

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Probosciger aterrimus from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

Papua New Guinea.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Psittaciformes
13. Family: Psittacidae
14. Species: Probosciger aterrimus (Gmelin, 1788)
15. Common Names: English: palm cockatoo, great palm cockatoo, great black cockatoo, Goliath cockatoo, Cape York cockatoo, black macaw (local name)
French: cacatoès noir
Spanish: cacatúa enlutada
16. Code Number: Unknown

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The species comprises three subspecies in the following countries: eastern Indonesia--Aru Islands, Western Papua Islands, Yapen Islands, Irian Jaya; Papua New Guinea--mainland only; and Australia--Cape York Peninsula (Forshaw, 1981). A few specimens were introduced accidentally to Kai Kecil, Maluku in the 1970s (Anon., 1981), but Smiet (1985) reported that they were seldom seen by local people.

P.a. aterrimus (Gmelin): Aru Islands (Maluku), Misool in the western Papuan Islands (Irian Jaya) (Mees, 1965), southern New Guinea from about Merauke East to the Gulf of Papua and Cape York Peninsula, northern Queensland (Forshaw, 1981). On Cape York Peninsula, the range extends on the eastern coast, South to Massey Creek and inland to the western slopes of the Tozer and McIlwraith Ranges, while on the western coast, it extends South to the Archer River and inland to Kinloch Creek (Storr, 1973).

P. a. goliath (Kuhl): western Papuan Islands, other than Misool (Forshaw and Cooper, 1978). Bergman collected specimens in 1948-1949 on Batanta and Waigeo, and the species was known to occur on Salawati (Gyldenstolpe, 1955). Found throughout much of New Guinea from Vogelkop, Irian Jaya East through central regions to South-East Papua (Forshaw and Cooper, 1978).

P. a. stenolophus (Van Oort); confined to Yapen Island in Geelvink Bay, Irian Jaya and northern New Guinea from the Mamberamo River, Irian Jaya East to about Collingwood Bay in eastern Papua (Forshaw and Cooper, 1978).

[Note: Mees (1982) suggests that there are only two subspecies in New Guinea -- P. a. stenolophus, confined to the North coast, and P. a. goliath, found throughout the rest of the island. He further suggests that birds from Cape York are intermediate between P. a. aterrimus and P. a. goliath].

22. Population: No estimates of population size are available; general comments on status are included where possible. Like other large forest birds, this species is probably naturally quite rare. Numerically rare in New Guinea, occurring in widespread, small populations (Beehler, 1985); extirpated from most areas close to human settlement, although more common elsewhere (Forshaw, 1981).

Australia: encountered frequently in most areas of the Claudie River District, common in the Weipa District and generally readily observed in a number of areas on Cape York Peninsula (Forshaw, 1981). In general, the subspecies found in Australia can be characterized as locally common within a very restricted range (J. Forshaw, pers. comm. to F. Antram, 1986). Blakers et al. (1984) state that, given the small population and the species' longevity, there is a risk that the population may appear stable and surviving well and yet be failing to recruit young at a rate sufficient to replace the ageing breeding population. Near Somerset the population apparently decreased between 1896 and 1910; this decline was attributed to shooting (Barnard, 1911). The "Atlas of Australian Birds" documents a significant decrease in the species' Australian range (Blakers et al., 1984).

Indonesia: Smiet (1985) saw only a few individuals on Pulau Baum and Pulau Kobroor, Aru Islands, and concluded unequivocally that the species was rare. Diamond et al. (1983) found the populations on Yapen Island to be seriously depleted, except in remote areas; the species was not abundant on Batanta, although on Kumawa Peninsula, Irian Jaya, it was still fairly common. Bishop (1984) described the species as moderately common in a number of reserves in South-East Irian Jaya. According to F. Antram, J. Forshaw of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, reports that the population in Indonesia is continuing to decline (F. Antram, in litt. to C. Schouten, 1985). The long-term survival of the birds introduced on Kai Kecil was questionable, owing to a lack of primary forest on the island (Anon., 1981).

