

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in wool sheared from live vicuñas and in items made thereof, the following provisions shall apply:

- In addition to obtaining CITES permit, any person or entity making products from vicuña wool must have a licence to use the country of origin mark. There are two marks:
- For international trade in garments and cloth made from vicuña wool sheared from live animals, whether made inside or outside the country of origin, the “VICUÑA [country of origin]” mark must be used:



For cloth, the selvages must bear the words “VICUÑA [country of origin].”

For products made outside the country of origin, the name of the country where the product was processed or the garment was made must also be indicated.

- For international trade in handicrafts (artisanal processing) made in the country of origin from wool sheared from live vicuñas, the “VICUÑA [country of origin] – ARTESANÍA” mark must be used.



If processing takes place outside the country of origin, the name of the country where the product was processed or the garment was made must also be indicated.

- If articles are made from vicuña wool from several countries of origin, the countries from which the wool was obtained must be indicated, along with the percentage of wool from each country contained in the product.
- All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species listed in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly.

* Countries of origin are: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru.

B. Proponent

Peru.¹

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class: Mammalia
- 1.2 Order: Cetartiodactyla
- 1.3 Family: Camelidae
- 1.4 Genus: Vicugna (Lesson 1842)
- 1.5 Species: *Vicugna vicugna* (Molina 1782)
- 1.6 Subspecies: *V.v. mensalis* (Thomas 1917)
V.v. vicugna (Molina 1782).
- 1.7 Common names: Spanish: Vicuña
French: Vigogne
English: Vicuna
Aymara: Huari
German: Vikugna
Italian: Vigogn
Quechua: Vicuña
- 1.8 Code numbers: 5301419004002002001
(I.S.I.S.)
1.19.031.001 (FAO)

2. Overview

Use of the mark is subject to the decisions of the Tenth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and Agreement Com. I.10.7, XV.4 Prop. 10.30, in accordance with the provisions of the Vicuña Convention pursuant to Resolution No. 19 E/94, which amends the designation "VICUÑANDES - [COUNTRY OF ORIGIN]" to read "VICUÑA - [COUNTRY OF ORIGIN]" to identify vicuña cloth and products to be traded by signatories to the Vicuña Convention, "*Con el exclusivo propósito de permitir el comercio internacional de telas fabricadas con fibra de vicuña esquilada de animales vivos, de las poblaciones incluidas en el Apéndice II, y de artículos derivados de las mismas; debiendo el orillo de las telas llevar la expresión 'VICUÑA -PAIS DE ORIGEN' y en el caso de prendas en el reverso el logotipo de la marca adoptado por los Estados del área de distribución de la especie*" [For the exclusive purpose of allowing the international trade in cloth made from wool sheared from live vicuñas whose populations are listed in Appendix II as well as in derived manufactured items. Selvages must bear the words "VICUÑA -[COUNTRY OF ORIGIN]," and the reverse of garments must bear the logo for the mark adopted by the species' range States].

Proposal 10.31 of the Tenth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) agreed to authorize the member states of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña to practice international trade in luxury handicrafts and fabric woven using vicuña wool obtained from live sheared animals and originating in areas covered by Appendix II, using the mark "VICUÑA – [COUNTRY OF ORIGIN] - ARTESANIA," and the logo adopted at the Sixth Conference of the Parties to CITES.

¹ The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of 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.

The preambular part of Resolution No. 376/2015 of the Thirty-second Ordinary Meeting of the Technical and Management Committee of the Vicuña Convention, held in Antofagasta, Chile on 22–25 September 2015, states that it is difficult or impossible to track exported wool. Therefore, the relevant means of control must be defined and the Vicuña Convention must ask CITES Management Authorities of vicuña wool-importing countries to exercise that control in coordination with CITES Management Authorities of vicuña wool-exporting countries. The Resolution further states that monitoring bodies and CITES Management Authorities in wool-importing countries use various interpretations of the marks “Vicuña [Country of Origin]” and “Vicuña [Country of Origin] - Artesanía.” Therefore, the definition must be modified and updated so that the operative part reads: “*Generar una propuesta de enmienda a las Anotaciones que figuran en los apéndices de la CITES, en lo que respecta a las referidas marcas, a fin de presentarlo en la próxima reunión de la conferencia de las Partes – COP que se llevará a cabo en el 2016 en Sudáfrica*” [Produce a proposal for amendment to the Annotations appearing in CITES appendices with respect to said marks for presentation at the next Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), which will be held in 2016 in South Africa].

