

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDIX I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Tarsius syrichta* in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

Philippines.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1 TAXONOMY

- 1.1 Class: Mammalia
- 1.2 Order: Primates
- 1.3 Family: Tarsidae
- 1.4 Species: *Tarsius syrichta* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- 1.5 Common Names: Tagsing (Taga-Kaolo); Mamag, Malmag, Mago (Mindanao); Mago (Samar); Magau (Leyte); Maga-tilok-iok (Manobo).

2 BIOLOGICAL DATA

2.1 Distribution

Endemic to the Philippines, it is confined to the south eastern part of the archipelago, including Samar, Leyte, Siargo Bohol, Dinagat and northern, central and south-western Mindanao; however details of its distribution are not known (Thornback, 1978; Anon., 1979; Honacki *et al.*, 1982; Wolfheim, 1983; Marsh *in litt.*, 1985; Burton and Pearson, 1987). In Bohol the species has been found in a diverse variety of habitats (Eudey *in litt.*, 1991). There is no evidence of the species occurring on the islands of Visayas, Mindora, Luzón and the species range does not include Calamianes, Paragua, Balabac, Masbate, Cebu, Negros or Panay islands to the west and north-west of Samar (Thomas, 1898; Sánchez, 1900).

2.2 Population

Reported as rare and decreasing (Anon., 1979) and listed as Endangered by IUCN (IUCN, 1990); however, no estimates of numbers have been made (Thornback, 1978). Identified as highly vulnerable (conservation priority rating 4) (Eudey, 1987).

Reported as rare in Mindanao (Marsh *in litt.*, 1985). In 1900, Sánchez (1900) described it as abundant on Samar but rarer on Leyte. Survey work, currently ongoing in the Philippines, suggests that the species may be less threatened than previously thought (Eudey *in litt.*, 1991).

2.3 Habitat

The Philippine Tarsier is a small, primitive primate and exceedingly specialised (Wharton, 1948) with a long fringed tail, huge eyes and long fingers. A large adult measures some 12 cm (5 inches) and weighs about 130 g (4.5 oz), and is therefore among the smallest of primates (Wharton, 1948; Kavanagh, 1983). The Philippine Tarsier is nocturnal, arboreal and has a diet

consisting mainly of lizards, crustaceans, cockroaches and young birds (Harrison, 1974; Thornback, 1978). It is adept at clinging to thin tree trunks and can leap across gaps of 6 m (about 20 ft) with enough of a vertical drop (Wharton, 1948; Kavanagh, 1983).

It can be found in and around the base of tree trunks and the roots of plants such as bamboo. Occasionally found in holes at the tops of trees (Thornback, 1978). On Mindanao, these tarsiers appear to thrive best in second or third growth thickets along the coast and in the valleys (Wharton, 1948). They are usually seen in male-female pairs (Thornback, 1978); however, Kavanagh (1983) reports that bigger groups may be the norm for *Tarsius* spp. on the Philippine Islands. A single young is born after gestation period of about six months (Thornback, 1978).

Forest destruction was identified by Thornback (1978) as the most serious threat. Wolfheim (1983) reported that *T. syrichta* is not usually hunted; however, Marsh (*in litt.*, 1985) reported trapping continuing, at least in Bohol. Over 100 tarsiers were captured from secondary forest for American zoological collections in 1946 and many more died during capture (Wharton, 1948).

3 TRADE DATA

3.2 Legal International Trade

There has been no trade of this species reported to CITES since 1986 and the majority of the transactions for that year were re-exports, of Philippine origin, and captive-bred specimens. However, there were direct exports from the Philippines of 39 *T. syrichta* in 1985, with the USA and Sweden as the main destinations. All the specimens were reported to be for zoological and scientific purposes.

Table 1. Minimum net imports of live *T. syrichta* reported to CITES (1983-1989).

	1983	1985	1986
Japan			9
Sweden		12	
United Kingdom			9
United States	4	34	9
TOTAL	4	46	27

Table 2 Reported countries of origin or export for exports of live *T. syrichta* reported to CITES (1983-1989).

	1983	1985	1986
Country with wild populations of <i>T. syrichta</i>			
Philippines		39	14
Countries without wild populations of <i>T. syrichta</i>			
Italy		7*	
Poland			1
Sweden	4		12*

* captive-bred specimens

3.3 **Illegal Trade**

No information available.

3.4 **Potential Trade Threats**

No information available.

4 **PROTECTION STATUS**

4.1 **National**

Included in the Philippine list of rare and endangered species and Thornback (1978) reported that the government intended to close all possible avenues of exportation of this species.

There is no specific protection for the Philippine Tarsier under the Protection of Game and Fish Act No. 2590. However, this legislation states that it is unlawful to hunt, export, alive or dead any protected mammal, or to sell or have in possession for sale any part of either (Gaski and Hemley, 1991). A list of 'protected mammals' was not available.

4.2 **International**

There has been an EC import ban since 16/03/88 (1st indent art.10.1.b).

4.3 **Additional Protection Needs**

The species was rated a "high priority" for conservation action by the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group and is given the Conservation Priority Rating of four. This category defines the species as highly vulnerable with the surviving population being small or fragmented, and threatened by habitat destruction and/or hunting. Likely to move to category five "Endangered" by the year 2000 if no new conservation action is taken. A small-scale regional survey of was considered to be a high priority (Eudey, 1987).

The species is not found in any protected areas (Wolfheim, 1983; Burton and Pearson, 1987).

5 **INFORMATION ON SIMILAR SPECIES**

No information.

6 **ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

None.

7 **REFERENCES**

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