

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Ara maracana from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Paraguay.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Psittaciformes
13. Family: Psittacidae
14. Species: Ara maracana
15. Common names: English: Illiger's Macaw  
French:  
Spanish:
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The most recent data on the occurrence of this species in Paraguay are based on the studies of Ridgely (1980) and Nores and Yzurieta (1983). Ridgely, (1980) considered the species as rare in the Departments of Canendiyú and Amambay. Nores (1983) saw between 8 and 10 specimens in the Departments. López (1989, pers. comm.), saw one pair of specimens in October and November 1988 in the Estancia Primavera, a private property located in the North of the Department of Concepción. According to López (1989, pers. comm.) the new sighting of specimens in the same location, in February 1989, concerned the same birds as seen in 1988. In Argentina, the species has not been reported in recent times and, therefore, it is believed that the species is extinct in that country. In Brazil, A. maracana has disappeared from certain areas of its range, but occurs in some localities of the Paraná State. There is no recent record for Brazil.
22. Population: In Paraguay, the only recent record of Ara maracana is that of López (1989, pers. comm.), who asserts that the species is endangered in the Department of Concepción. The status of A. maracana in the neighbouring countries might be seriously endangered, although no data actually exists on the current population in Argentina and Brazil.
23. Habitat: The information on the preferred habitat of A. maracana is very limited. Almost nothing is known about its feeding, nesting and the threats to its preferred habitat. In the

Department of Concepción (Paraguay), A. maracana is sympatric with A. auricollis, and it is likely that the only chance of survival of the species is in the chaco and cerrado vegetation zones which are currently being seriously altered (López, pers. comm.). Nothing can be said about its diet and breeding cycle because the species is very difficult to study due to its scarcity.

### 3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: It is possible that the species is subject to local trade. The only available information concerns one live specimen sold for US\$ 7 by a commercial firm illegally trading in the city of Concepción. Apart from this, it is not known whether A. maracana is subject to other kinds of utilization, López (1989, comm. pers.).
32. Legal International Trade: The Decreto 18.796 of 1975 bans all trade in wild fauna.
33. Illegal Trade: There is no official information on national and international trade.

### 4. Protection Status

41. National: The Decreto No 18.796 of 1975 bans the import and export of wildlife in Paraguay. Nevertheless, in the specific case of A. maracana, the laws which would allow an adequate control of the illegal trade have not yet been implemented.
42. International: It is strongly recommended to transfer Ara maracana to CITES Appendix I. The lack of biological data regarding both the species and the threats on its habitat in Paraguay and possibly in Argentina and Brazil, suggest that Ara maracana is highly endangered. The record by López of only one specimen in trade in Concepción and his sighting of only one in the wild during 8 months of fieldwork supports this.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Unless the species is included in CITES Appendix I, the hope that the population will survive is very low. On the other hand, laws must be implemented very urgently at the local level. The inclusion in Appendix I is fully justified by the rareness of the data on the species in Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil which makes the species one of the least known parrots of the New World.

### 5. References

- Ridgely, R.S., 1980. The current distribution and status of Mainland Neotropical parrots. Pp. 33-384. In: Conservation of New world parrots. Proceeding ICBP parrot working group meeting. St. Lucia. R.E. Pasquier (ed) 485 pp.
- Nores, M. y Yzurieta, D., 1983. Distribución y Situación actual de grandes psitácidos en Sudamérica central. Presentado en la 2da. Reunión Iberoamericana de Ornitología. Xalapa, México.
- López, N.E. Distribución, ecología y situación de psitácidos en el departamento de Concepción, Paraguay.