

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Buceros spp. in Appendix II and transfer of Buceros bicornis homrai from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves

12. Order: Coraciiformes

13. Family: Bucerotidae

14. Species and  
Subspecies:

Buceros bicornis bicornis Appendix II  
Buceros bicornis homrai Appendix I

Buceros hydrocorax basilanicus not listed  
Buceros hydrocorax hydrocorax Appendix II  
Buceros hydrocorax mindanensis not listed  
Buceros hydrocorax semigaleatus not listed

Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis not listed  
Buceros rhinoceros rhinoceros Appendix II  
Buceros rhinoceros silvestris not listed  
Buceros rhinoceros sumatranus not listed

15. Common Names: English: B. bicornis - great pied hornbill  
B. hydrocorax - rufous hornbill  
B. rhinoceros - rhinoceros hornbill

French:

Spanish:

16. Code Numbers: B. bicornis - 225.010.005.002  
B. hydrocorax - 225.010.005.003  
B. rhinoceros - 225.010.005.004

2. CITES History

The species Buceros bicornis and the subspecies Buceros hydrocorax hydrocorax and Buceros rhinoceros rhinoceros have been included in Appendix II at the 1973 Washington D.C. Plenipotentiary Conference.

At the 1979 meeting of the Conference of the Parties at San José the subspecies Buceros bicornis homrai was transferred to Appendix I on the basis of a proposal made by India which contained very few information as to the biological status:

"Distribution: Resident, western Ghats, lower Himalayas.

Population: Rare

Habitat: Affects evergreen and moist deciduous forests from plains level to 1500 m altitude."

### 3. Biological Data

No precise information available, but all species are latently threatened due to deforestation resulting in loss of suitable nesting trees and shooting by local people for their flesh, bones and casque. Buceros rhinoceros is probably the most commonly seen hornbill in Malay States.

For distribution of the various subspecies see CITES Identification Manual, Volume 2a.

### 4. Trade Data

From 1983 to 1985 the following numbers of birds were registered in international live animal trade:

- <u>Buceros bicornis homrai</u>	6
- <u>Buceros bicornis</u> subs. indet.	25
- <u>Buceros hydrocorax hydrocorax</u>	1
- <u>Buceros hydrocorax</u> subs. indet.	55
- <u>Buceros rhinoceros rhinoceros</u>	8

EEC imports 1986:

- Buceros bicornis subs. indet. 1 from German Democratic Republic.

Swiss imports 1986/1987: Nil

### 5. Protection Status

As stated in the Indian proposal of 1979, Buceros bicornis homrai is totally protected in India, i.e. hunting and export are banned regardless of the CITES status of the taxon.

### 6. Identification Problems

61. Buceros bicornis: Coloration of both subspecies is identical. On an average basis, adult homrai are larger than nominate bicornis, but measurement are overlapping:

	<u>bicornis</u>	<u>homrai</u>	<u>bicornis</u>	<u>homrai</u>
	male	male	female	female
wing (mm)	462-494	470-580	428-472	453-508
tarsus (mm)	58-76	60-79	51-70	59-75

62. Buceros hydrocorax: See the detailed proposal submitted by Belgium.

63. Buceros rhinoceros: As stated in the CITES Identification Manual, there is no distinct description of the subspecies available which may be used for practical identification.

7. Information on Similar Species

The whole family includes about 44 or 45 species belonging to 12 different genera. The present proposal aims to include the whole genus Buceros in Appendix II which would solve the existing identification problems since the other genera of the family can be readily differentiated from Buceros.

8. Comments from Countries of Origin

At the Asian Regional Meeting in spring 1989, India and Nepal tentatively objected to a downlisting of Buceros bicornis homrai. Considering that it is impossible to identify Buceros down to subspecies level when carrying out border controls, that even identification attempts by scientists would give no safe results in many cases, and that the 1979 supporting statement did not meet the Berne Criteria for inclusion in Appendix I, the Animals Committee felt that the overall protection of the great hornbills would rather be increased by listing the whole genus in Appendix II, and requested Switzerland to submit the present proposal.

9. References

Biber, J.P., 1987. Bucerotidae. In: CITES Identification Manual, Vol. 2.a. Lausanne.

Sanft, U., 1960. Bucerotidae. In: Das Tierreich, Lieferung 76, p.1-174. Berlin.

Tikader, B.K., 1983. Threatened Animals of India. Calcutta.

WTMU, 1987. Trade Statistics.