Papua New Guinea: rare in areas near human populations. According to D. Bruning (in litt., 1986), the palm cockatoo is usually among the first species extirpated by local inhabitants. Found in remote areas but not reported in large numbers (D. Bruning, in litt., 1986). No population estimates are available, but the species is now difficult to find anywhere near human settlement (J. Forshaw, pers. comm. to F. Antram, 1986).

23. Habitat: The species is closely associated with tropical rainforest (Forshaw, 1981). In New Guinea, it is found in forest and dense savannah woodland up to about 1,300 m (Rand and Gilliard, 1967). On Cape York Peninsula it inhabits the fringe zone between dense rainforest and Eucalyptus-Melaleuca woodland. Seen singly, in pairs, or in small groups often congregating in open woodland after sunrise and feeding there or along the edges of rainforest before returning to individual roosting trees just before sunset (Forshaw, 1981). Increasing development of the tropical forest habitat on which the species is largely dependent (Forshaw and Cooper, 1978) will undoubtedly adversely affect its continued survival; the species is severely impacted by habitat destruction and disturbance (D. Bruning, in litt., 1986).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: As mentioned above, the species is quickly extirpated from areas with any human development (Beehler, 1985). Besides its sensitivity to human disturbance and the negative affects of tropical forest destruction through development, Diamond (1979) identified hunting and trapping as threats to the species' survival.

Australia: no recent information on utilization for food and feathers, but it is possible that the species has been utilized by aboriginals in the past (F. Antram, in litt., 1986). Although there is a potential threat, there is no recent evidence of any trade (F. Antram, in litt., 1986). Six birds are currently held in "A Class" zoos; three at Adelaide Zoo and three at Taronga Park (F. Antram, in litt., 1986). Little information available as to the species' presence in "B Class" zoos, although Lord McAlpine's Pearl Coast Aviaries holds two specimens (F. Antram, in litt., 1986). In addition to zoos, there are 30 specimens known to be held in captivity in Australia, at least half of which originate from Papua New Guinea (G. Phipps, Toronga Parks, pers. comm. to F. Antram, 1986).

Indonesia and Papua New Guinea: shot opportunistically for food and feathers wherever it is encountered (Beehler, 1985). Persistent hunting has eradicated the species in the vicinity of most larger towns and villages in New Guinea (Forshaw and Cooper, 1978), where it is used for food and crest feathers (J. Forshaw, pers. comm. to F. Antram, 1986). The commercial cage bird trade was reported to be a major threat to the avian fauna of the Mamberamo region, northern Irian Jaya (Diamond, 1979). In South-East Irian Jaya the species was reported to be frequently captured for the pet trade and locally shot for the preparation of exotic food (Bishop, 1984). Smiet (1985) reported that, despite its protected status, it was heavily hunted in the Aru Islands and traded illegally for high prices. Local people hunt the birds with bows and blunted arrows, and place traps on the forest floor. If present trends continue, Diamond et al. (1983) expect the species to become extinct on Yapen within the next two decades, despite the fact that commercial export logging operations have apparently ceased on the island.

32. Legal International Trade: Diamond (1979) reported that most of the illegal trade from the Mamberamo region, Irian Jaya, leaves the country via Jakarta, and from there the birds are transported

to Singapore and then on to western Europe, the United States, and Japan. Forshaw (1981) reported that within the past few years, the species has been exported from Irian Jaya and distributed through the Singapore Bird Market to zoos and large private collections in many parts of the world.

Although the species is protected throughout its range (Australia; protected from commercial export since 1960; Indonesia; fully protected since 1970; and Papua New Guinea; a "restricted" species prohibited from commercial export since 1973), it has been reported in international trade every year at least over the period 1980 to 1984 (CITES and other statistics being largely unavailable for the period prior to this). The number of specimens traded annually according to statistics recorded by CITES Parties during 1980-84 ranged from 9 in 1981 to 359 in 1983, virtually all of these purportedly having originated in Indonesia (Table 1 and Table 2) (WTMU unpubl. report to CITES, 1986). In most years, however, a large proportion of the specimens traded reportedly originated in countries without wild populations. Of the trade reported to have originated in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, only four birds exported by Indonesia in 1984 were reportedly exported directly by the country of origin, and these were reported as trade for zoological purposes (WTMU unpubl. report to CITES, 1986). The majority of the trade in 1983 was reported as re-exports from Malaysia and Singapore, originating in Indonesia, despite the trade prohibitions in this country. Very few of the birds in trade were reported to have been captive-bred. There is however, evidence of permits being issued by non-Party and non-range states, Taiwan, for example, for large numbers of birds claimed to be captive-bred; see Annex 1.

