

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Cacatua goffini from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Psittaciformes
13. Family: Psittacidae
14. Species: Cacatua goffini (Finsch, 1863)9
15. Common Names: English: Goffin's cockatoo, Tanimbar corella
French:
Spanish:
16. Code Numbers: 1318002001005001 (ISIS)

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Goffin's cockatoo is endemic to the Tanimbar Islands of Indonesia and probably occurs, because of introduction, on Tual in the Kai Islands of Indonesia. These species' range encompasses only 4,400 sq. km. in total area, and that range consists of relatively small islands (Forshaw, 1989).
22. Population: The species was considered widespread in both primary and secondary forests on Yamdena in the Tanimbar Islands and common on smaller islands in the Tanimbar group (Smiet, 1985). Smiet (1985) saw flocks of up to 35 birds on Yamdena in October 1981, and local people reported the birds as serious pests to maize crops. Smiet did not see the species on a visit to Tual in the Kai Islands in 1981. The International Council of Bird Preservation (ICBP) listed the species as threatened in its 1988 Birds to Watch, The ICBP World Check-list of Threatened Birds. As with other cockatoos, it is likely that this species has a low reproductive rate. It is also said to be persecuted because it raids maize crops. The United States imports approximately 70 percent of all Goffin's cockatoos exported from Indonesia, and from 1983-1989 these importations, (according to CITES records) totalled nearly 50,000 birds.

Because of its noisy and conspicuous behaviour, as well as its communal roosting habits, the species is highly vulnerable to trapping.

23. Habitat: Goffin's cockatoo occurs in both primary and secondary forests (Forshaw, 1989). Some reports suggest that logging activities have destroyed much of its original habitat (Alderton, 1982), whereas other reports have suggested that no significant deforestation has occurred.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Inter-island trade in Indonesian parrots is reported to be considerable (Milton, 1987), but data on local trade in Goffin's cockatoo are unavailable.
32. Legal International Trade: Trade in Goffin's cockatoo consists of live birds captured for the cage-bird trade. In 1980, the US imported 646 birds (Nilsson, 1985). Imports rose dramatically in 1982 to over 5,000 birds and reached a high of nearly 10,000 birds in 1988. The Indonesia Government's Authority's figures for mean yearly export (1981-1985) show a total of 8,063 Goffin's cockatoos (Indonesia, 1990). CITES import figures indicate a minimum net import of over 73,500 live specimens total from 1983-1989. This amounts to less than 2.5 birds per km² of habitat per year. In 1988, Indonesia set a quota of 7,000 birds, and this quotas was increased to 8,400 in 1989 (Indonesia, 1990). Its value as a cage bird is relatively low compared to other cockatoo species, and Goffin's cockatoos often sell for as little as \$200 per bird in US pet stores, as compared with several thousand dollars for most of the larger cockatoos.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The species is confined to Indonesia, where it is exported on a quota system. It has been listed in Appendix II of CITES since 1984. It has recently been classified as internationally threatened (Collar and Andrew, 1988). The Government of Indonesia has not conducted any status surveys to conform to regulations of CITES governing the export of Appendix-II species. Export quotas, thus, may not be based on population data. Recent legislation requires permits to legally catch, own, breed, or transport non-protected wildlife species. Despite trade controls in recent years, illegal trapping and export of protected species have been reported to continue (Petocz, 1984). In 1987, the European Economic Community imposed an import ban on this species.

5. Information on Similar Species: The red-vented cockatoo, Cacatua haematuropygia, of the Philippines, and Ducorps' cockatoo, Cacatua ducorpsii, of the Solomon Islands area, are of similar size (31-32 cm in length) and coloration. These two species differ from the Goffin's cockatoo mainly in the colour of vent feathers, which are not always visible to observers. All three cockatoos are white, with slightly differing shade of periophthalmic rings surrounding the eyes. Neither Ducorp's nor the red-vented cockatoo can presently be traded legally as wild-caught specimens. The red-vented cockatoo has also become very depleted in the wild, mainly from trade, and is listed as threatened by the ICBP and has only recently received official protection in the Philippines. It is possible that both species could come under pressure from bird trappers if Goffin's cockatoo is banned from legal trade. Ducorps' cockatoo is

fairly common on Guadalcanal and Bougainville, but its range is limited (Forshaw, 1989). Because of their noisy, conspicuous behaviour and communal roosting, all three species are highly vulnerable to bird trapping.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None.

7. Additional Remarks

Goffin's cockatoo has been kept in captivity since the 19th century in Europe and has been bred in small numbers in captivity (Alderton, 1982). Low (1984) included this species in her book as an endangered parrot, noting that it is the most common cockatoo in captivity, as well as the least expensive and "least appreciated". She recommended that breeders devote "greater efforts" to insure that the species does not become extinct both in collections and in the wild (Low, 1984). Much success has been reported in breeding Goffin's cockatoos in captivity, both in the US and Europe.

8. References

- Alderton, D., 1982. Parrots, Lories and Cockatoos. Saiga Publishing Co. Ltd., Surrey.
- Collar, N.J. and P. Andrew, 1988. Birds to Watch. The ICBP World Checklist of Threatened Birds. Cambridge, ICBP Tech. Pub. No.8.
- Forshaw, J. 1989. Parrots of the World. Landsdowne Press.
- Indonesia, Management Authority of 1990. Unpublished data.
- Low, R. 1985. Endangered Parrots. Blandford Press, United Kingdom.
- Milton, G.R. 1987. Investigation of Parrots on Bacan (North Molucca) and Warmer (Southeast Molucca) Islands, Indonesia. Parrotletter (ICBP) Vol. 1(1): 22-23.
- Nilsson, G. 1985. Importation of Birds into the United States 1980 - 1984. Vol. 1. Animal Welfare Institute. Washington, DC.
- Petocz, R. 1984. Conservation and Development in Irian Jaya. WWF/IUCN Conservation for Development Programme in Indonesia, Bogor.
- Smiet, F. 1985. Notes on the field status and trade of Moluccan parrots. Biol. Cons. 34:181-194.