In this regard, according to Peruvian laws and regulations, use of both marks is guaranteed in domestic cloth manufacturing and garment making; however, monitoring becomes difficult in the case of cloth manufacturing and garment making abroad and when Peruvian vicuña wool is used because the provisions only have effect within Peruvian territory.

Consequently, the effectiveness of using the mark abroad must be reviewed, and the need to oversee and maintain traceability in processes to scour and transform wool must be emphasized to CITES. In addition, through CITES, the use of the logo and designation “Vicuña [Country of Origin]” or “Vicuña [Country of Origin] Artesanía” must be proposed to be made mandatory for companies making cloth and garments using vicuña wool, thereby becoming a common annotation for the five signatory countries of the Vicuña Convention.

Therefore, the proposal specifies the following:

- Only international trade in wool sheared from live vicuñas and derivative products of such wool is permitted.
- Any individual or entity that makes cloth and garments from vicuña wool, whether in the countries of origin of the vicuña wool or in any other country, must have a licence from the country of origin in order to use said marks on their products and trade in them.
- Distinguish and use the two types of marks: “VICUÑA [Country of Origin]” and “Vicuña [Country of Origin] – Artesanía”, since there have been different interpretations in their use by CITES Management Authorities in the past.

3. Species characteristics

3.1 Distribution

In Peru, the range of the vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) is between 3,800 and 4,800 metres above sea level in the Departments of Apurímac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Huancavelica, Junín, Pasco, Huánuco, Ancash, Puno and the high provinces of Lima, Ica, Moquegua, Tacna and La Libertad, extending over approximately 14,000,000 hectares.

The species is found between 6° 51' 07" and 18° 03' 40" S latitude and 68° 57' 36" and 78° 36' 49" W longitude.

3.2 Habitat

The vicuña's habitat primarily consists of Andean ecosystems, such as the puna grasslands associated with the short pasturelands (*césped*) of the puna, scrublands (*matorrales*) and high Andean wetlands (*bofedales*), where this camelid finds suitable areas for easy feeding and living.

According to CDC-UNALM (1995), the vicuña's habitat lies in the biogeographic provinces of the Tropical and the Subtropical Puna.

3.3 Biological characteristics

The vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) is a wild South American camelid that lives on the Andean steppes and has adapted behaviourally and physiologically to colonize, adapt and thrive in desert environments characterized by cold weather and sparse pasturage.

Vicuñas are polygamous. The family group – one of the three forms of its social organization – consists of one male, several females and their respective young.

The female vicuña does not have periodic or continuous oestrous cycles (as observed in spontaneously ovulating mammals), meaning that oestrus is not cyclical, repetitive or predictable; on the contrary, as with all members of this taxon, their ovulation is induced by the male during copulation. Oestrus occurs post-calving, but is inhibited upon pregnancy (MINAM, 2014).

Sexual maturity is attained in one year and, consequently, at two years of age females may have their first calving. Reproduction occurs as an adaptation to the environment, primarily between March and May. The gestation period is 11 months (Hoffman *et al.*, 1983).

Between February and April, during the rainy season, females give birth to a single calf. Calving occurs around mid-day at locations that depend on the daily rhythm of activities, at the bottom of gorges, near streams, mostly in flat places, on soft ground for the female's added comfort (Hoffman *et al.*, 1983).

Young begin rumination at one month of age. They are weaned at 6 to 8 months, although this may be delayed until 10 months (Hoffman *et al.*, 1983).

3.4 Morphological characteristics

Vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna mensalis*) stand between 1.25 and 1.50 m tall from head to foot, and its fleece (wool) measures between 2 and 4 cm, being light brown (cinnamon) on the back and off-white on the chest, flanks and inside leg. The protective locks of long hair on its chest can measure up to 20 cm long.