Over the years 1980-84 the single largest importers of birds reported in trade were Singapore and the United States. Of the 171 birds imported into the U. S. during this period, 124 were reported seized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1983. In 1984, nearly 50 of these birds were put on public auction, and others were transferred to zoological institutions throughout the United States. Eight of the seized birds were returned to Indonesia at the request of that country and set up as pairs for a captive breeding programme at the Jakarta Zoo (D. Bruning, in litt., 1986). The condition for the sale of the birds was the establishment of a breeding consortium to foster the conservation of the species (Anon., 1984). The 124 birds had an estimated value of \$500,000 (J. Thomsen, per. comm., 1986). Currently palm cockatoos are being offered for sale for prices ranging from \$ 5,000 to \$ 10,000 each (D. Bruning, in litt., 1986).

Recently a juvenile palm cockatoo was found in a pet shop in Tokyo, indicating that imports of this species to Japan, another major consumer of psittacines for the pet bird trade, continue (C. Song, in litt., 1986; T. Milliken, in litt., 1987). Roet and Milliken (1985) reported that a palm cockatoo found in a Tokyo pet store during a pet store survey had been imported from Thailand in 1982.

The owner of the pet store claimed that approximately ten palm cockatoos are imported to Japan every year (Roet and Milliken, 1985). In another Tokyo pet store, palm cockatoos were

advertised as available upon order. These birds, if imported, apparently would have come from Thailand (see Annex 2) (Roet and Milliken, 1985).

The annual volume of world trade over the years 1980-84 averaged 87 birds, the majority of which were reported in 1983 (WTMU unpubl. report to CITES, 1986). Nilsson (1985) reported, on the basis of import figures obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, rather different and larger import figures for the U.S. indicating that the CITES reports may have underestimated the trade. This possible underestimate may not be unique to the U.S. A comparison of the two different sets of import figures suggests that the minimum net import by the U.S. during 1980-84 was 215, rather than 171 birds, and, thus, increases the average annual volume of trade to a minimum of 95 birds, instead of the above-mentioned 87.

33. Illegal Trade;

34. Potential Trade Threats; The high value of these birds makes them quite vulnerable to the trade. It has been reported that several supposed breeding facilities have been established in Taiwan, the Philippines, and on Bali. Currently, none of these facilities is known to have bred the species, although claims of one or two reared on Bali may be accurate (D. Bruning, in litt., 1986). Successful captive breeding is still infrequent and generally well-known and documented. Currently, three palm cockatoos are being reared in the U.S. and possibly one or two in the U.K. (D. Bruning, in litt., 1986).

The monetary value of these birds alone causes a serious concern for their survival, as the potential for profits to traders is extremely high. There apparently are significant numbers of birds currently held in Singapore, the Philippines, and Taiwan waiting to enter trade in the U.S. and Europe (see Annex 3).

The palm cockatoo is a highly-visible species and, as a result, news of breeding success spreads rapidly. Table 3 gives a background on known breeding success and clearly shows how few have been reared in the past forty years. These data cast serious doubt on a permit issued by Taiwan (see Annex 1) for 30 palm cockatoos declared as bred in captivity.

Clearly, all claims of large-scale breeding of palm cockatoos must be considered highly improbable at the present time. However, work currently under way indicates that captive breeding may become significant in the future (D. Bruning, in litt., 1986).

4. Protection Status

41. National;

Australia; currently protected from commercial export under the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act of 1982. A decision to ban private or commercial export of "Native Animals and Birds" (including skins, plumage, eggs, and eggshells) was taken in 1959. This ban came into force in January 1960 when the species was added to Schedule 2 (export prohibited without permission of the Minister) of the Customs Act

of 1901 (F. Antram, in litt., 1986). The current legislation in Queensland protecting the species is the Fauna Conservation Act of 1974 (amended in 1984) (F. Antram, in litt., 1986).

