

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

## Other proposals

A. **Proposal**

Inclusion of Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*) in APPENDIX II in accordance with Article II 2 (a) & Conference Resolution 9.24.

B. **Proponents**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands; United States

C. **Supporting Statement**1. **Taxonomy**

- 1.1 Class: Aves
- 1.2 Order: Passeriformes
- 1.3 Family: Pycnonotidae
- 1.4 Genus, species, subspecies: *Pycnonotus zeylanicus* (Gmelin 1789)
- 1.5 Scientific synonyms:
- 1.6 Common names: Straw-headed Bulbul (Straw-crowned Bulbul)  
 Dutch: Geelkruinbuulbuul  
 German: Gelbscheitelbülbul  
 Indonesia: Cucak Rawa
- 1.7 Code numbers:

2. **Biological Parameters**

## 2.1 Distribution

The Straw-headed Bulbul occurs in Tennasserim, southern Myanmar; peninsular Thailand, peninsular and east Malaysia; Brunei; and Sumatra, Kalimantan and west Java, Indonesia, and Pulau Ubin Island Singapore. (Collar et al 1994)

## 2.2 Habitat availability

This species is found on the edge of lowland and hill forest, including secondary forest, often near rivers or in marshy areas at up to 1,100 m and locally to 1,600m. Destruction of this habitat has contributed to its decline. (Collar et al 1994)

### 2.3 Population status

It is reported that continuous trapping has largely eliminated the bird from Java, in Sumatera it is now rare, and on Kalimantan there are just a few places where it can still be seen. (Siawomeratono 1996), but it is reported to be common in Brunei (Wong 1996)

### 2.4 Population trends

The Straw-headed Bulbul was formerly common or even abundant in much of its range, and remains widespread and quite common in peninsular Malaysia. However it has declined in or been extirpated from all but the remotest parts of its range. It is estimated a population decline of more than 50% has taken place in the last twenty years. (Collar et al 1994)

### 2.5 Geographic trends

### 2.6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

### 2.7 Threats

Whilst suffering from habitat loss, the major influence on this bird's decline has been excessive trapping for the cage-bird trade. It is a popular and easily trapped species. In Neunzig's *Fremdländische Stubenvögel* reference is made to the Dutchman Koningsberger who was expressing concern about the excessive trapping of this bird for the cage bird trade at the beginning of the century.

## 3. Utilisation and Trade

### 3.1 National utilisation

Indonesia has had a thriving trade in this popular songbird. Capture was unlimited during 1989, 1990 and 1991, though limits ( 54,000; 71,400; and 71,500) were applied to certain provinces each year. TRAFFIC South East Asia surveys between 1991 and 1993 found the species in bird markets in Indonesia (1,100 birds in 37 surveys) and Singapore (500 birds in 33 surveys). (Nash 1993)

### 3.2 Legal international trade

The UK records imports of 4 specimens from West Germany in 1989, and 20 specimens from Malaysia in 1991. Hong Kong records imports of six birds in 1991.

### 3.3 Illegal trade

The large capture quotas established for this species in Indonesia and its presence in 37 of the 39 bird markets surveyed by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, where some 1,100 individuals were counted, does not reflect the failure of surveys to find the species in areas where it had been abundant.

It may be explained by reports that quarantine data from Jakarta's main airport show Indonesia as an importer of these birds, and reports from a Singapore trader that the birds for Indonesia come from Malaysia. The bird is fully protected in peninsular Malaysia, leading TRAFFIC Southeast Asia to conclude that:

*"at least a portion (if not the majority) of Straw-headed Bulbuls seen in Indonesian markets are Malaysian birds, trapped and exported illegally from Peninsular Malaysia, 'laundered' in Singapore through loopholes in their legislation and legally re-exported to Indonesia. Straw-headed Bulbuls arriving from southern Thailand or from Sabah/Sarawak would also be illegal exports as exports from these areas have not been authorised in recent years."*

(Nash, 1993)

Nash estimates that this practice involves some 6,000 birds annually.

### 3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Trade has led to a dramatic decline of this species and virtual extirpation in parts of its range.

### 3.5 Captive breeding (outside country of origin)

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia recommends that captive breeding at commercial levels should be encouraged for this species. Captive breeding is not yet established (Siawomartono 1996)

## 4. Conservation and Management

### 4.1 Legal status

#### 4.1.1 National

The bird is not protected in Indonesia. Thailand is no longer a legal source of wild birds. Capture in Malaysia is illegal.