The two subspecies present phenotypic differences, such as wool colour: (e.g., “vicuña colour” in *V.v. mensalis* and “light fawn” in *V.v. vicugna*); the extent of darker colouring on the flanks; and the presence of the pectoral lock in *V.v. mensalis*. In addition, *V.v. vicugna* has greater genetic variation than *V.v. mensalis* with moderate genetic variation between the two subspecies (Yacobaccio, 2006).

| Variable | <i>Vicugna vicugna mensalis</i> | | <i>Vicugna vicugna vicugna</i> | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| Live weight (kg) | 37.92 | 34.82 | 41.89 | 44.03 |
| Total body length (cm) | 113.84 | 98.12 | 148.15 | 150.09 |
| Chest circumference (cm) | 85.16 | 78.8 | 89.81 | 90.87 |

* Prepared by Hugo D. Yacobaccio in “*Investigación, conservación y manejo de vicuñas Proyecto MACS – 2006*” [2006 MACS Project: Research, conservation and management of the vicuña].

Of all the other wild animal species in the puna, only the guanaco can be mistaken for the vicuña. In a cleared environment, where it is not possible to gauge the distance of a certain object, it is difficult to satisfactorily determine the size of an observed wild camelid. In these cases, the guanaco is distinguished by its putting its neck into the typical “S-shape,” a habit not observed in the vicuña (MINAM, 2014).

In addition, the guanaco's colouring is different because, at considerable distances, one can distinguish its black face and its tail, which is darker than the light brown of its body. Another clue is the alarm calls, which are unmistakable in the two species (Hoffman and Otte, 1977).

3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

The vicuña, with its svelte body, long, slender neck and extremities and its limited footprint on the ground make it especially suited to running on cleared ground.

Its feet terminate in soft callous pads that cover the third and second phalanges. The backs of the toes are covered by a horny formation. These soft pads allow the animal to walk safely over rocky surfaces without damaging the shallow soil.

Another anatomical feature which facilitates efficient feeding is its lower incisors, which grow continuously up to five years of age. This feature keeps its lower incisors sharp so that they can cut through forage plants and allows the vicuña to eat very short grass, even down to the basal parts that remain after livestock have grazed on it, and that are out of reach of the guanaco. The vicuña cuts through plants without tearing them out of the ground, unlike domestic species, thereby avoiding root loss and damage.

The dilated digestive tract of camelids allows them to better absorb energy from food sources and make best use of the fibrous elements of forage.

The vicuña's extremely fine wool is important in protecting it from the cold because its extreme fineness makes it compact, with good heat retention. Vicuñas rest with their bellies on their legs drawn up beneath them on the ground so that their hair covers them completely, without exposing their abdomens to the cold.

Another adaptation is that calving occurs mainly (80 percent) on sunny days and in the morning (between 9.00 am and 2.00 pm), which helps dry off calves, which are born during the rainy season (February – April).

Vicuñas also demonstrate some interesting adaptations to the low oxygen pressure in their environment, which is approximately 97 mmHg., meaning more or less 40% compared to sea level values. The vicuña's blood has around 14 million red cells per mm³.

Finally, the puna grasslands (the vicuña's habitat) are an open space with few places to hide from enemies which, in the case of the vicuña, are the puma and the fox. To mimic its surroundings, the vicuña has a very characteristic brownish colour (vicuña colour), which camouflages it in the grasslands. Its long neck allows it to see for long distances and easily detect its enemies.

4. Status and trends

4.1 Habitat trends

In Peru, the vicuña's range is defined by the species' potential habitat, which lies between 3,800 and 4,800 metres above sea level, covering the Departments of Apurímac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Huancavelica, Junín, Pasco, Huánuco, Ancash, Puno and the high provinces of Lima, Ica, Moquegua, Tacna and La Libertad, with an area of approximately 14,000,000 hectares (MINAM, 2014).

Although certain areas have been damaged by mining activity, which must be quantified in future studies, there are sufficient areas available to continue to allow vicuña populations to live.

