

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Other proposals

A. Proposal

Inclusion of Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*) 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: Passeriformes
- 1.3 Family: Estrildidae
- 1.4 Genus, species, subspecies: *Padda oryzivora* (Linnaeus 1758)
- 1.5 Scientific synonyms:
- 1.6 Common names: Java Sparrow (Rice Bird, Paddy Bird)
 Dutch: Rijstvogel
 German: Reiskorn (Reisvogel)
 Indonesia: Gelatik Jawa
- 1.7 Code numbers:

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution

The Java Sparrow is endemic to Java, Bali, and Kangean, Indonesia, although widely introduced elsewhere including in Sumatera, Kalimantan, Australia, and some countries in SE Asia. (Siawomartono 1996)

2.2 Habitat availability

This species has occurred commonly in towns, villages, gardens and cultivated areas up to 1,500 m. (Collar et al 1994)

2.3 Population status

The Java Sparrow is now very scarce, though widespread.

2.4 Population trends

This bird used to be one of the commonest birds in the locations listed above, sometimes occurring in large flocks. A major population decline has taken place. It is estimated that there has been a rapid decline of more than fifty per cent in the last ten to twenty years. (Collar et al 1994) The introduced populations in Sumatera and Kalimantan are also thought to be declining. (Siawomartono 1996)

2.5 Geographic trends

2.6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

2.7 Threats

The main threat and the reason for the dramatic decline in this species is suggested as the capture of large numbers for the cagebird trade. (Collar et al 1994) However extensive pesticide use in its feeding areas may be the primary threat. (Mulliken 1995) Another suggestion is a combination of capture for the trade and pesticide/herbicide use. (Siawomartono 1996)

3. Utilisation and Trade

3.1 National utilisation

Bird keeping is very popular on Java and to a lesser extent on Bali. Capture quotas for the Java Sparrow have been as follows since 1987.

1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
20,600	20,600	15,000	21,185	20,000	17,000	17,500

In TRAFFIC South East Asia's survey of non-CITES species in bird markets, Java Sparrows were found in 32 of the 39 markets inspected, and it was one of the 40 species for which 500 or more individuals were counted in total. (Nash 1993)

3.2 Legal international trade

The following transactions have been recorded in the period 1980 to 1992 by those countries that maintain records of non-CITES trade: (Mulliken 1995).

Year	Country of Origin/Export	Number
1980-84	Belgium	500
1986	China	3
1988	Indonesia	425
1988/9	8 others	130
1989	Belgium	614
1989	Indonesia	300
1989	Phillipines	261
1989	Malaysia	156
1990	Belgium	289
1990	Malaysia	350
1990	Netherlands	130
1991	Belgium	295
1991	Hong Kong	100
1991	Indonesia	230
1991	Malaysia	550
1991	Netherlands	40
1992	Netherlands	165

The total number of specimens recorded above is 4,538. UK trade data for imports which are one of the sources for the above data show imports totalling 4,006 specimens in the period covered.

Between August and December 1992 Indonesia permitted the export of 5,850 Java Sparrows to Singapore.

3.3 Illegal trade

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Java sparrows are now reported as rare or scarce owing to trapping (McKinnon reports for 1988 and 1993)

3.5 Captive breeding (outside country of origin)

The white Java Sparrows bred by Japanese bird keepers were exported in large numbers before 1940. This and the pied Java Sparrow have been found to be easier to breed in captivity than birds of wild origin.

This species has been thought of as hard to breed by birdkeepers. Successful breeding has been reported when they are kept in colonies, but it is suggested this may only be the dominant pair. Aviary bred Java Sparrows are prolific breeders in captivity, but trapped wild birds rarely demonstrate the tendency to nest. Since the number of wild caught birds imported exceeds those that are bred in captivity, and the latter are more expensive, there is no incentive to supply the market with captive bred birds. (Bates and Rusenbark 1991)

4. Conservation and Management

4.1 Legal status

4.1.1 National

The Java Sparrow is a non-protected species and its capture is subject to permits which are guided by the annual capture quota established by the directorate general of PHPA. The capture quotas that have been agreed are detailed above.

4.1.2 International

The keeping of these birds is illegal in parts of the United States in order to prevent escaped birds becoming a threat to agriculture. (Alderton 1992)

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

The quota system is based on capture permits. Indonesia currently requires that CITES permits be used for non-CITES species and that annual reports also include data on non-CITES species. However the legislation does not cover illegal trade in non-protected species which means there is no legal basis to act against those who flout these provisions.

Much of Indonesia's export trade passes through Singapore. TRAFFIC S E Asia have illustrated how poorly documented and controlled this trade is. (Nash 1993)

4.3.2 Domestic measures

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Other Comments

Classified as Vulnerable in Birds to Watch 2 under IUCN threat category A1c (1994) having been unclassified in the 1990/1992 IUCN Red List.

7. Additional remarks

8. References

- 8.1 Alderton D. (1992) *The Complete Cage and Aviary Bird Handbook*, Blitz, Leicester UK
- 8.2 Bates H and Busenbark R. (1991) *Finches and Soft-billed Birds*, TFH Publications, US
- 8.3 Collar NJ, Crosby MJ, and Stattersfield AJ (1994) *Birds to Watch 2: The World List of Threatened Birds*, BirdLife International, Cambridge UK
- 8.4 International Species Information System (1993) *ISIS Bird Extract*, ISIS, Apple Valley MN USA
- 8.5 Mulliken T A , (1995) *Responses to Questions Posed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds*, TRAFFIC International, Cambridge UK
- 8.6 Nash SV. (1993) *Sold for a Song ... The Trade in Southeast Asian Non-CITES Birds*, TRAFFIC International, Cambridge UK
- 8.7 Rutgers A , (1964), *The Handbook of Foreign Birds Their Care in Cage and Aviary*, Blandford Press, London
- 8.8 Siewomartono D (1996), pers. corres.
- 8.9 World Conservation Monitoring Centre (1993). *World Checklist of Threatened Birds*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREST PROTECTION AND
NATURE CONSERVATION

Gedung Pusat Kehutanan Manggala Wanabhakti Blok IV Lt. 8, Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto Jakarta Pusat (10270)
Telp (021) 5730312, 5730313, Fax. (62-21) 5734818 Telex : 45996 DEPHUT IA

The Netherlands CITES M.A.
Ministerie van Landbouw
Natuurbeheer en Visserij
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
Postbus 20401

Jakarta, 7 October 1996.
No. 1031/VI/BA/PT/VI/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 summaries the information that we have on the status of the four species : Pycnonotus zeylanicus, Padda oryzivora, 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 zeylanicus

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 oryzivora

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,



Dwiatmo Siswomartono, MSc.
Director,
Nature Reserve Management and
Fauna Flora Conservation.

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