports Interim report due within two weeks of completion of field work. Financial report due within two weeks of publication of final report. In addition, work carried out in the field will be monitored and evaluated by IUCN.

6.4 Terms and conditions

6.4.1 Non-expendable equipment This is to be provided by national organizations and will be returned to these institutions at the end of the project.

Literature Consulted

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