

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Removal of *Gallus sonneratii* (grey junglefowl), from Appendix II, in accordance with provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev CoP15) Annex 4 measures A4 and A5. This locally common endemic gamebird of India no longer merits listing as per Article II, paragraph 2(a), of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP 15), because there is no reason to infer or project that the regulation of trade in the species is still necessary to avoid it becoming eligible for re-inclusion in the Appendices in the near future. Although this bird may be in gradual decline and its habitat subject to mainly agricultural pressures, IUCN still regard the species as being of "Least Concern" due to its large range and large overall population size (BirdLife International 2012). This species is protected in India, and its range includes many protected areas, such as National Parks and Tiger Reserves.

The species does not merit listing in the Appendices according to the look-alike provisions in Article II, paragraph 2(b), of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP 15) because the neck feathers and skins, the main commodities in international trade for use in the manufacture of fly fishing lures, are readily identifiable to species level.

Within the last two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, this species has not been subject to a recommendation under the provisions of the Review of Significant Trade to improve its conservation status.

B. Proponent

Switzerland, as Depository Government, at the request of the Animals Committee (prepared by New Zealand).

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.1 Class: | Aves |
| 1.2 Order: | Galliformes |
| 1.3 Family: | Phasianidae |
| 1.4 Species: | <i>Gallus sonneratii</i> |
| 1.5 Scientific synonyms: | none |

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

1.6 Common names: English: Grey junglefowl, Sonnerat's junglefowl
French: Coq de Sonnerat, Coq gris
Spanish: Gallo gris, Gallo de Sonnerat

1.7 Code numbers: A-214.003.034.004

2. Overview

Gallus sonneratii is endemic to India. It was listed in CITES Appendix II on 1 July 1975 as part of a group of Galliformes species, due to concerns about the international trade of their feathers for use in fishing flies. The species is classified as of 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List (BirdLife International 2012).

The Periodic Review of the Appendices, as currently agreed by the Parties, is designed to review species already included in the Appendices to determine whether their listings continue to be appropriate, based on current biological and trade information and utilizing the provisions in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP12) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II [see: AC20 Document 10 (Rev. 1)]. At the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee (Lima, 2006) *Gallus sonneratii* was one of 18 species of Galliformes chosen to be reviewed between CoP13 and CoP15.

At AC25 (Geneva, 2011), to help facilitate the review of the remaining 16 species of Galliformes under the Periodic review process, an Intersessional Periodic Review Working Group was created to address these Galliformes species. The United States approached the World Pheasant Association for their assistance in undertaking these reviews. Species accounts were compiled using information readily available from the BirdLife International species assessments for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Red Data Lists and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) trade database. These accounts were then circulated to members of the IUCN-Species Survival Commission / World Pheasant Association Galliformes Specialist Group who had particular knowledge about the species.

The final species accounts were presented in an Annex to AC26 Doc 13.3.1. At AC26 (Geneva, 2012) the Animals Committee studied the information provided and recommended that *Gallus sonneratii* should be deleted from Appendix II (see AC26 WG1 Doc 2).

3. Species characteristics

3.1 Distribution

Gallus sonneratii is widely distributed in southern and central peninsular India. Its range is estimated to be 1,000,300 km² (Birdlife International 2012).

3.2 Habitat

Subtropical and tropical lowland moist primary and secondary forests, bamboo thickets, open woodlands and dry deciduous shrub land. Seem to have a preference for forests with low to moderate canopy cover, or moderate to high scrub near areas of grassland or arable land, but generally avoids people.

3.3 Biological characteristics

The breeding season is irregular, depending on rainfall and food supply, but mainly between October and June in the post-monsoon and summer seasons. Clutch is 3-8 brownish eggs, similar to those of domestic hens. They feed on the ground on a variety of seeds, fruit and invertebrates.

3.4 Morphological characteristics

The male measures 70-85 cm, including a black curving laterally compressed tail of 30-40 cm. Female 40-45 cm. The male body plumage is overall grey and finely patterned, with a shawl of blackish feathers with white spots and tipped with a yellow wax-like spot, especially prominent during the breeding season. They also have a prominent comb, throat wattles and ear lappets and bare skin on face and throat. They often have a single long sharp spur. Less showy in eclipse plumage, without the ornate tail and combs much reduced. Females are much duller than males, with primarily mottled black and brown plumage, and with a very small dull comb and no spur (Madge & McGowan 2002).

3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

This species has an important role in seed dispersal, and assists with control of invertebrate pests.

4. Status and trends

4.1 Habitat trends

Habitat is being lost and altered through encroachment of agricultural practices, cattle grazing, burning, and the collection of firewood.

4.2 Population size

The overall population size has not been determined but Madge & McGowan (2002) consider that the species is locally common throughout much of its range.

4.3 Population structure

Much less gregarious than Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*. Usually encountered alone or in pairs, occasionally in small flocks of up to 5-6 birds, but roosts socially in small trees (Madge & McGowan 2002).

4.4 Population trends

The species is suspected to be declining, but BirdLife International (2012) do not consider that the decline is sufficiently rapid to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (>30% decline over ten years or three generations).

4.5 Geographic trends

Information is not readily available, but has largely disappeared from lowland and cultivated areas.

5. Threats

Primary threats to the species are habitat loss and degradation caused by agricultural practices and encroachment, timber extraction and fires. Illegal hunting for meat, often using snares, is also a threat.

6. Utilization and trade

6.1 National utilization

Adults and juveniles are caught illegally for human subsistence at a national level.

