

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of the Indonesia population of Scleropages formosus from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Indonesia

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Pisces
12. Order: Osteoglossiformes
13. Family: Osteoglossidae
14. Species: Scleropages formosus
15. Common Names: English: Asian bonytongue, Asian arowana
French: Scléropage d'Asie, scleropage formosus
Spanish: Pez lengüihueso malayo
Indonesia: Ikan siluk, ilan, khayangan, ikan tangkelesa
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: In Indonesia the species is widely distributed in the riverines in Sumatra, Bangka and Kalimantan i.e. Kampar River, Siak Kecil River, Rokan River (Riau Province), Kerinci Lake and other waters in Jambi Province. In Kalimantan it is found in Kapuas River, Landak River, Pawon River which cover about 400,000 ha (see Annex).

The species is also distributed in Burma, Democratic Kampuchea, Laos People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam.

22. Population: There is not yet adequate inventory on the species mainly due to the financial constraint and the wide areas which cover its habitats. It is estimated that at least 20,000 specimens were yearly taken from the wild habitat in West Kalimantan only. The main catching locations in Kalimantan are Sintang and Kapuas Hulu regions. In Riau Province Sumatra they are located mainly in Kampar River, Siak Kecil River and Rokan River. Roberts (1981 Cit. TRAFFIC 13 January 1986) believed that the species was likely to be abundant in the extensive swamps of East and South Kalimantan and would be found to be common and continuously distributed in the swamps of North Sumatra.

23. Habitat: Most of its habitats are located in the conservation areas i.e. Danau Pulau Besar and Danau Bawah Gamre Reserve (Riau Province, Sumatra), Gunung Kerinci Nature Reserve, Bukit Tapan Nature Reserve and Merangin Mejunto Game Reserve (Jambi Province, Sumatra). The species lives in lakes, swamps or flooded forest and rivers with moderate currents, clear peat stained and slightly acid water, fine grains of sand, without stones or gravel. Commonly there are big trees along the banks of the rivers. They prefer to stay on the 2-3 m depth.

During the night they swim at the surface of open water channels but, during the day, return to hide in vegetation. Scleropages formosus has a varied diet, including terrestrial insects, arachnids, non-woody roots and tubers (Furtado and Scott, 1971, Scott and Fuller, 1976).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: This species has been protected since 1980 under the Decree of the Minister of Agriculture No. 716/Kpts/Um/10/1980, in which no private taking, possession and trade is allowed, except for very specific purposes. Local information shows that formerly such fish were consumed by local people as their food fish. Such manners then drastically changed since there was a belief amongst the Chinese ethnic that the fish is a symbol of fortune. Such demand which comes from Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan then intruded into Kalimantan and Sumatra inlands.
32. Legal International Trade: The figure of international trade in the species as reported by TRAFFIC Bulletin, Vol VI No. 4/4 Sept. '84 (Shinobu Matsumura and Tom Milliken) showed at least 2,000 specimens were imported by Japan in 1982 from Indonesia, which were registered as "captive bred". Since there is no record on the success of breeding in captivity (which was started in Indonesia, in 1984), such marking should be doubted. The only country which already claimed such success is Singapore in their experiment in 1981 i.e. the breeding of green arowana. And since no legal CITES permit were ever issued for such export, the shipment should be suspected as illegal.
33. Illegal Trade: The trade is suspected to have started in 1970 and it is significantly increased during the last 4 years. They became illegal since the total ban in 1980. The Indonesian Management Authority received several inquiries from Hong Kong to return the confiscated specimens which unfortunately could not be fulfilled due to financial constraints. The suspected smuggling tracks from Indonesia to abroad are Pontianak-Jakarta-abroad or Medan/Pakanbaru abroad. It is illustrated that during the period of August - December 1985 there was 31 confiscations which involved 772 specimens in Pontianak and Tanjung Pandan - Jakarta track. The sea track of such smuggling is more difficult to trace/control. Japanese CITES annual report of 1982 stated that permits had been issued for the import of 2,202 specimens (20 for Hong Kong, 182 from Taiwan and 2000 from Indonesia). All of which were declared to be captive bred. The Management Authority of Indonesia have stated that any such trade with Japan was illegal, since the specimens had no official CITES documentation (M. Syafii 85 - TRAFFIC Bulletin, Vol VII, No. 5.)