Indonesia; protected since 1970 by Decree of the Minister of Agriculture No. 421/Kpts/Um/8/1970 (Anon., 1982).

Papua New Guinea; a "restricted" species, prohibited from commercial export under the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations of 1973 (Parker, 1981).

42. International; Listed in CITES Appendix II in 1975. Other than that, the species has no international protection. However, the CITES Secretariat on 28 November 1986 issued Notification No. 417, urging the Parties to take all possible measures to prevent further international trade in the species because of its protected status in all countries of origin (Notification attached as Annex 4).
43. Additional Protection Needs; For the reasons mentioned above, this species merits transfer from CITES Appendix II to CITES Appendix I. National legislation prohibiting export in all the countries where the species occurs appears inadequate to prevent this trade and stem the deleterious effect of trade in conjunction with local use and development pressures on these populations.

At present, the capture for commercial export of specimens of this species continues in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea in spite of legislation prohibiting it. While this may be described merely as an enforcement problem, few importing countries appear capable of resolving the problem outside of an Appendix I listing. Moreover, the present rarity of the species and its decreasing numbers indicate that an Appendix I listing may be the only means to stem this illegal trade.

5. Information on Similar Species

No morphologically-similar species really exist. The untrained eye, however, could mistake Calyptrorhynchus spp. for the palm cockatoo, from which it differs by its black tail and red cheek-patches.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

No information.

7. Additional Remarks

71. The species has been identified by the CITES Technical Committee as likely to be affected detrimentally through over-exploitation for international trade (Anon., 1986).
72. The "Significant Trade Study" conducted by the IUCN Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU) in Cambridge, identified the palm cockatoo as a "Problem Species," and concluded: "this species has suffered a serious decline in numbers in many areas due to a combination of hunting for food and feathers, habitat destruction and trapping for trade. The species is rarely bred in captivity so most trade is likely to involve birds that have been illegally

captured and exported. It is unlikely that trade is one of the most important factors contributing to its decline but is probably significant nevertheless" (WTMU unpubl. report to CITES, 1986).

73. As mentioned above, statistics on trade in palm cockatoos are, for the most part, unavailable for years prior to 1980. Moreover, where the CITES statistics are concerned, doubt has been cast, as in the case of discrepancies in U.S. Government trade data, as to the accuracy and completeness of the CITES statistics. One should note that the report on annual reporting by the CITES Parties prepared for the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doc. 5.18, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1985) and previous such reports attest to only a 5% correlation in the comparative tabulation of transactions reported by CITES Parties, indicating that much trade in CITES species may go undetected or is inaccurately reported as to quantity, source, country of origin, and, species. Last, the lack of data from CITES Parties failing to submit annual reports (approximately 50%) and from non-Parties (Taiwan, for example) presumably trading in this and other CITES species suggests that a considerable number of specimens of this species are traded each year unbeknownst to the CITES enforcement and trade monitoring community.

8. References

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Table 1. Net imports of live *Probosciger aterrimus* reported to CITES. The totals provide estimates of the minimum volume of world trade for each year (from WTMU unpubl. report to CITES, 1986)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Belgium			2		
Colombia					8
Congo				1	
Fed. Rep. of Germany					4
Hong Kong				1	
Italy		3	8	4	12
India	2				
Netherlands	1		4		
Singapore				196	
South Africa					8
Switzerland	5			2	
United Kingdom	1	4			
United States	8	2	4	155	2
TOTAL	17	9	18	359	34

Table 2. Reported countries of origin or export for exports of live Probosciger aterrimus reported to CITES. When specimens have been exported to an intermediate country and subsequently re-exported, the minimum net trade was calculated, ensuring that numbers were only recorded once (from WTMU unpubl. report to CITES, 1986).

