

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Agapornis cana from Appendix II in view of its inclusion in Appendix III.

B. PROPONENT

The Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 11. Class: | Aves |
| 12. Order: | Psittaciformes |
| 13. Family: | Psittacidae |
| 14. Species: | <u>Agapornis cana</u> (Gmelin) |
| 15. Common names: | English: grey-headed lovebird
French: inséparable à tête grise
Spanish:
German: Grauköpfchen
Malgasy: sarivazo, kanaka |
| 16. Code numbers: | |

2. Biological Data

The psittaciformes in Madagascar are represented by three species:

- Coracopsis vasa (Shaw, 1811)
- Coracopsis nigra (Linné, 1758)
- Agapornis cana (Gmelin, 1758)

Coracopsis species are fruit-eating birds of Madagascar. Their role in the dispersion of forest tree seeds is very important at the ecological level, because their food regime, linked with their mobility makes them privileged actors in this process. This process of co-evolution between Coracopsis and certain forest species concerns mainly Palmae, Lauraceae, Berberaceae and even Araliaceae and Minimaceae.

In addition, the external market is limited if not closed by itself due to the physical aspect (dull plumage) of Coracopsis vasa and C. nigra. Regarding the local market, demand is insignificant; maintaining these two species in Appendix II is, therefore, justified.

21. Distribution: Agapornis cana is endemic to Madagascar. Its introduction to neighbouring islands was, in many cases, successful for long periods: Comores (Louette, 1988), Seychelles (Peny, 1974).

Two species are recognized: Agapornis cana cana (Grelin) and Agapornis cana ablecatenae (Forshaw, 1978).

211. Range: Agapornis cana occurs in the whole territory of Madagascar except the Hauts-Plateaux areas.

Agapornis cana cana has the widest distribution as it occurs in the whole range except sub-arid Madagascar where it is replaced by Agapornis cana ablecatenae.

212. Behaviour: Agapornis cana, outside the nesting season, occurs in groups of 5 to 30 individuals. This number is higher when food is locally abundant. The species is often associated with Fudia madagascariensis, Ploceus salakava (tisseus) or Lochura nana.

22. Population: No exhaustive investigation of Agapornis cana has been made in Madagascar yet, due mainly to the wide range of this species in the country.

The only index to which we may refer is that of export. In 1988 it was of about 10,000. Considering that this number was collected in areas where capture is relatively easy and that it represents 5% of the population of the relevant areas, the population in those areas may be estimated at 200,000 (West and North-West regions of Madagascar). As the capture areas are very localized, it would be dangerous to extrapolate this number to the whole country where Agapornis cana occurs (except in the Hauts-Plateaux region).

23. Habitat: Agapornis cana lives at the edge of the forest areas, in the bush (semi-arid zones) and mainly in secondary forests. Its preferred areas are between 0 and 1000 m above sea level.

231. Food: Agapornis cana feeds mainly on graminaceous seeds, including rice. It moves to feed with the species mentioned under section 212.

232. Nesting: Nesting has been noticed in November and December, i.e. outside the hunting season authorized in Madagascar. In the wild, three eggs are laid, but in captivity the figure may reach six. Incubation is the fact of the female only, it lasts 21 days and the young remain 43 days in the nest.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: The local market is small. Some live specimens in cages are occasionally sold in the public market of Antananarivo mainly. Although the price of a pair is very low (FMG 1,400, i.e., FF 5.5) demand remains negligible. Taxidermists do not appear to have included Agapornis cana in their lists of species.

32. Legal International Trade: The international market, mainly in the EEC member states, is rather important. The following figures are given for the last three years of export of live Agapornis cana:

1986	7,133 specimens
1987	6,688 specimens
1988	10,776 specimens

33. Illegal Trade: No information on illegal trade in Agapornis cana has been recorded to date at the Malagasy Management Authority level.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Agapornis cana is listed as a game species by Décret No 88.243 of 15 June 1988, which amended Article 1 and 2 of Décret No. 61-096 of 16 February 1981 and implemented Ordonnance No. 60-126 of 3 October 1960. Hunting or capture is, therefore, regulated and, amongst other things, is authorized during 5 months per annum only (early May to early October), i.e. outside the nesting season.
42. International: When ratifying CITES by Ordonnance 75-014 of 15 August 1975, Madagascar included Agapornis cana, as well as the other two psittaciformes species in Appendix II. The provisions of the Convention have always been met by Madagascar.

5. Information on Similar Species

This proposal refers to the extent population of Madagascar only, which is endemic at the species level.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Agapornis cana, while listed as a game species, is considered as a pest by peasants because of its impact on rice crops.

However, it is not subject to a specific hunt: they are instead frightening them, as well as other seed-eating birds (Foudia madagascariensis).

Due to its size, Agapornis cana is not hunted for meat in Madagascar.

As Madagascar is far from Europe and because shippers are encountering transport problems (the birds must be delivered to the customers within two days), the export of specimens is limited.

As Agapornis cana has a less shimmering and colourful plumage than parakeets from other countries, and as its individual behaviour is rather timid, its success with collectors is low. Its market is therefore limited.

Agapornis cana, is not threatened through exploitation, which is not incompatible with its survival, its deletion from Appendix II does not risk to be detrimental for its local population, due to:

- its relative abundance in Madagascar;

- its limited harvesting as a game species;
- the national regulating (hunting seasons);
- the low level of trade at the national as well as international levels;

8. References

- Campbell, B. & Lack, E., 1985. A dictionary of birds. The British Ornithologists' Union. T. & A.D. Poyser Ltd. Pp. 670. Staffordshire, England.
- Forshaw, J.M. 1978. Parrots of the world. Lansdowne Ed. 2nd Edition. Melbourne & Sydney.
- Fry, H., Stuart, K. & Urban, E.K., 1988. The Birds of Africa. Academic Press, London.
- Langrand, O. (sous presse). The birds of Madagascar. Yale University Press.
- Louette, L., 1988. Les oiseaux des Comores. Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale. Sciences Zoologiques, no. 255. Pp. 192. Tervuren, Belgique.
- Nicoll, M. & Langrand, O. (sous presse). Revue générale du système d'aires protégées et de la conservation à Madagascar. WWF-International, Gland, Suisse.
- Penny, M., 1974. The Birds of Seychelles and the outlying islands. Collins. Pp. 160. London.
- Rand, A.L., 1935. The Distribution and Habits of Madagascar Birds. A summary of the field notes of the Mission zoologique Franco-Anglo-Américaine à Madagascar (Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. LXIII, 1936-1937, article V, pp. 393-397).