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Most of the specimens traded are live specimens. The undercovered handlings during the smuggling activities are suspected as the main cause of high mortality after harvest. TRAFFIC Bulletin (Vol VI No. 3/4 1984) said that it was estimated $\pm 20\%$ of the specimens taken from the wild habitat died before they enter the black market.

The preference on certain coloured specimens i.e. red arowana, is suspected to cause stronger depletion on the mentioned population.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Expect the local consumption for table fish in the early years, no record on the trade of dead specimens.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Since the species is protected since 1980, there is a total ban toward taking possession, transport and trade without special permit from the Minister of Forestry for specific purposes. Several areas which are the habitats of the species already are declared as conservation areas i.e. Danau Pulau Besar dan Danau Bawah Game Reserve in Riau Province (28, 239 has), Nature Reserve Kerinci, Bukit Tapan Nature Reserve and Merangin and Mejunto Game Reserve in Jambi Province (59,185 has.)

Other measures taken in order to enable the utilization are to encourage breeding programmes.

There are 4 private companies which are already granted the permits for such breeding under the conditions:

- Max size of the specimen taken for parent stock is 30 mm
- Only captive bred are allowed to be traded
- 10% of the products should be released/reinvested in the appointed wild habitat.

So far such effort does not yet show success and serious research on the breeding aspects are still being elaborated by several scientific agencies.

42. International: Indonesia adapted its conservation measures to CITES provisions by imposing total protection in accordance with its Appendix I status.

The IUCN Red Data Book on fresh water fish (Miller, 1977), in classifying the fish as "Vulnerable" reported a total population of 2,000 and a distribution for more limited than what is recently figured out (TRAFFIC Bulletin, Vol VII, No. 5).