4.2 Population size

In Peru, in 2012, a national census was taken of vicuña populations in the Departments of Ancash, Apurímac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Huancavelica, Huánuco, Ica, Junín, La Libertad, Lima, Moquegua, Pasco, Puno and Tacna, which recorded a population of 208,899 vicuñas, with Ayacucho being the department with the highest number of specimens 62,133 (29.7%), followed by Puno with 38,673 specimens (18.5%) and Huancavelica with 23,616 specimens (11.3%) while Huánuco recorded the fewest specimens, with 51 (0.02%).

The census methodology used was total, direct counting.

4.3 Population structure

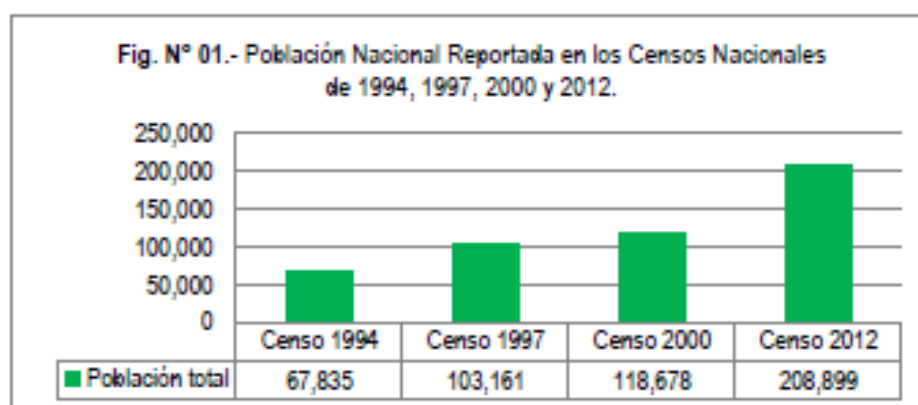
According to the 2012 census, the vicuña has the following social structure: 148,808 specimens are in family groups (71.2%), 51,147 specimens are in troops (24.5%), there are 3,016 lone males (1.5%) and 5,928 specimens are undifferentiated (2.8%). Of the 148,808 vicuñas living in family groups; 26,241 are males (17.6%), 93,603 are females (62.9 %) and 28,964 are young (19.5%).

Table No. 2. Structure of the vicuña population

| Department | Vicuña Population A= (1+2+3+4) | Family groups | | | | Troops (2) | Lone males (3) | Un- differentiated (4) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Total (1) | Males | Females | Adolescents | | | |
| Total | 208,899 | 148,808 | 26,241 | 93,603 | 28,964 | 51,147 | 3,016 | 5,928 |

Source: *Dirección General Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre* [Forestry and Wildlife Directorate] – MINAG (2013).

4.4 Population trends



Fuente: Consejo Nacional de Camélidos Sudamericanos – CONACS y DGFFS (2013).

According to statistics obtained in these censuses, the vicuña population in Peru experienced a pattern of marked growth between 1994 and 2012.

Compared to the 2000 census, the 2012 vicuña population census demonstrated a 76% increase, meaning that, during this 12-year period, there was an increase of 90,221 specimens.

5. Threats

Poaching remains the greatest threat to vicuñas in the four countries where they live. It is difficult to control poaching due to the puna's large expanse, its topography as well as the scant financial and technical resources. In Peru, 648 dead vicuñas were reported during the 2013–2015 period.

Another threat to vicuñas is ranching; the overgrazing caused by domestic livestock reduces the space available for vicuñas to live and feed, in addition to the loss of habitat caused by other human activities, such as mining, and the resulting pollution of rivers and other sources of water.

In recent years, there has been a rise in reports of animals with scabies, making it a threat to the species due to the degree of contagion among animals, resulting in vicuñas dying in extreme cases and financial losses for those managing them.

Finally, climate change is likely to have a harmful impact on the fragile ecosystems where vicuñas live; however, studies confirming this hypothesis are needed.

6. Utilization and trade

6.1 National utilization

According to current Peruvian law, the management, conservation and rational exploitation of the vicuña is, primarily, the responsibility of peasant communities and cooperative enterprises entitled to

exploit the existing animal population in their territories. This resource is managed according to the guidelines and under the supervision of the State (National Authority and Regional Governments).

