

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Other proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Seven-coloured Tanager *Tangara fastuosa* in Appendix II

B. PROPONENT

Germany and The Kingdom of the Netherlands

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.1	Class:	Aves
1.2	Order:	Passeriformes
1.3	Family:	Emberizidae (according to MORONY, BOCK & FARRAND 1975)
1.4	Genus:	<i>Tangara</i>
	Species:	<i>T. fastuosa</i> (LESS., 1831)
1.5	Scientific synonyms:	(<i>Calospiza (Calliste) fastuosa</i>)
1.6	Common names:	English: Seven-coloured Tanager (Superb Tanager) German: Vielfarbtangare Dutch: Zevenkleurige Tangare Others: Pintor-verdadeiro

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution:

The seven coloured Tanager is endemic to the north-east of Brazil where it is numerous in the provinces of Paraíba, Pernambuco und Alagoas. Another population might exist in the province of Rio Grande do Norte but this is uncertain. There is only very little and partly very old evidence available for the existence of the species with the exception of Pernambuco where a number of sightings have been recorded recently. (COLLAR et al. 1992).

Paraíba:

Only three sightings are known from Serrotinho, Alagoa Grande (ZENAIDE 1953)

Pernambuco:

A number of recordings since the last century (COLLAR et al. 1992).

Alagoas:

There is only relatively little evidence that the species might still exist on the island derived from a number of sites (COLLAR et al. 1992).

The seven-coloured Tanager lives in tree tops and on the edges of lowland forests and mountain forests up to an altitude of at least 950m. The species further inhabits secondary forests and might even occur here in bigger populations as in primary forests. There are also sightings recorded in open agricultural landscapes where some trees have been left standing on the land (COLLAR et al. 1992).

2.2 Habitat Availability

The species is found mainly in the canopy and on the edges of lowland and montane forests, but also occurs in and seems to prefer secondary growth. Nests are built high in the middle storey of forest (COLLAR et al. 1992).

Significant loss of even secondary habitat throughout its limited range in this century, due to the increasing tendency to open up forests for agricultural use, in particular to plant sugar cane (north-east Brazil), has contributed to its current status and still threatens the species (COLLAR et al. 1992).

2.3 Population Status

Since the late 1980s high numbers of birds were only known to exist in Pedra Branca at Alagoas and the Charles Darwin- and UFPE-Reservation at Pernambuco (COLLAR et al. 1992). The species has become restricted to a few patches of forest, and populations are fragmented. In some places good numbers remain, in others it is uncommon. It is estimated that the total population comprises less than 2.500 with no individual population greater than 250 mature individuals (COLLAR et al. 1994).

2.4 Population Trends

Statements about the original species' abundance are contradictory. LAMM (1948) stated that the species was not very abundant in Recife. Berla (1946, zit. in COLLAR et al. 1992), however, believed it to be abundant in the region of Merces. Although discrepancies exist in modern assessments it is widely accepted that the species is considered to have declined seriously and that its habitat has been fragmented. It is estimated that a rapid decline of between 50% and 80% has taken place in the last ten years (COLLAR et al. 1994). The species might nevertheless still be abundant in a few forest areas (RIDGLEY & TUDOR 1989).

2.5 Geographic Trends

There is general agreement, that the species has declined due to the fragmentation of its original distribution areas (COLLAR et al. 1992).

2.6 Role of the Species in its Ecosystem

2.7 Threats

There is a significant loss of habitat in this century due to the increasing tendency to open up forests for agricultural use throughout its limited range and to destroy them totally by planting sugar cane (COLLAR et al. 1992).

The main threat to the species is the intensive trade. It fetches high prices because of its extraordinarily colourful plumage (COLLAR et al. 1992). The import into Europe and the USA had already been started in the last century. The main trans-shipment centre in the distribution area is Recife, from where the birds were and still are sold further South. One bird fetched 30 US-Dollar in 1987. Due to insufficient conservation measures, birds are still caught even in the protected area of UFPE in Caruaru and their habitat is destroyed. The trade also continues in the northeastern distribution area of the species. Declining trade can be interpreted as a result of the decline of the wild populations (COLLAR et al. 1992).

