

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Other proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Vini kuhlii* from Appendix II to Appendix I

B. PROPONENT

Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.1	Class:	Aves
1.2	Order:	Psittaciformes
1.3	Family:	Loriidae
1.4	Genus:	Vini
	Species:	<i>V. kuhlii</i> (Vigors, 1824)
1.5	Scientific synonyms:	-
	Common names:	English: Rimatara Lorikeet, Kuhl's Lory, Kuhl's Lorikeet, Kuhl's Ruffed Lory German: Rubinlori Others: 'Ura, Kura'
1.7	Code numbers:	A-218.001.011.003

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution:

Is only found on Rimatara and possibly on Tubuai (French Polynesia) as well as Teraina (= Washington), Tabuaeran (= Fanning) and Kiritimati (= Christmas Island). *Vini kuhlii* was most likely introduced to the three latter islands which belong to Kiribati (ROBILLER 1992). The population is extinct on Tubuai according to McCORMACK & KÜNZLE (1993).

The animals are confined to coconut plantations on Teraina and Tabuaeran. McCORMACK & KÜNZLE (1993) state that the animals inhabit mainly grasslands, coconut plantations on Rimatara and the central hill country of the island.

The species depends entirely on coconut plantations on Kiritimati as the only available habitat (WATLING 1995).

2.2 Habitat Availability

2.3 Population Status

LAMBERT et al. (1993) state that the total population of the species numbers 1500-2200 birds. The population size for Rimatara is estimated to be approximately 900 birds (McCORMACK & KÜNZLE 1993). Approx. 1000-1600 birds live on Teraina (WATLING 1995). On Tabuaeran a maximum of 50 birds live on only one island of the atoll (WATLING 1995, COLLAR et al. 1994). Only very few birds still survive today on Kiritimati (COLLAR et al. 1994).

2.4 Population Trends

The population has declined rapidly on Tabuaeran. Population estimates of 200 or even several hundred birds (GARNETT 1983, PRATT et al. 1987) are proven wrong by current estimates of a maximum of 50 birds (WATLING 1995).

2.5 Geographic Trends

The species most likely formerly also occurred on the Cook-islands (FORSHAW 1989, HOLYOAK & THIBAUT 1984). Fossil evidence was found on Mangaia, 'Atiu and Aitutaki (Cook-Inlands) (McCORMACK & KÜNZLE

1993). The Cook island population became probably extinct because the birds were captured for their red feathers which were used to make head-dresses. The species had probably perished already before the islands were discovered by Europeans (WATLING 1995).

2.6 Role of the Species in its Ecosystem

2.7 Threats

The species is obviously not yet threatened by the introduced small mammals on the island. Even though the Brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and the Polynesian rat (*R. exulans*) occur on the island; the black rat (*R. rattus*), which was mainly made responsible for the disappearance of the *Vini* species, has apparently not yet colonised the island (McCORMACK & KÜNZLE 1993). The species is restricted to coconut plantations on Teraina and Tabuaeran, where the population is mainly threatened by rats (*R. rattus*) (SEITRE & SEITRE 1992, WATLING 1995).

Threat status according to COLLAR et al. (1994): Endangered: B1 + 2e;C2a:D2

The species meets the following criteria in accordance with the "Criteria for Admendment of Appendices I and II, Annex 1" A i, v, B i, iii, iv, C i, ii.

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1 National Utilization

3.2 Legal International Trade

3.3 Illegal Trade

3.4 Actual or Potential Trade Impacts

3.5 Captive Breeding for Commercial Purposes (Outside Country of Origin)

4. Conservation and Management

4.1 Legal Status

4.1.1 National

The species has the status of "Fully protected" in the "The Wildlife Conservation Ordinance 1975" and "Bird Fully Protected" by the "The Gilbert Islands Order 1979". It is forbidden to hunt, kill, capture or own the species.

4.1.2 International

Listed in CITES Appendix II.