Wool is obtained through the operation known as “*chaku*” which may be carried out every year between 15 May and 15 November.

Chaku is an ancestral technique of handling vicuñas dating back to prehispanic times, which reached its height during the Incan Empire. It consists of driving the vicuñas to a specific place so that the live animal can be captured and sheared, then released. This is also the time to select animals and administer any treatments required. This ritual requires authorization from and oversight by authorized personnel from the regional governments to prove that the wool comes from sheared live animals and ensure that good practices regarding animal welfare are used in capturing and shearing the animals.

In recent years, reports on how vicuña wool is obtained from live animals show that 70% of capture and shearing operations involve vicuñas managed in the wild while 30% of operations are carried out in permanent enclosures or semi-captivity. This return to the model of exploiting the species in the wild is closest to the concept of sustainable use of the species and its environment.

Table No. 3. Sheared vicuñas 2013 –2015

| Year | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total live sheared vicuñas | Total wool obtained (kg) | Total live sheared vicuñas | Total wool obtained (kg) | Total live sheared vicuñas | Total wool obtained (kg) | Total live sheared vicuñas | Total wool obtained (kg) |
| 43,547 | 7,467,446 | 49,420 | 8,381,870 | 52,179 | 9,033,922 | | |

6.2 Legal trade

Table No. 4. Amount of vicuña wool exported in 2013 – 2015

| Type of vicuña wool | Year | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015* |
| Total (kg) | 4404,640 | 5071,496 | 7920,970 |
| Pre-dehairing | 3409,011 | 3240,283 | 5610,317 |
| Scoured | 320,807 | 70,000 | 202,250 |
| Dehaired | 220,256 | 394,434 | 329,613 |
| Dirty | 454,566 | 1366,779 | 1778,790 |

Source: *Dirección de Gestión Sostenible del Patrimonio de Fauna Silvestre* [Sustainable Wildlife Management Directorate], *Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre* [Peruvian National Forest and Wildlife Service] (SERFOR)

* Preliminary information

Table No. 4 shows the amounts of vicuña wool exported for commercial purposes in the 2013 – 2015 period, in their different forms: dirty wool, pre-dehaired wool, dehaired wool and scoured wool, covered by CITES Export Permits issued by the Peruvian National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) as Peru’s CITES Management Authority.

Note that pre-dehaired wool is exported in the highest volume, followed by dirty, dehaired and scoured wool. There are four destination countries for vicuña wool exports: Italy, Argentina, China and the United Kingdom (England); of these, Italy has been the destination for the most vicuña wool.

The proposal for amendment will provide greater control and monitoring of vicuña wool exported and originating from the signatory countries to the Vicuña Convention (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru) up to the time it is made into cloth and garments, thereby restricting the possibility of making products using contraband wool.

6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

In Peru, wool obtained from a sheared live animal as well as the scouring and transformation processes resulting in products (yarn, cloth and garments), is recorded in the *Registro Único de Camélidos Sudamericanos Silvestres del Perú* [Sole register of wild South American camelids of Peru] (RUCSSP), which is maintained by SERFOR.

In the case of cloth and garments, in addition to having the RUCSSP Certificate of Registration, enterprises making cloth and garments must have a License to Use the mark “VICUÑA PERÚ” (industrial processing) and/or “VICUÑA PERÚ – ARTESANÍA” (artisanal processing). To this end, the State, through SERFOR, issues a 5-year licence after an agreement is signed, allowing makers to place the aforementioned marks on their products for domestic and international trade.

With respect to products made using vicuña wool, Table No. 5 shows that scarves and stoles were the most exported garments during the 2013 – 2015 period, with Japan, the United States of America, Chile and Switzerland being the principal destinations of these manufactured garments. The Peruvian enterprises exporting these products are: INCALPACA TPX S.A (the main exporter) and MICHELL Y CIA S.A. In addition, the importing countries during that period were: Qatar, Italy, Canada, Japan, the United States of America and India.

