

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

Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Lausanne (Switzerland), 9 to 20 October 1989

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Consideration of Criteria and Applications for Inclusion of New
Species in the "Register of Operations which Breed Specimens of
Species Included in Appendix I in Captivity for Commercial Purposes"

APPLICATIONS FOR INCLUSION OF NEW SPECIES

This document has been prepared and is submitted by the Secretariat.

1. No application for inclusion of new species in the "Register of Operations which Breed Specimens of Species Included in Appendix I in Captivity for Commercial Purposes" has been submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Resolution Conf. 6.21, recommendation b).
2. However, the Management Authority of the Philippines by a letter dated 20 February 1989 requested the registration of the Bird Breeding Farm of Birds International, Inc., and provided some documentation on the farm.
3. By a letter of 16 March 1989, the Secretariat answered to the Management Authority of the Philippines (unfortunately at the address of the Management Authority for marine species) reminding them of Resolution Conf. 6.21 and asking for the submission of a formal application before 12 May 1989 for those Appendix I species to be registered. As one of the species (Aratinga guarouba) was already mentioned in the Register, the Secretariat wrote that it was "prepared to register Birds International Inc. for this particular species. However, before doing so, also in accordance with Resolution Conf. 6.21, it needs to know how the exported specimens are to be marked".
4. On 23 May 1989, the Management Authority of the Philippines requested information on the status of the Bird Breeding Farm of Birds International Inc. This indicated that they had not received the Secretariat's letter of 16 March 1989 and, therefore, the Secretariat copied it and sent it to the right address this time, indicating that in spite of the date (after the deadline), it would be prepared to accept an application, but would expect a urgent answer.

The Secretariat has not received any answer to date.

5. Regarding the Appendix I species existing in the Bird Breeding Farm of Birds International Inc., the following information has been provided to the Secretariat:

Species	Date of acquisition	Current Stock		Production		
		Wild	Progeny	F1	F2	F3
<u>Ara ambigua</u>	1977	30	27	28	-	-
<u>Ara rubrogenys</u>	1979	16	11	11	-	-
<u>Cyanopsitta spixii</u>	1979	2	4	4	-	-
<u>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</u>	1977	62	50	46	12	4
<u>Ara macao</u>	1973	57	92	77	25	3
<u>Ara militaris</u>	1978	20	15	16	-	-
<u>Ara glaucogularis</u>	1979	4	1	1	-	-
<u>Probosciger aterrimus</u>	1978-82	140	-	-	-	-
<u>Aratinga guarouba</u>	1978	26	18	23	4	-
<u>Amazona barbadensis</u>	1980	2	-	-	-	-
<u>Amazona leucocephala</u>	1978	8	4	4	-	-
<u>Amazona vinacea</u>	1980	6	1	1	-	-
<u>Crossoptilon mantchuricum</u>	1979	6	2	2	-	-
<u>Polvplectron emphanum</u>	1977-80	56	18	27	-	-
<u>Ducula mindorensis</u>	1979	20	9	9	-	-
<u>Caloenas nicobarica</u>	1974-79	96	61	48	10	3
<u>Caloenas n. pelewensis</u>	1975	72	23	31	12	-
<u>Pongo pygmaeus</u>	1981	6	-	-	-	-
<u>Neofelis nebulosa</u>	1980	2	2	2	-	-

6. The Secretariat is seeking the advice of the Conference of the Parties regarding the registration of this farm which has been requested by the Management Authority of the Philippines, and the recognition of the additional species as acceptable for captive-breeding operations. See also as an Annex to this document a description of the farm.

Birds International, Inc.: One of the world's biggest aviaries is in the Philippines

BIRDS INTERNATIONAL, INC. (BII), is engaged in the propagation and conservation of the world's rare and exotic species of PSITTACINE. Operating its activities on a six-hectare farm in Doña Carmen Heights in Quezon City, it is one of the most modern and comprehensive breeding farms in the world. Breeding 6,150 birds from 165 exotic and rare species of which 95% are non-Philippine birds, the farm has been visited by Avian doctors, breeders and experts such as:

- a) Dr. J. Peter Hill;
- b) Mr. & Mrs. Wolfgang Kiessling;
- c) Ms. Martha Dewitt;
- d) Dr. Bern Levis;
- e) Mr. Gerd Valkemer;
- f) Mr. Marshall Meyers;
- g) Dr. Hans Seyffert;
- h) Ms. Ginette Hemley;
- i) Dr. C.H. Giam;
- j) Dr. & Mrs. Gerard Kaal.

Its 20 years of bird farming have made a substantial contribution to the accumulation of technical knowledge on bird farming, - it has achieved a major scientific breakthrough in breeding the almost extinct Spix Macaw - considered the rarest bird in the world. These 4 which BII has bred, add to the 14 living in the world today.

