

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Buceros bicornis homrai* from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Netherlands.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Coraciiformes
13. Family: Bucerotidae
14. Species: *Buceros bicornis* Linnaeus, 1758
Subspecies: *Buceros bicornis homrai* Hodgson, 1832
15. Common names: English: great (Indian) hornbill
French: calao bicolore
Spanish: Calao grande
German: Doppelhornvogel
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kampuchea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Viet Nam.
22. Population: In Bangladesh: endangered (Husain, 1989), in China: very rare (Cheng, 1987), in India: markedly declining (Ali and Ripley, 1984), in Nepal: declining (Inskipp and Inskipp, 1985), in Thailand: vulnerable (Round, 1988).
23. Habitat: Dense evergreen forests up to 1000 m, sometimes to 1600 m.
24. Food: Mainly fruits, especially figs. Also insects, small reptiles (Sanft, 1960; Kemp, 1979).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: None.
32. Legal International Trade: Only trade report to CITES in this species was for 1987, concerning one live captive-bred specimen from Switzerland to France

and two live specimens from Singapore to Japan, country of origin the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

33. Illegal Trade: A total of 274 *Buceros bicornis* in trade were reported to CITES for 1985-1989. As the Lao PDR was reported as the main exporting country, and *B. b. homrai* being the only subspecies occurring in that country, it is believed that probably these reports refer to *B. b. homrai*.

4. Protection Status

41. National: [Data compiled from 'Wildlife Trade Laws of Asia and Oceania' (Gaski & Hemley 1991)].

Bangladesh: *Aceros nipalensis*, *A. undulatus*, *Anthracoceros malabaricus* and *Buceros bicornis* are in Annex 2 of the 'Bangladesh Wild Life (Preservation) Act, 1974' and are hence protected against hunting, capturing and trade. There is no separate legislation for the implementation of CITES.

Bhutan: Not a Party state to CITES. No laws specifically protecting wildlife but several versions of such legislation have been drafted. Some protection against hunting and shooting is offered by the 'Bhutan Forest Act, 1969', but only in reserved forests.

China: All hornbills are in annex 2 of 'The Law of Wild Animal Protection of the People's Republic of China, 1988'. This means that key protection is enforced locally (annex I means national key protection).

India: *Buceros bicornis* is fully protected under schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (and amendments). There is no separate legislation for the implementation of CITES.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: Not a Party state to CITES. There is no legislation for the protection of wildlife. In 1986, a Decree by the Council of Ministers called for a total ban on trade in wildlife.

Myanmar: Not a Party state to CITES. Hornbills are partially protected within 'reserved forests' or 'sanctuaries' under the 'Burma Wildlife Protection Act 1936', preventing hunting and capture. Outside these areas, only special species are still protected but these do not include hornbills.

Nepal: *Buceros bicornis* is fully protected by the 'National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 2029 (1973)' and amendments. There is no separate legislation for the implementation of CITES.

Thailand: All hornbills are protected by listing in Annex II (protected non-food and non-game animals of the first category; hunting only with special permission) of the 'Wild Animals Reservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2053 (1960)'. There is no separate legislation for the implementation of CITES.

42. International: *B. bicornis homrai* is listed in CITES Appendix I.
43. Additional Protection Needs: In order to protect this rare subspecies, the countries of origin should ban all export of the species *B. bicornis* and strongly enforce the national protection of the rare taxon *B. b. homrai*.

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5. Information on Similar Species

The identification of the subspecies of *Buceros bicornis* is difficult and possible only after specialist study and certainly not during border controls. This accounts for the high proportion of *B. bicornis* individuals of unknown subspecific status reported in trade and it is the justification for proposing that both subspecies of *B. bicornis* should be under the same protection regime.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Being sought.

7. Additional Remarks

At present, the following hornbill taxa are already in CITES appendices: *Aceros narcondami*, *Buceros rhinoceros*, *B. bicornis*, *B. hydrocorax hydrocorax* (all on Appendix II) and *Buceros bicornis homrai* and *Rhinoplax vigil* (Appendix I). In another proposal, all Australasian hornbill species of the genera *Aceros* (including *A. comatus* [= *Berenicornis comatus* according to Morony et al. 1975]), *Anorrhinus*, *Anthracoceros*, *Buceros*, *Penelopides* and *Ptilolaemus*, are proposed to be listed, if not already in the appendices, in Appendix II (see the other hornbill proposal submitted by the Netherlands). The result will be that all *Buceros* species be listed in Appendix II, including all subspecies. Therefore, it seems more appropriate to bring *B. bicornis homrai* also under the protection regime of this same appendix, as this will be sufficient to control all international trade in this species.

8. References

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Inskipp, C. & Inskipp, T., 1985. A guide to the birds of Nepal. Croom Helm, London.

Kemp, A.C., 1979. A review of the hornbills: biology and radiation. Living Bird 17: 105-136.

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