

## CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

## Other proposals

A. Proposal

Inclusion of Southern Helmeted Curassow (*Pauxi unicornis*) in APPENDIX II in accordance with Article II 2 (a) & Conference Resolution 9.24.

B. Proponents

The Kingdom of the Netherlands

C. Supporting Statement1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class: Aves
- 1.2 Order: Galliformes
- 1.3 Family: Cracidae
- 1.4 Genus, species, subspecies: *Pauxi unicornis* Bond & Meyer de Schauensee
- 1.5 Scientific synonyms: *Crax unicornis*
- 1.6 Common names: Southern Helmeted Curassow (Horned Curassow, Bolivian Helmeted Curassow)  
 Spanish: Pauji Unicornio  
 Dutch: Hoornhokko  
 French: Hocco unicorné  
 German: Hornhokko (Bolivianischer Helmhokko)  
 Peru: Paujil Cornudo

1.7 Code numbers:

2. Biological Parameters

## 2.1 Distribution

This species, first discovered in July 1937, is described as "exceptionally poorly known". It is known from three localities in Bolivia (n nominate *unicornis*) and two in Peru (race *koepckeae*). (Collar et al 1992)

## 2.2 Habitat availability

In Bolivia the species inhabits densely forested regions of heavy rainfall, preferably at 450 - 1100 m in extremely rugged terrain drained by white water streams. In the Amboró National Park birds were found in semi-open tropical forest

on steep slopes. In the Cerros del Sira, Peru, specimens were collected in a lushly vegetated ravine near the lower elevational limit of cloud-forest. (Collar et al 1992)

Habitat loss is suggested as a threat to this species. (Collar et al 1994)

### 2.3 Population status

In Amboró National Park in early September when the rains start the population coalesces into small groups and then gathers at a deep forest site where males call in a dispersed lek. Analysis of these calls in October 1988 gave an estimated mean of 40 birds in a 1 km<sup>2</sup> plot. Only one nest has been found to date. The species appears to be genuinely localised and rare. (Collar et al 1992)

It is estimated that the population stands at less than 2,500 mature individuals, and is severely fragmented. (Collar et al 1994)

### 2.4 Population trends

Since its discovery this species has never been referred to as common. An increase in the numbers of birds in Amboró National Park is believed to have taken place since 1987 due to reduced hunting pressure as a result of improved wardening. However staff shortages, and a lack of funds coupled with easy access to the park, illegal timber extraction and a reduction in the size of the Park lead to suspicion that any improvement will not be sustained. (Collar et al 1992) A continuing decline is inferred. (Collar et al 1994)

### 2.5 Geographic trends

### 2.6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

### 2.7 Threats

Professional hunters have caused a decline in Bolivia, where, in addition, local people in the "Yungas of Titora" fashion cigarette-lighters from the species's "horn". In and around Amboró the bird is much eaten and its skewered head is said to be used in folk dances. The lower montane forest habitat in Bolivia is a favoured target for colonisation projects and large areas have already been deforested. (Collar et al 1992)

## 3. Utilisation and Trade

### 3.1 National utilisation

The species is hunted for food, for its horn which is used for decorative purposes for example making cigarette-lighters, and for its head which is skewered for folk dances. (Collar et al 1992)

### 3.2 Legal international trade

### 3.3 Illegal trade

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

There may or could be a market in ornamental use of the helmet.

3.5 Captive breeding (outside country of origin)

In the mid 1980s some birds were captured live and captive breeding has been undertaken in the aviaries of a private collection in Mexico where more than ten birds were present in 1993.

4. **Conservation and Management**

4.1 Legal status

4.1.1 National

4.1.2 International

4.2 Species management

4.2.1 Population monitoring

Further work is likely to reveal new populations in the low Andean foothills and outlying ridges in the region of the Peru/Bolivia border.

4.2.2 Habitat conservation

Efforts to secure the integrity of the Amboró National Park will contribute to the long term security of this species.

4.2.3 Management measures

4.3 Control measures

4.3.1 International trade

Proposed for listing on Annex B of the draft EU CITES Regulation

4.3.2 Domestic measures

Bolivia banned all exports of wildlife as of 1st May 1984

5. **Information on Similar Species**

6. **Other Comments**

Classified as Endangered in Birds to Watch 2 under IUCN threat category C2a (1994) and as Vulnerable or Rare in the 1990/1992 IUCN Red List

7. **Additional remarks**

## 8. References

- 8.1 Collar NJ, Crosby MJ, and Stattersfield AJ (1994) *Birds to Watch 2: The World List of Threatened Birds*, BirdLife International, Cambridge UK
- 8.2 Collar NJ, Gonzaga LP, Krabbe N, Madroño Nieto A, Naranjo LG, Parker TA, and Wege DC, (1992) *Threatened Birds of the Americas - The ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book* Third Edition part 2, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington and London.