Table No. 5
Export of garments made of vicuña wool for commercial purposes by type (2013 – 2015)
(by number of pieces)

| | Year | | |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015* |
| Total | 470 | 361 | 462 |
| Scarves | 158 | 188 | 243 |
| Stoles | 194 | 95 | 141 |
| Caps | 30 | 16 | 36 |
| Capes | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Coats | 5 | | |
| Pullover sweaters | 56 | 35 | 29 |
| Shawl | 1 | 3 | |
| Cardigans | | 15 | 4 |
| Blankets | | | 1 |
| Jackets | 19 | 6 | 1 |

Source: *Dirección de Gestión Sostenible del Patrimonio de Fauna Silvestre* [Sustainable Wildlife Management Directorate] (SERFOR)

* Preliminary information

6.4 Illegal trade

The level of illegal trade in vicuña wool and derivative products has not been quantified. However, there is the constant threat of poaching to supply wool trafficking. As mentioned earlier, in 2013–2015, 648 dead vicuñas were reported in Peru.

To deal with poaching incidents, the Peruvian National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), in conjunction with the Regional Governments, attend areas where incidents occur in order to confirm the number of dead vicuñas and assist communities in filing the corresponding complaints with the police and the *Fiscalía* [Office of the Prosecutor]. Currently, there are many criminal investigations underway pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 1237, which amends the Criminal Code, extending the scope of protection for wild flora and fauna, including the vicuña.

Finally, work is being done in Peru to prepare the National Strategy to reduce trafficking in wildlife, which is to be approved in 2016. This proposal came about as an initiative of collaboration between SERFOR and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The corresponding work was financed by USFWS through the project “Building a National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Peru: Linking Sectors and Enhancing Community Participation.” Proposed objectives include: (i) Educating, raising awareness and disseminating information to citizens about wildlife trafficking, and (ii) Creating

alliances with border countries and destination countries of the illegal trade in fauna originating in Peru.

The illegal trade in cloth and garments may follow on from poaching, which may be overcome with strict police, judicial and customs control and with the direct participation of peasant organizations in protecting and exploiting the vicuña.

Thus, the proposal for amendment will impose the obligation upon makers of cloth and garments using vicuña wool to use “Vicuña [Country of Origin]” and “Vicuña [Country of Origin] – Artesanía” on their products, as applicable, for which they must apply for a licence to use the mark from the wool’s country of origin. The making of cloth and garments must be overseen by the CITES Management Authorities worldwide to make it possible to track vicuña wool abroad, thereby restricting the possibility of making products using contraband wool.

6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

In 2014, the *Ministerio del Ambiente* [Peruvian Ministry of Environment], in its capacity as Peru’s CITES Scientific Authority, prepared the “*Informe sobre el Dictamen de Extracción No Perjudicial de Vicugna vicugna (vicuña)*” [Report on Non-detriment Findings of *Vicugna vicugna (vicuña)*].

The purpose of the Findings is to advise the *Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre* [Peruvian National Forest and Wildlife Service] (SERFOR), the CITES Management Authority in Peru, and the *Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas* [National Service of Natural Protected Areas] (SERNANP), providing scientific/technical support for the sustainable management of the vicuña, particularly in issuing export permits for vicuña specimens.

The conclusion is that using the wool **DOES NOT THREATEN VICUÑA POPULATIONS**. Likewise, the model used for vicuña management is sustainable and will continue being so, as long as it is linked with use of a management tool and real wildlife management principles with the active participation of local communities. In this way, trade in the wool from live sheared animals will not threaten the viability of the species’ populations in the long term.

7. Legal instruments

7.1 National

Legislative Decree No. 653, *Ley de la Promoción de las Inversiones en el Sector Agrario* [Law promoting investment in the agrarian sector] promotes the development and protection of the vicuña and the guanaco, encouraging their exploitation and giving Andean peasant communities the right to keep and use herds of these species.

Criminal Code, Legislative Decree No. 1237, amends the Criminal Code, passed with Legislative Decree No. 635, increasing the scope of protection for species of wild flora and fauna, including the vicuña.

Law No. 26496, governing ownership, trade and penalties related to hunting species of vicuña and the guanaco as well as their hybrids; also conveys ownership of herds of these species to Andean peasant communities.