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
<u>Countries having wild populations</u>					
Indonesia				398	4
Papua New Guinea		3			
<u>Countries without wild populations</u>					
German Dem. Republic				1*	
Malaysia			8		
Philippines	2	3*			
Singapore	5	1	1		16
South Africa				1	
Thailand	8		8	6	12
Unknown	3	3	1	2	2

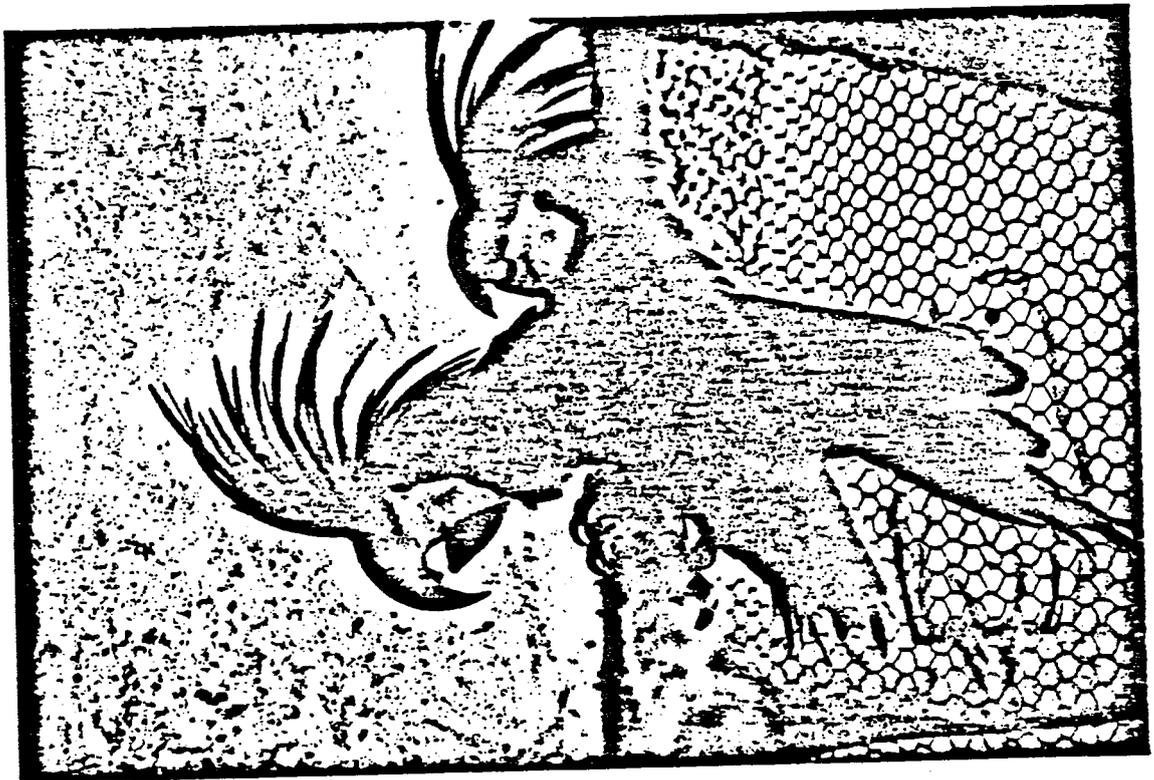
* reported captive bred

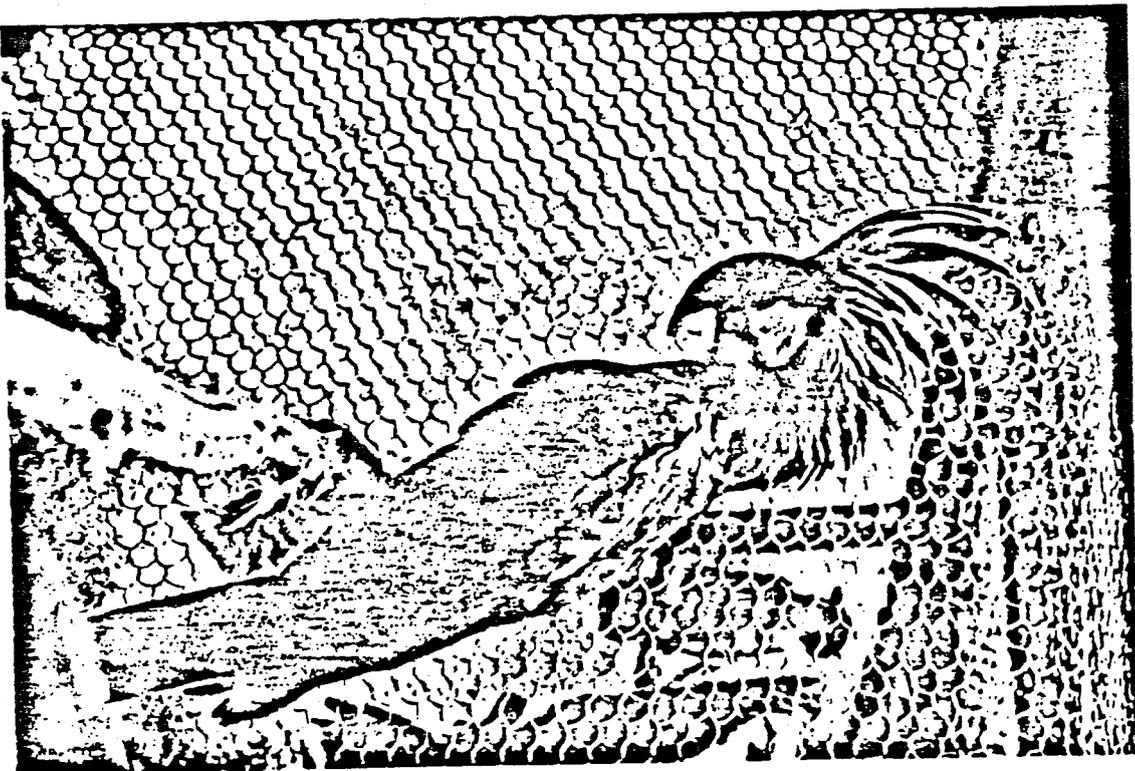
Table 3. Captive Breeding of Probosciger atterimus.
(Collected by D. Bruning)