6.2 Legal trade

The vast majority of the legal trade is of loose feathers, skins or skin (neck) pieces for use of feathers in manufacturing lures for fly-fishing hooks. The main exporters since 2000 have been Great Britain and Canada, and the main importers were the United States, Norway, Canada and India. Exports of live birds since 2000 were mainly from the Netherlands (256) to the United Arab Emirates (180), and Thailand (46).

Table 1a: <i>Gallus sonneratii</i>		
CITES reported trade (sources = all) during 1975-1999 and 2000-2010 (all terms and units combined).		
Term	Total 1975-1999	Total 2000-2010
Bodies Total	8	0
Feathers Total	72544	273620
Garments Total	219	201
Live Total	731	270
Pairs of shoes Total	24	0
Skin pieces Total	3240	5221
Skins Total	1786	719
Specimens Total	1203	0
Trophies Total	3	4
Unspecified Total	192	0
Watchstraps Total	6	0
Grand Total	79956	280035
Source: UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade Database. Accessed on January 4, 2011. Gross Exports/Imports. In most cases, the unit value is the number of specimens.		

The apparent export of 2540 wild-sourced feathers since 2000, mainly from Great Britain (2140 in 2008-09), Canada (206) and United States (193) may be in error, because none was exported from India, the only range state.

Table 1b: <i>Gallus sonneratii</i>		
CITES reported trade (source = wild [W]) during 1975-1999 and 2000-2010 (all terms and units combined).		
Term	Total 1975-1999	Total 2000-2010
Bodies Total	3	0
Feathers Total	29653	2540
Live Total	290	0
Pairs of shoes Total	24	0
Skin pieces Total	2650	0
Skins Total	82	0
Specimens Total	1200	0
Trophies Total	3	3
Unspecified Total	25	0
Watchstraps Total	6	0
Grand Total	33936	2543
Source: UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade Database. Accessed on January 4, 2011. Gross Exports/Imports. In most cases, the unit value is the number of specimens.		

6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

See tables 1a and 1b in section 6.2.

6.4 Illegal trade

Information is not readily available, but not believed to be significant.

6.5 Impacts to look-alikes

Not a significant issue. International trade is primarily of species-specific ornamental neck feathers, used in the making of fly-fishing lures, and these feathers are very distinctive.

6.6 Actual or potential trade impacts

Information is not readily available, but capture for trade does not appear to be a significant issue.

7. Legal instruments

7.1 National

Protected from hunting through its listing in Schedule II of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.

7.2 International

CITES Appendix II and EU Annex B.

8. Species management

8.1 Management measures

No information is readily available about active management programmes.

8.2 Population monitoring

Various surveys, usually based on line transects, have been conducted in widely separated sites (e.g. Ramesh et al. 2011, Selvan & Sridharan 2012; Narasimmarajan et al. 2012), and could form the basis of a long-term monitoring programme.

8.3 Control measures

8.3.1 International

CITES, EU Commission Regulations implementing CITES

8.3.2 Domestic

In India, the species is protected on Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972

8.4 Captive breeding and artificial propagation

The most recent World Pheasant Association records of this species in captivity in Europe indicate that there were 80 adult birds and 109 young raised in 2011, mainly in Germany and France (<http://www.wpa-europe.ch.vu/> accessed on 31 July 2012). ISIS (July 2012) records 38 captive individuals in 9 ISIS institutions outside India. The Central Zoo Authority (<http://cza.nic.in>) records holdings of 68 captive individuals in 7 zoos in India in 2011/12. Both WPA and ISIS databases rely on voluntary submission of records.

8.5 Habitat conservation

The Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act 2002 and the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act 2006 allow state and/or central government to declare areas as

National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, and Tiger Reserves. In addition, there are a number of privately-owned game reserves. These protected areas, together with reserved forests and protected forests under the Indian Forest Act 1927, provide habitat protection that will benefit *Gallus sonneratii*.

9. Information on similar species

Similar to red junglefowl *Gallus gallus*, green junglefowl *G. varius* and Sri Lanka Junglefowl *G. lafayetti*, but neck feathers and neck skins, which form the bulk of international trade in *G. sonneratii*, are readily identifiable.

10. Consultations

This proposal was based on a rapid review of 16 species of Galliformes by the World Pheasant Association. Their account was circulated to members of the IUCN-Species Survival Commission / World Pheasant Association Galliformes Specialist Group who had particular knowledge about the species, before being considered by a Working Group at AC 26 in Geneva (March 2012). The proposal was sent to the Management and Scientific Authorities of India on 17 August 2012 with a request for comments. As of 24 September 2012, those officials had not responded.

11. Additional remarks

12. References

BirdLife International (2012) Species factsheet: *Gallus sonneratii*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 31 July 2012.

CITES trade statistics derived from the CITES Trade Database (see: www.unep-wcmc.org/citestrade), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK.

ISIS (2012) International Species Information System species holdings. Information provided from <https://www.isis.org/Pages/findanimals.aspx> on 31 July 2012.

Madge, S.; McGowan P. 2002. *Pheasants, partridges and grouse: A guide to the pheasants, partridges, quails, grouse, guinea fowl, buttonquails and sandgrouse of the world*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Narasimmarajan, K.; Barman, B.B.; Puia L. 2012. Population density and group size of the grey junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii* in the Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, central India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4: 2723-2726.

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Selvan, K.M.; Sridharan, N. 2012. Grey junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii* (Galliformes: Phasianidae) in Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4: 2328-2329.

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