30000 hatchlings
in Kalimantan

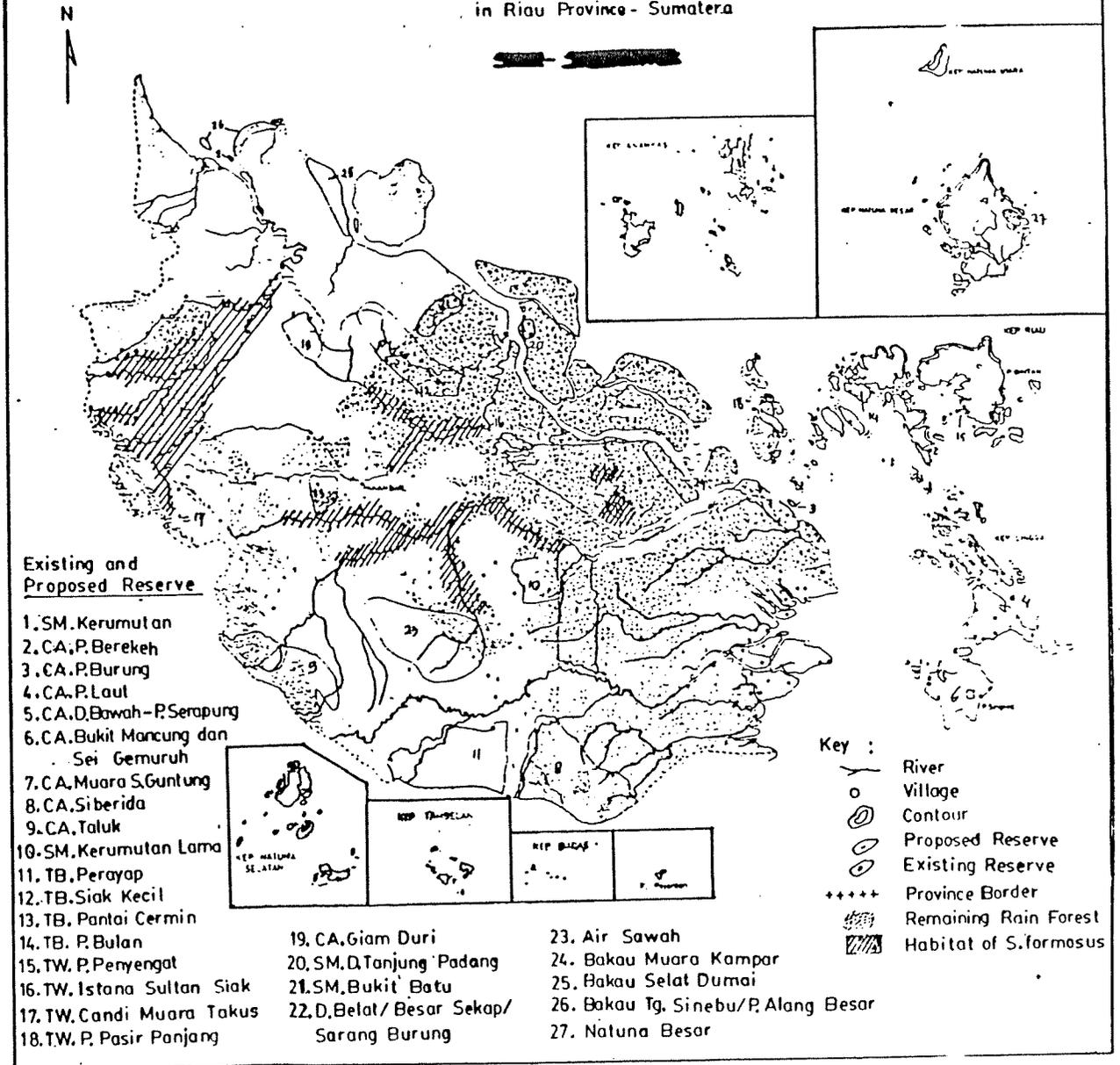
5. Information on Similar Species

The proponent reviews its present position in which it supported the listing of the species in Appendix I and inclines to propose the downlisting of the species to Appendix II under the following main considerations:

- a) the reason of the inclusion of the species into Appendix I was mainly to avoid further exploitation in the wild;
- b) there are still inadequate data on its population including the fact that the species is still included in the Category "vulnerable" in the IUCN Red Data Book based on a very inaccurate data on its population and distribution,;
- c) there are strong indications that continuous harvests from the wild still operating illegally and the evidences that a big number of fish are still taken might be an indication that the wild population is able to tolerate a certain degree of harvest;
- d) several habitats of the species are already protected under the status of Nature Reserve and Game Reserve;
- e) the total ban on its harvest from the wild so far could not support the main goal of its pervious inclusion into Appendix I;
- f) a limited and controlled harvest by downlisting the species to Appendix II has a better chance to reduce the ongoing uncontrolled harvests, including the rate of mortality;
- g) the mentioned measures obviously will gain at least benefit i.e financial benefit for the proponent (which until recently was only taken by illicit traders) and a wider public support toward the conservation of the species and the other conservation efforts in the country.

Annex 1

Forest Conservation Areas and Distribution of *Scleropages formosus*
in Riau Province - Sumatera



Existing and Proposed Reserve

- 1. SM. Kerumutan
- 2. CA. P. Berekeh
- 3. CA. P. Burung
- 4. CA. P. Laut
- 5. CA. D. Bawah - P. Serapung
- 6. CA. Bukit Mancung dan Sei Gemuruh
- 7. CA. Muara S. Guntung
- 8. CA. Siberida
- 9. CA. Taluk
- 10. SM. Kerumutan Lama
- 11. TB. Perayap
- 12. TB. Siak Kecil
- 13. TB. Pantai Cermin
- 14. TB. P. Bulan
- 15. TW. P. Penyengat
- 16. TW. Istana Sultan Siak
- 17. TW. Candi Muara Takus
- 18. TW. P. Pasir Panjang
- 19. CA. Giam Duri
- 20. SM. D. Tanjung Padang
- 21. SM. Bukit Batu
- 22. D. Belat/ Besar Sekap/ Sarang Burung
- 23. Air Sawah
- 24. Bakau Muara Kampar
- 25. Bakau Selat Dumai
- 26. Bakau Tg. Sinebu/ P. Alang Besar
- 27. Natuna Besar