Threat status according to COLLAR et al. (1994): Endangered: A1b,c;A2b,c;B1 + 2c;C1;C2a

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

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1 National Utilization

The seven-coloured Tanager commands high prices in the pet trade as its bright colours make it an attractive cagebird. Birds are sold in large numbers all over the north-east of Brazil, and especially in Recife, from where they have been sent to buyers in the South. They were common in the bird market in Rio de Janeiro in the 1950s and '60s, but declined to the point of being considered a rarity in the 1970s (COLLAR et al. 1992).

The traffic remains intensive in both the interior and the capitals of the north-eastern states. In October 1987 at least 22 birds were on offer at the "Mercado de Madalena" at Recife, with the price of a single bird reaching approximately US\$30. It has been reported that a single trapper may take 50 - 100 birds in the summer season. Even in a reserve like the UFPE's at Caruaru this species is not save and trapping has been continuing in the mid 1980s (COLLAR et al. 1992).

3.2 Legal International Trade

Importations into Europe and North America began in the nineteenth century. RUTGERS advises the selection of healthy stock as cage birds due to adverse consequences of imports suffering digestive trouble (RUTGERS 1964).

3.3 Illegal Trade

Main trading point is Recife. Animals are sold to the south of the country. Nearly 30 US\$ were paid for a bird in 1987. As protecting measures are inadequate, birds are taken from the wild even in the reservation area of UFPE at Caruaru. Habitat destruction continues. The trade also continues in the northeastern distribution area of the species. Although this species has been protected under Brazilian law and all exports of wildlife have been banned since 1967, illegal trade has still taken place through Argentina. Legislative changes have been introduced in an attempt to prevent this (MULLIKEN 1995). Declining trade can be interpreted as a result of the decline of the wild populations (COLLAR et al. 1992, 1994).

3.4 Actual or Potential Trade Impacts

Capture for trade is the main cause of this bird's decline (COLLAR et al. 1992).

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

The Seven-coloured Tanager has been bred in captivity yet; however, it has a reputation of being difficult to keep in captivity and it is reported, that the species is exceptionally rare in avicultural circles (ALDERTON 1992, RUTGERS 1964 and others).

4. Conservation and Management

4.1 Legal Status

4.1.1 National:

Protected under Brazilian law (Bernardes et al. 1990) and exports of wildlife have been banned since 1967 (MULLIKEN 1995).

4.1.2 International:

4.2 Species Management

4.2.1 Population Monitoring

4.2.2 Habitat Conservation

The species occurs in a number of reserves, but vigilance is described as minimal in almost all. In detail it inhabits the following protected areas: Pedra Talhada Biological Reserve (4.500 ha), UFPE Reserve (450 ha), Saltinho Biological reserve (500 ha), Tapacurá Ecological Station (350 ha) and the private conservation area Charles Darwin Ecological Refuge. (COLLAR et al. 1992)

4.2.3 Management Measures

Rearing of birds in captivity and the subsequent release in protected forest areas took place under the supervision of Fundacao Pró-Natureza (Funatura) at Caruaru, Pernambuco (COELHO 1986, CHARITY 1988). A further release of confiscated animals took place at Saltinho Reservation (COLLAR et al. 1992) and increased policing of the markets seems to have resulted in fewer birds being offered for sale there (COLLAR et al. 1992). However, releases will be ineffective if the protection of the areas involved is not improved (COLLAR et al. 1992).

4.3 Control Measures

International trade:

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

4.3.2 Domestic Measures

Police checks of regional market places led to a decrease in trade which in turn led to an increase of the population numbers in Caruaru (COLLAR et al. 1992). Further all exports of wildlife have been prohibited since 1967 (COLLAR et al. 1992). A series of resolutions have been introduced to implement the *Ley Nacional de Fauna* and bring trade via Argentina under control (MULLIKEN 1995). The species' full protection under Brazilian Law requires adequate enforcement (COLLAR et al. 1992).

5. Other Comments

Classified as Endangered in Birds to Watch 2 under IUCN threat categories A1b, A2b, c; B1 + B2; C1; C2a (1994) and as Vulnerable or Rare in the 1990/1992 IUCN Red List.

Although contacted in October 1996 no comments on the proposal have been received by the CITES Management Authority of Brazil.

6. References

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