4.2 Species Management

4.2.1 Population Monitoring

4.2.2 Habitat Conservation

4.2.3 Management Measures

Recent attempts to relocate the species on Kiritimati (Linien-Islands). Six birds had already been released in 1957. Even though three birds had been sighted in 1959 the attempts can be considered failures (ROBILLER 1992, WATLING 1995). More birds were released in the 1960s and more than one bird had been observed flying around (GARNETT 1983 in WATLING 1995). Three birds were released in 1991 and two of them were seen in 1992 (BRYDEN in WATLING 1995). COLLAR et al. (1994) believe that few birds have survived till today. A lasting resettlement on this island is probably not feasible due to changing weather conditions with long dry periods (WATLING 1995).

A protection programme for *Vini kuhlii* has been developed on Kiribati (WILSON in McCORMACK & KÜNZLE 1993).

4.3 Control Measures

4.3.1 International trade

The species was only exported to Australia after the Second World War (ROBILLER 1992).

4.3.2 Domestic Measures

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Other Comments

The CITES Management Authority of France and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Development of Kiribati have been contacted in October 1996. In response France has approved the proposal (annex 1). No comments have been received by the authorities of Kiribati.

7. References

- COLLAR, N.J., CROSBY, M.J. & STATTERSFIELD, A.J. (1994): Birds to watch 2: The world list of threatened birds. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife Conservation Series 4
- FORSHAW, J.M. (1989): Parrots of the world. Third (revised) edition. London: Blandford Press.
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- LAMBERT, F., WIRTH, R., SEAL, U.S., THOMSEN, J.B. & ELLIS-JOSEPH, S. (1993): Parrots: an action plan for their conservation 1993-1998. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (draft 2).
- MCCORMACK, G. & KÜNZLE, J. (1993): The 'Ura or Rimatara Lorikeet (*Vini kuhlii*): its former range, its present status and conservation priorities. Paper presented at the manu Conference, Tahiti, November 1993.
- PRATT, H.D., P.L. BRUNER & D.G. BERRET (1987): A field guide to the birds of Hawaii and the tropical Pacific. New Jersey, Princeton University Press.
- ROBILLER, F. (1992): Papageien, Band 1, Papageienvögel Australiens, Ozeaniens und Südostasiens. Deutscher Landwirtschaftsverlag, Berlin.
- SEITRE, R. & SEITRE, J. (1992): Causes of land-bird extinctions in French Polynesia. *Oryx* 26: 215-222.
- THIBAUT, J.-C. (1988): Menaces et conservation des oiseaux de Polynésie Française. Pp. 87-124 in J.-C. THIBAUT & I. GUYOT, eds.: Livre rouge des oiseaux menacés des régions françaises d' outre-mer. Saint-Cloud: Conseil International pour la Protection des Oiseaux (Monogr. 5).
- WATLING, D. (1995): Notes on the status of Kuhl's Lorikeet *Vini kuhlii* in the Northern Line Islands, Kiribati. *Bird Conservation International* 5: 481-489.



Annex

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1. G...
2. J...

Objet : Propositions de la République Fédérale Allemande d'amendements des Annexes de la CITES, en vue de la X Conférence des Parties (Harare/Zimbabwe, juin 1997).

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el. 14/12/11

Cher Collègue,

Je vous prie de trouver ci-joint les avis de l'Autorité scientifique française relatifs à des propositions d'amendements des Annexes de la CITES, émanant de votre établissement, en vue de la prochaine Conférence des Parties.

Avec l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs

Dr. Geneviève HUMBERT
Responsable des conventions internationales



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AVIS SCIENTIFIQUE
de l'Autorité scientifique française pour la CITES

Convention concernée : CITES

Objet : Transfert de *Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I
Transfert de *Amazona agilis* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I
Transfert de *Vini peruviana* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I
Transfert de *Aceros waldeni* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I
Transfert de *Eurymphicus cornutus wvaeensis* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I
Transfert de *Amazona viridigenalis* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I
Transfert de *Vini ultramarina* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I
Transfert de *Vini kuhlii* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I
Inscription de *Tangara fastuosa* à l'Annexe II.

Avis : favorables sur toutes les propositions.

Expert consulté : C. ERARD (Laboratoire de Zoologie Mammifères & Oiseaux).

Date : 08/11/1996.