- Key :
- River
 - Village
 - Contour
 - Proposed Reserve
 - Existing Reserve
 - Province Border
 - Remaining Rain Forest
 - Habitat of *S. formosus*

Forest Conservation Areas and Distribution of *Scleropages formosus* in Jambi, Bengkulu, South Sumatera and Lampung



Key

- River
- Village
- Contour
- Proposed Reserve
- Proposed National Park
- Existing Reserve
- Remaining Rain Forest
- Lake
- Habitat of *S.formosus*

BENGKULU

Existing Reserves

1. SM. Sumatera Selatan
2. TB. Bukit Kahu
3. TB. Nanua
4. TB. Bukit Gedang

Proposed Reserves

5. TB. Bukit Gedang Seblat perluasan utara
6. TB. Bukit Gedang Seblat perluasan selatan
7. CA. Taba Penanjung
8. CA. Punguk Bingin
9. CA. Dusun Besar
15. SM. Bukit Kaba

10. Bukit Rajamandara/Kaur utara
11. Bukit Hitam/Sanggal/Dingin
12. Bukit Balairajang
13. Hulu Bintuan/Paliklebong/Lais Waishulu/Lekat/Bukit Daun
14. Bukit Reges/Hulu Sulap

LAMPUNG

Existing Reserves

1. SM. Way Kambas
2. SM Sumatera Selatan I

Proposed Reserves

3. Rebang
4. G. Belung
5. Bukit Punggul/G. Benatan/Krui Utara
6. Tangkitebar/Wai Waja/Kota Agung Utara
7. Tanggamus

SOUTH SUMATERA

Existing Reserves

1. SM. Gumai Pasemah
2. SM. Isau-Isau Pasemah
3. SM. Gunung Raya
4. SM. Rawas Hulu Lakitan
5. TB. Subanjeriji
6. TB. Benakat

Proposed Reserves

7. SM. Dangkau
8. SM. Bentayan
9. SM. Paraduam Gisting
10. SM. Sungai Terusan Dalam
11. Bukit Halat
12. Gn. Patah/Bepagut/Muara Duakisam
13. Bukit Nantioganhulu/Nantikomeringhulu
14. mBukit Dingin/Gurung Dempo