Supreme Decree No. 007-96-AG, regulations associated with Law No. 26496, governing ownership, trade and penalties for hunting species of the vicuña and the guanaco as well as their hybrids and establishing the *Registro Único de Camélidos Sudamericanos Silvestres del Peru* [Sole register of wild South American camelids of Peru].

Law No. 26821, *Ley Orgánica para el Aprovechamiento Sostenible de los Recursos Naturales* [Organic Law for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources], governing the general framework for the sustainable use of natural resources inasmuch as they form part of the national assets. Concerns freedom of access to resources, granting rights for private persons to use resources and establishing conditions for their use.

Law No. 29763, *Ley Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre* [Forest and Wildlife Law], maintains the effect of Law No. 26496 and supplementary provisions as well as other provisions related to the conservation

of wild South American camelids. This law also creates the *Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre* [National Forest and Wildlife Service] (SERFOR), establishing it as the national body for the administration and conservation of wild South American camelids, in accordance with the provisions of Law 26496, governing ownership, trade and penalties for hunting species of the vicuña and the guanaco as well as their hybrids, with supplementary provisions, respecting the scopes of authority transferred to regional governments.

Supreme Decree No. 004-2014-MINAGRI, approves the categorization of endangered species of wildlife. With this decree, the vicuña was placed in the category of Near Threatened (NT), meaning that it is a species that depends on conservation measures to prevent it being placed in one of the endangered categories.

Supreme Decree No. 014-2014-MINAGRI, *Régimen de Promoción para el aprovechamiento y comercialización de la fibra de camélidos sudamericanos silvestres* [System promoting the use and marketing of wool from wild South American camelids], which aims to regulate, promote and simplify procedures for carrying out activities involved in the conservation, management and sustainable use of wild South American camelids for which rights have been granted to keep and use them.

7.2 International

Decree Law No. 21080, adopts the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Decree Law No. 22984, adopts the Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña.

The signature and subsequent approval of the aforementioned conventions were international strategic commitments to aid in restoration of the vicuña population, through the establishment in Peru of specific laws and regulations that have enabled actions for the protection, management and sustainable use of vicuñas.

8. Species management

8.1 Management measures

In 2013, Ministerial Resolution No. 0127-2013-AG created a Temporary Sectorial Commission attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, consisting of representatives from the regional associations of peasant communities, private associations, representatives of the textile industry and MINAGRI agencies and departments, charged with issuing a Technical Report containing an analysis of the laws and regulations on the conservation, management and exploitation of the vicuña and its wool, including a proposal for a new law on the matter, currently under review.

On 14 August 2014, Supreme Decree No. 014-2014-MINAGRI, the *Régimen de Promoción para el aprovechamiento y comercialización de la fibra de camélidos sudamericanos silvestres* [System promoting the use and marketing of wool from wild South American camelids] was published to simplify the procedures and requirements for exploiting vicuña wool.

To this end, SERFOR reviewed the procedures entailed in the value chain of vicuña wool, resulting in fewer requirements and shorter times in conducting procedures to manage wild South American camelids. Moreover, supplementary provisions, approved in SERFOR Executive Decision No. 060-2015-SERFOR-DE, set guidelines for the use of and trade in wool from wild South American camelids, including substantial changes in managing the value chain, saving managers time and resources.

These changes continue to ensure the traceability of vicuña wool, with the Peruvian State overseeing all processes involved, from the time that it is obtained through shearing (with proof that the wool was obtained from a live animal) to the scouring and transformation processes in readiness for domestic and international trade in the material, either as wool or as products (yarn, cloth, garments).

Also enacted in 2014 was Supreme Decree No. 004-2014-MINAGRI, approving the categorization of endangered wildlife species. By this decree, the vicuña was placed in the category of Near Threatened (NT), meaning that it is a species that depends on conservation measures to prevent it being placed in one of the endangered categories.

Finally, it should be noted that SERFOR has developed the *Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo y Conservación de Camélidos Sudamericanos Silvestres* [National Strategy for the Development and Conservation of Wild South American Camelids], which runs to the year 2021 and which will serve to orient the different government institutions and the civil society organizations involved. The document is currently being reviewed and will be submitted for approval.