Captive Breeding of Palm Cockatoo

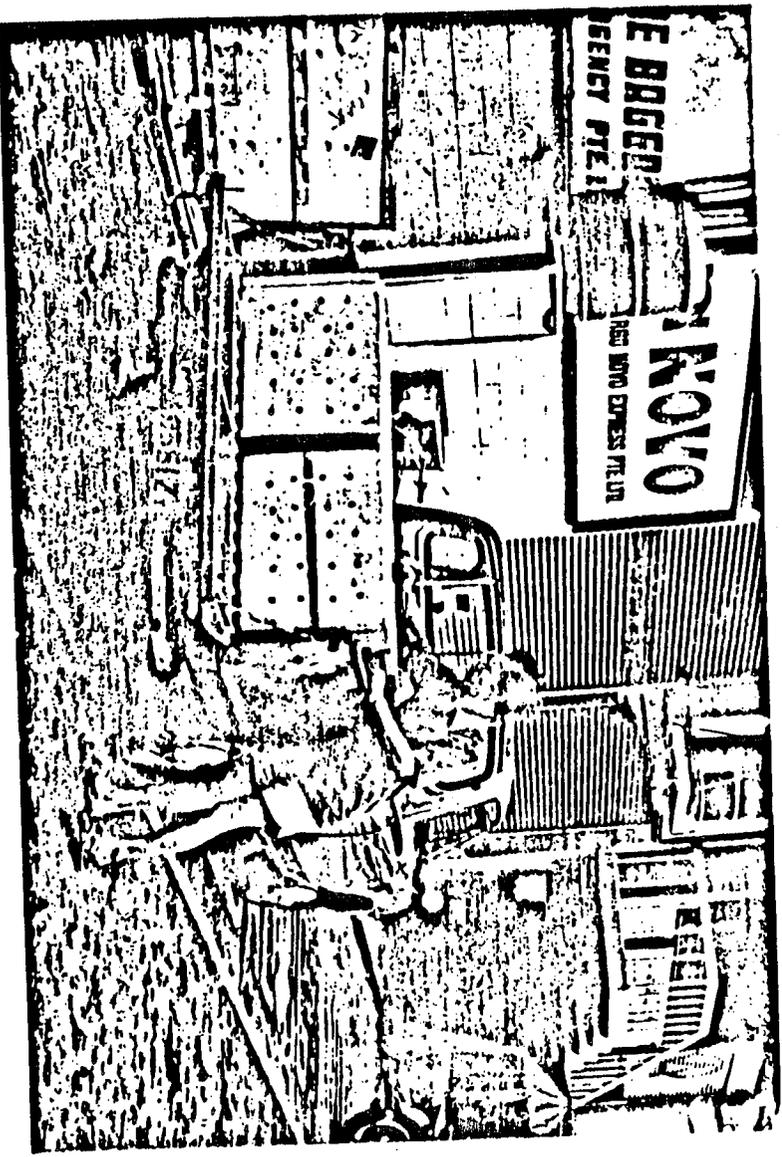
	Hatched	Location	Success
1950	29 March	San Diego Zoo	Died in a few days
1971	30 November	Taronga	Died at 4 months
1973	May	Taronga	1 lived over one year
1974	February	Taronga	1 lived
1972 1973 1974	R.T. Lynn in Australia reported that 3 parents reared chicks		
1975		Zoo Neu Wied, W. Germany	1 survived
1976		Newwied	Died
1981	2 hatched	Leipzig East Germany	? on how long they survived
1981	2 hatched	Loro Parque Tenerife	? on how long they survived
1982	1 hatched	Harry Sissons - Yorkshire, England	hand reared
1984	1 hatched	California	Chick survived, reared by parents
1984	1 hatched	Bird land Burton on water (hand reared)	? on survival
1984-85	2 hatched 31 May, 13 July	London - George Smith	Survived, hand reared by Pat & Bob Mann
1984-85	2 hatched	Bali, Indonesia	Survived into 1985
1985	1 March	Jeri Parcell	One chick lived 7 months
1985	30 November hatched	Denton Tex, Fla., Mary Ann Hayes	Died after 47 days Has one egg as of 12/9/1986
1986	12 June 21 August	Paradise Park Joyce Ferguson	One lived 38 days Another, alive today 12/86
1986	1 September	New York Zoological Society	Chick alive at present 12/86
1986	8 October	St. Catherines Island (another egg is due to hatch 4 January)	Chick alive today 12/86

Annex 3. Probosciger atterimus for sale at a Philippine export facility in Manila (photo: V.R. Pratt, D.V.M.; New England Wildlife Center, Inc.).





Annex 3 cont. Shipment of Proboscidger atterimus leaving Singapore for the Philippines. The shipment contained four birds. It was declared as containing ring-necked pheasants (V.R. Pratt, D.V.M.; New England Wildlife Center, Inc.).





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

Annex 4.



SECRETARIAT

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NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 417

Lausanne, 28 November 1986

CONCERNING:

Trade in Palm Cockatoos *Probosciger aterrimus*

1. In accordance with advice from the Technical Committee at its recent meeting (23 to 27 June, 1986, Lausanne, Switzerland), the Secretariat hereby draws the attention of Parties to the serious problem of illegal trade in palm cockatoos *Probosciger aterrimus*, a species listed in Appendix II.
2. This species occurs only in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia. None of these Parties has permitted the export of specimens of this species in recent years. In Australia and Indonesia it is protected and no export is allowed; in Papua New Guinea, although not protected, the Government has a policy not to allow it in trade.
3. Despite the fact that legal exports have not occurred, considerable numbers have been appearing in international trade, very often with the claim that they are captive-bred specimens. Captive breeding of this species has been reliably recorded on very few occasions and there is no evidence of any large scale or commercial captive breeding.
4. In addition, the species has been identified by the Technical Committee as probably being affected detrimentally through over-exploitation for international trade.
5. Therefore, the Parties are urged to take all possible measures to prevent further international trade in illegally exported specimens of this species and to exert great caution in permitting any trade. In particular, the Parties are advised to notify the Secretariat of any cases of actual or potential trade in this species and to inform the Secretariat immediately if specimens are declared as being captive-bred.