JAMBI

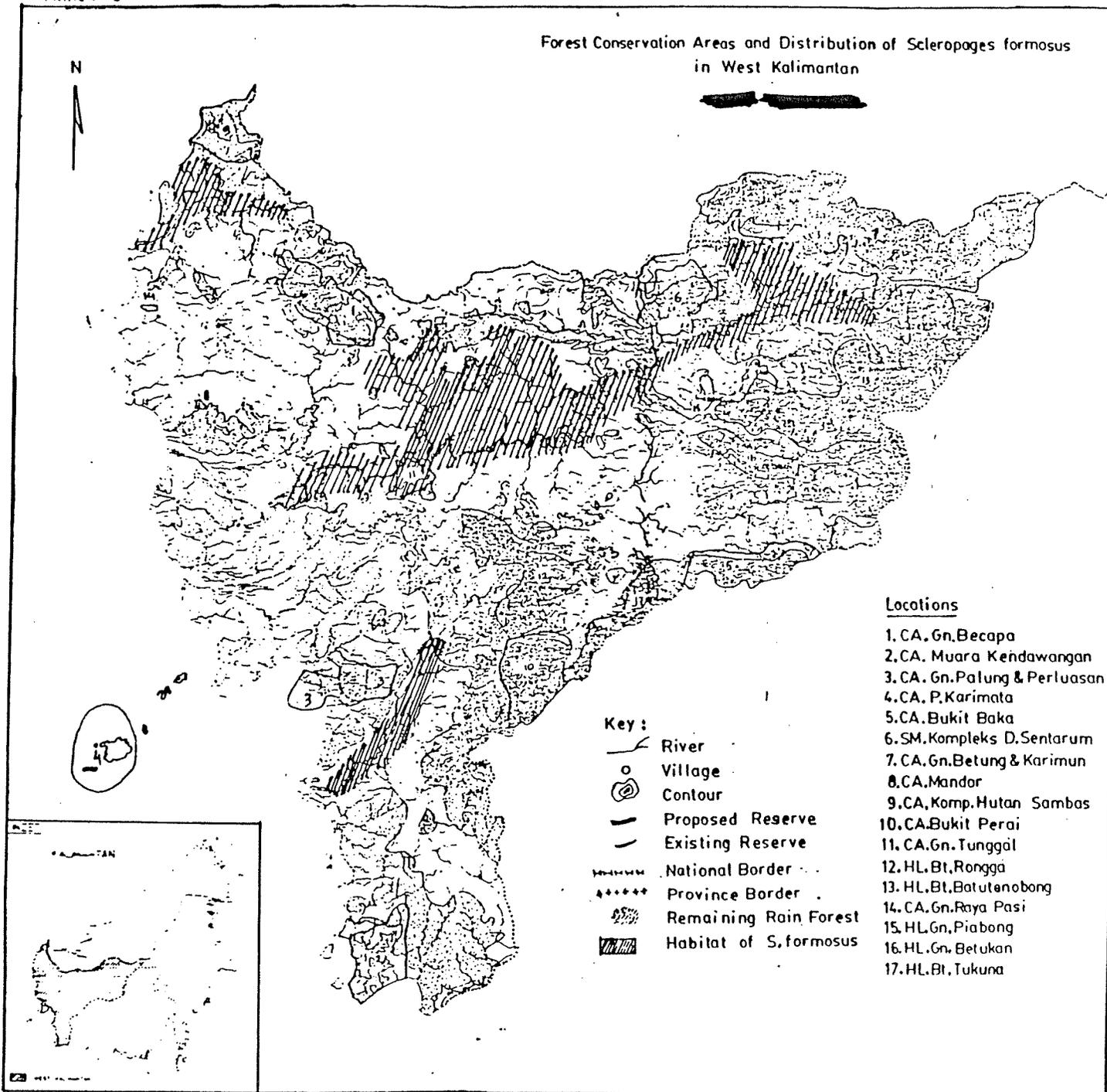
Existing Reserves

1. SM. Berbak
2. CA. Bukit Topan

Proposed Reserves

4. CA. Danau Gn Tujuh
5. SM. Batang Merangin Barat/Manjuta Ulu
6. SM. Sangir Hulu/Patang Tebo/Batang Tahir
12. CA. Singkati Kahidupan
7. Bakau Pantai Timur
8. Bukit Besar
9. Gunung Sumbing/Masurai
10. Sinlah
11. Batang Bungo

Forest Conservation Areas and Distribution of *Scleropages formosus* in West Kalimantan



Locations

1. CA. Gn. Becapa
2. CA. Muara Kendawangan
3. CA. Gn. Palung & Perluasan
4. CA. P. Karimata
5. CA. Bukit Baka
6. SM. Kompleks D. Sentarum
7. CA. Gn. Betung & Karimun
8. CA. Mandor
9. CA. Komp. Hutan Sambas
10. CA. Bukit Perai
11. CA. Gn. Tunggal
12. HL. Bt. Rongga
13. HL. Bt. Batutanobong
14. CA. Gn. Raya Pasi
15. HL. Gn. Piabong
16. HL. Gn. Betukan
17. HL. Bt. Tukuna

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