#### 4.1.2 International

### 4.2 Species management

#### 4.2.1 Population monitoring

#### 4.2.2 Habitat conservation

#### 4.2.3 Management measures

### 4.3 Control measures

#### 4.3.1 International trade

#### 4.3.2 Domestic measures

As detailed above

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Other Comments

Classified as Vulnerable in Birds to Watch 2 under IUCN threat categories A1b,c (1994), having not been recorded 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 International Species Information System (1993) *ISIS Bird Extract*, ISIS, Apple Valley MN USA
- 8.3 Lindley A (1996) *Analysis of MAFF Import Data 1988-1992*, pers. corres
- 8.4 Mulliken T A , (1995) *Responses to Questions Posed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds*, TRAFFIC International, Cambridge UK
- 8.5 Nash SV. (1993) *Sold for a Song ... The Trade In Southeast Asian Non-CITES Birds*, TRAFFIC International, Cambridge UK
- 8.6 Rutgers A , (1964), *The Handbook of Foreign Birds Their Care In Cage and Avlary*, Blandford Press, London
- 8.7 Siamtomartono D (1996), pers. corres.
- 8.8 Wong M (1996), pers. corres.
- 8.9 World Conservation Monitoring Centre (1993). *World Checklist of Threatened Birds*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough

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The Netherlands CITES M.A.  
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Jakarta, 7 October 1996.  
No. 1031/W/1996/4/196

Re : Consultation on CITES Proposal

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 1996 Ref. No.N96Vm10 concerning the above mentioned subject.

After its consultation with the Scientific Authority and BirdLife International-Indonesia Program, the CITES Management Authority of Indonesia is pleased to summarize the information that we have on the status of the four species : Pycnonotus keylanicus, Padda oxyzivora, Leiothrix argentauris and Gracula religiosa.

To our knowledge no detailed surveys have yet been conducted on the status of any of these species in Indonesia, therefore, our information is anecdotal. However, we believe it is sufficient to make decision on CITES status.

1. Cucak Rawa (Straw-headed bulbul) Pycnonotus keylanicus

The distribution of this species covers South Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, West Indonesia (Sumatera, Kalimantan and Java). The habitat include forest and forest edge, usually in wet area, near rivers and swamps.

In Indonesia, this species is now believed locally to be extinct on Java, in Sumatera it is now rare, and on Kalimantan there are just a few places where it can still be seen.

This is a very popular cage bird in Indonesia. Now that it is rare here, wild birds caught in Thailand are apparently imported to Indonesia. Captive (commercial) breeding is not yet established. Therefore, Indonesia supports the proposal to include this species on CITES Appendix II.

2. Pancawarna (Silver-eared Mesia) Leiothrix argentauris

This species is distributed widely from Himalaya, South China, all of South-East Asia and Malaya Peninsula to Sumatera Indonesia. It inhabits dense thickets and scrub in montane area between 700 m and 2200 m.

Our information is that this species is still quite common in montane areas of Sumatera. This species is very common in bird markets on Java, and we believe most are imported from other countries. In my view the information is not sufficient to justify including this species on CITES Appendix. If it was, then the same argument could be made for including many more (e.g. of Garrulax). I would rather see a status assessment made of this species before they are proposed for CITES.

3. Reo (Hill Myna) Gracula religiosa

The distribution of this species covers wide areas which include India to China, S.E Asia, Palawan (Philippines), Malaya Peninsula, and Indonesia (Sumatera, Kalimantan, Java and Nusa Tenggara). It inhabits lowland forest.

The status in Indonesia is that it is now very rare and local in Java, but apparently still quite common in the extreme lowlands on Kalimantan and Sumatera. In Nusa Tenggara it is quite rare.

It is believed that the population is declining because of capture from the wild and degradation of lowland forest.

The sub-species of G.r. robusta from the island of Nias is in danger and has been protected.

Because of the declining population, Indonesia supports its inclusion in CITES Appendix II.

4. Gelatik Jawa (Java Sparrow) Padda oxyzivora

This species is endemic to Java, Kangean and Bali, but there are introduced populations in Sumatera, some countries in S.E. Asia and Australia. It formerly inhabits towns gardens and cultivated fields.

It's still wide spread in Java, but the population has undergone a massive decline and is now rare throughout its natural range. This is believed to be a combination of capture for the trade, and pesticide/herbicides. The introduced populations in Sumatera and Kalimantan are also thought to be declining.

Considering its worrying status on Java, Indonesia supports the proposal to include this species on CITES Appendix II. However, it would be advisable to consult the views of other countries that have introduced populations of the species.

While still seeking other supporting information on these species, Indonesia supports the proposal and invites the Netherlands to go ahead with its proposal, taking into account comments from other range states.

I hope this short information can be of some use.



sincerely,

*[Signature]*  
Dr. Dwiatmo Siswomartono, MSc.  
Director,  
Nature Reserve Management and  
Fauna Flora Conservation.

cc. : 1. CITES Scientific Authority of Indonesia  
2. Dr. Honk Jenkins, Animal Committee.



جڤان موزيوم بروني  
**JABATAN MUZIUM-MUZIUM BRUNEI**  
KEMENTERIAN KEBUDAYAAN BELIA DAN SUKAN  
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46/JMB/617/85/6

TARIKH :  
DATE :

13 July 1996

Dr. Ir. H.S.B.M. van Asperen  
The Director for Nature Management  
Ministerie van Landbouw  
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2500 EK's-Gravenhage  
THE NETHERLANDS

Dear Dr. van Asperen:

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 1996 and enclosed proposals to list the Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*) and the Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*) in Appendix II of CITES.

These two species are still common in Brunei because the habitats they require are relatively intact and there is little commercial exploitation. However, we support your proposals so as to encourage the recovery of decimated populations elsewhere.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*

Dr. Marina Wong  
for the Director of Museums