While most breeding and conservation efforts done in First World Countries are government-initiated and sponsored; BII was founded privately by Antonio M. de Dios, owner of two of the leading importers in trucks and heavy equipments - Transit Automotive Supply and Transport Equipment Corporation. What started as a pure hobby became a well-organized, systematic and highly technical effort to breed and conserve that ultimately culminated in the establishment of BII.

Prior to the establishment of BII, there were no restrictions in the international trade of birds resulting in exploitation; and the available avian expertise was practically non-existent. Upon its establishment, its principal aim was to undertake biological and conservation studies for future breeding efforts. The progenies that may be derived out of this breeding efforts could well be shared with the other aviculturist of the future and also governmental institutions who may desire to reintroduce them back to the wilds. Also, a continuous exchange of information was established with other international aviculturists.

A continuous influx of investments followed to be able to achieve the desired breeding conditions and expertise required to preserve and stimulate the birds to propagate. Necessary facilities such as laboratories with hematology and bacteriology

sections: cold storage for food; flight and breeding aviaries; nursery for progenies; sprinkles systems; and staff quarters were established. Tree planting and a strict code of cleanliness was undertaken to supplement the efforts.

With the enforcement of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) by the United Nations in 1981 which restricts the trade of wildlife species only to those that are born and bred in captivity, BII was registered as a preferred pioneer industry with the Board of Investments of the Philippines in 1983 with an authorized capital stock of P120M. The Farm Permit from the Bureau of Forestry was also secured.

CITES, specifically Article VII sections 2 and 5, were the primary considerations in the transformation of a hobby into a business. Bird farming is a popular activity in the United States and Europe, and captive breeding has been regarded as the answer to the problems of conserving the endangered and threatened wildlife of the world. BII, following CITES regulations, trades only progenies and not those which were collected from the wilds.

The viability of this pioneering effort was likewise based on the Philippines' temperate climate, abundant manpower resources, and the availability of tropical food for the birds - all advantages not equally enjoyed by foreign aviculturists.

More About the Farm:

Aside from 6,150 birds, mostly parrots, other animals abound in the farm:

- 6 Orangutans
- a pair of Clouded leopards
- Palawan Peacock Pheasants, Mouse Deers, Nicobar pigeons, all considered threatened
- Other imported pigeons
- bull terrier dogs
- assorted European ducks and local goats
- a pair of python
- swans: black-necked, black and mute
- assorted European ducks

Management and Staff:

- Managed by daughter Gina de Dios, 23 who finished philosophy at the University of Tampa, Florida (USA) and went through a two-year apprenticeship under her father
- Permanent staff totals 62; all college graduates - mostly of such courses as animal husbandry, agriculture, zoology, forestry and veterinary medicine. Aviculture experts are always invited or contracted to participate in the farm management in the upgrading of technical skills and be on the update as the latest successful avicultural practice by the First World Countries.
- Functional groupings carry out activities like hospital management, quarantine, food and nutrition, caretaking, nursery, hygiene and sanitation

Facilities:

- Hospital:
 - with complete laboratory testing equipment for comprehensive physical check-up of birds and the most modern equipment like fiberoptics endoscope for surgical sexing of birds, replotron for blood serum analysis; also equipped with 100 portable cages
- Food and Nutrition Facilities:
 - with a 500 ton refrigerated warehouse and a 50 ton walk-in chiller and freezer to ensure freshness of bird's food (such as imported pellets and seeds, nuts, etc.) and keep out humidity
 - with heavy-duty food grinders and blenders
 - with water purifiers
- Caretaking:
 - Israeli - model sprinkler system complete with booster pumps and filtration systems
 - conditioning aviaries for maturation of birds to make them ready for breeding
 - 1300 flight aviaries & portable cages designed for breeding different species of birds.

- Nursery:

- 40 pcs. of human incubators for bird babies
- 6 sets of egg incubators simulating natural hatching to increase production
- water distillers
- 16 nursery rooms, airconditioned, and air-cleaned with exhaust fans
- 50 locally-made wooden incubators for growing babies

Usually 30-40 babies are put in a room until they grow up together, all are compatible species to avoid cross-contamination

- complete set-up of food preparation in nursery; with 500 plastic syringe feeders to feed babies
 - newly-born are hand-fed every 3 hours for first 10 days
- plastic tubs to contain babies inside while they are young
- 6 pcs. electronic weighing scale for accurate measurement - critical in diagnosing illnesses not readily apparent with other normal symptoms

- Quarantine:

- all birds are quarantined
- has its own lavatory and cleaning facilities, all well-lighted and well-ventilated to avoid any contamination
- consisting of 5 rooms serving as extension of hospital, with about 400 portable cages and 3 caretakers

- Maintenance:

- consists of masons, carpenters, electricians and welders who perform the daily upkeep of facilities, including cages and nestboxes; and gardeners to maintain the garden and surroundings.