

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Other proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Vini ultramarina* 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. ultramarina</i> (Kuhl, 1820)
1.5	Scientific synonyms:	-
1.6	Common names:	English: Ultramarine Lorikeet, Marquesas Lori French: Lori des Marquises German: Smaragdlori, Ultramarinlori Others: Pihiti
1.7	Code numbers:	A-218.001.011.006

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution:

Vini ultramarina is only found on the islands of Ua Pou, Nuku Hiva and Ua Huka of the Marquesas-Islands (French Polynesia). The species inhabits on Ua Pou wooded areas of any kind in altitudes between 0-800 m (COLLAR et al. 1994). On Nuku Hiva the species inhabits mountain forests in altitudes between 700 and 1000 m as well as banana plantations and mango trees (SEITRE 1990, ROBILLER 1992). The species also occurs seasonally in the lowland plains of this island (ROBILLER 1992). According to SEITRE (1990) the species inhabits the lower altitudes on Ua Huka.

2.2 Habitat Availability

2.3 Population Status

LAMBERT et al. (1993) give a population size of 1.000-1.500 specimens.

The population status of the species on the various islands is described in the following.

Ua Pou:

SEITRE (1990) estimates that the current population consists of less than 50 specimens. No specimens were recorded on the island in 1991 (KUEHLER & LIEBERMAN 1993).

Nuku Hiva:

In 1990 the species was probably already extinct (COLLAR et al. 1994). No proof for its existence was found in 1991 (KUEHLER & LIEBERMAN 1993).

Ua Huka:

In 1991 the species was estimated to a number between 1.000-1.500 birds. These specimens were thought to live mainly in altitudes up to 500 m (COLLAR et al. 1994).

2.4 Population Trends

Ua Pou:

In 1975, the population numbered still 500-700 specimens (HOLYOAK & THIBAUT. 1984). The species has since then been reduced by 60 % (THIBAUT. & Guyot 1988). Today it is rare in all altitudes between 0-800 m.

Nuku Hiva:

70 specimens were still recorded in 1972-1975. They were restricted to the higher valleys and mountains (700-100 m altitude) in the northwest of the islands (THIBAUT. & Guyot 1988). The species was probably already extinct in 1990 (COLLAR et al. 1994).

Ua Huka:

The species was introduced or reintroduced in the 1940s. The population rose to 400-500 specimens by 1975 (HOLYOAK & THIBAUT. 1984). A strong population was recorded in 1987. In 1991 1.000-1.500 specimens were recorded in altitudes up to 500 m (COLLAR et al. 1994).

2.5 Geographic Trends

Subfossil evidence from Fatu Hiva indicates the former geographical range of the species (STEADMAN 1989 in COLLAR et al. 1994). The current distribution area has thus to be regarded as the last refuge of the species.

2.6 Role of the Species in its Ecosystem

2.7 Threats

The introduction of the rat (*Rattus rattus*) is most likely responsible for the decline of the population on Nuku Hiva since the beginning of the century.

The population on Ua Pou has also possibly been reduced because of rats since 1980 (SEITRE & SEITRE 1992). The population on Ua Huka is also threatened because rats have been noted a couple of years ago on an atoll only a couple of hundred meters away from the island. Whether rats do occur already on the main island is not yet known (SEITRE & SEITRE 1991).

KUEHLER & LIEBERMAN (1993) blame the introduction of cats, goats, Indian Myna (*Acridotherus tristis*), Philippine Eagle-owl (*Bubo philippensis*) and of bird malaria (*Plasmodium relictum*), which is transmitted by mosquitos (*Culex quinquefasciatus*) for the reduction of the species' population.

According to Rinke (in ROBILLER 1992), relocation would be the only chance for the species to survive because rats can not be wiped out effectively on those islands where the last populations of the species are found.

Threat status according to COLLAR (1994): Endangered: B1 + 2c;C1;C2b;D1

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

Formerly caught on Ua Pou. The species was kept as a pet, send to friends in Tahiti and sold to yacht owners (SEITRE 1990).

3.2 Legal International Trade

In 1993 24 specimens were exported to the United States (WCMC 1996 in lit.).

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:

4.1.2 International:

Listed in CITES Appendix II.

4.2 Species Management

4.2.1 Population Monitoring

A representative of the ministry of agriculture supervises the development of the relocated population on Fatu Hiva (KUEHLER & LIEBERMAN 1993, LAMBERT et al. 1993).

4.2.2 Habitat Conservation

4.2.3 Management Measures

Conservation programmes including the establishment of captive breeding groups are supposed to be undertaken by the San Diego Zoo according to an agreement between the San Diego Zoo and French-Polynesia. Seven birds were released in 1992 and in 1993 on Fatu Hiva. Further releases are planned (KUEHLER & LIEBERMAN 1993, LIEBERMAN & KUEHLER 1994). A study looking at the extinction of introduced mammals on the island of Mohatani is also planned and is supposed to be undertaken by the Brehm Fund for International Bird Conservation (LAMBERT et al. 1993).

4.3 Control Measures

4.3.1 International trade

4.3.2 Domestic Measures

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Other Comments

The CITES Management Authorities of France have been contacted in October 1996 and in response have approved the proposal (annex 1).

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
- HOLYOAK, D.T. & THIBAUT, J.-C. (1984): Contribution à l'étude des oiseaux de Polynésie orientale. Mém. Mus. Natn. Hist. Ser. A, Zool. 127: 1-209.
- KUEHLER, C. & LIEBERMAN, A. (1993): Erhaltungsprogramm für den Smaragdlori, *Vini ultramarina*. Papageien 6 (4): 122-123.
- 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).
- LIEBERMAN, A. & KUEHLER, C. (1994): Zweite Umsiedlung von Smaragdloris, *Vini ultramarina*. Papageien 7 (7): 212.
- ROBILLER, F. (1992): Papageien, Band 1, Papageienvögel Australiens, Ozeaniens und Südostasiens. Deutscher Landwirtschaftsverlag, Berlin.
- SEITRE, R. (1990): Der Smaragdlori, *Vini ultramarina*. Papageien 3 (6): 182-184.
- SEITRE, R. & SEITRE, J. (1992): Causes of land-bird extinctions in French Polynesia. *Oryx* 26: 215-222.
- STEADMAN, D.W. (1989): Extinctions of birds in Eastern Polynesia: a review of the records and comparison with other Pacific Island Groups. *J. Archeol. Sci.* 16: 177-205.
- 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).
- WCMC (1996): Letter from September 6th, 1996 and trade data 1990-1994.



Annex

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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).

Da
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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 cirinocristata* 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 waeensis* 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.