8.2 Population monitoring

State-sponsored conservation of the vicuña is the responsibility of the *Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre* [National Forest and Wildlife Service] (SERFOR) and responsible offices of the Regional Governments, which perform the oversight and control duties set forth in applicable law and regulations, both in the Protected Natural Areas covered by the *Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas* [National Service of Natural Protected Areas] (SERNANP) and in private areas belonging to peasant communities and other parties authorized to manage vicuñas.

The vicuña population study conducted in 2012 showed that 30.13% of vicuñas (62,940) are managed in semi-captivity while 69.87% (145,959) live in the wild.

It is important to note that peasant organizations (peasant communities, communal enterprises and other parties authorized to manage vicuñas) are responsible for protecting the vicuña populations in their respective territories.

8.3 Control measures

8.3.1 International

The Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in Florida, United States of America (November 1994), authorized the transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II of all Peruvian vicuña populations for the purpose of exploitation. This authorization enables the international regulation of trade in wild species for their conservation and sustainable use, as well as being a source of international cooperation on trade and legislation as well as conservation science and resource management.

The Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña provides a legal and technical instrument for making decisions about the sustainable use of the vicuña, applicable throughout its range, thereby ensuring that all vicuña populations in the signatory countries are conserved.

8.3.2 Domestic

The set of national legal instruments mentioned in section 7.1 allows:

- Penalizing the hunting, capture, collection, removal or possession of products, roots or specimens of wild species of flora and/or fauna without the corresponding concession, permit, licence or authorization or other permission to use or remove them, issued by the proper authority. Applicable to the vicuña.
- The right to keep and use wild South American camelids by individuals and legal entities (the vast majority of which are high Andean peasant communities), being responsible for their protection and conservation in exchange for their sustainable exploitation.
- The ongoing oversight of processes for shearing live animals for wool, the transformation to yarn, cloth and garments, the marketing and exportation of vicuña wool and its products, with the corresponding CITES export permits.
- Encouraging the restoration of biodiversity and of vulnerable populations through restocking.

8.4 Captive breeding and artificial propagation

In Peru, there are two systems of vicuña management: (i) Entirely in the wild and, (ii) In partial captivity, a system that uses permanent enclosures, recognized as a management option in Resolution No. 175/96 of the Vicuña Convention, with 30% of the vicuña population being managed using this system.

In addition, in Peru, the regulatory framework was approved, in accordance with Resolution No. 339/2012 of the Vicuña Convention, which resolves:

- Not to endorse the practices of assisted reproduction or artificial insemination or the manipulation of gametes or genes in vicuña species.
- To urge countries not to authorize the aforementioned practices.

8.5 Habitat conservation

In Peru, the vicuña has five natural areas protected by the State, which form part of the *Sistema Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas* [National System of Natural Protected Areas] (SINANPE) and which are administered, by law and by regulations, by the *Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas* [National Service of Natural Protected Areas] (SERNANP) under the Ministry of Environment: Reserva Nacional Bárbara D' Achille Pampa Galeras (Ayacucho), Reserva Nacional Salinas and Aguada Blanca (Arequipa), Parque Nacional Huascarán (Ancash), Santuario Histórico de Chacamarca (Junín) and Reserva Paisajística Nor Yauyos Cochas (Lima). The most notable of these areas are the Reserva Nacional Bárbara D' Achille Pampa Galeras and the Reserva Nacional Salinas and Aguada Blanca, which carry out a combined programme of conservation and self-sustainability jointly between the State and the peasant organisations, with very positive results. A total population of 18,460 vicuñas in an area of 1,427,754 hectares was reported in 2014.

Moreover, the current legal framework stipulates that any persons engaged in the conservation, management and exploitation of wild South American camelids must obtain approval for a Management Declaration for the sustainable exploitation of wild South American camelids, for which purpose a form has been created, declaring the commitment to protect the vicuña, improve sources of water and plant cover and become organized to control and be vigilant against poaching. Approval of this Management Declaration conveys the right to keep and use declared vicuñas living in their territories.

Finally, it should be noted that SERFOR has developed the *Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo y Conservación de Camélidos Sudamericanos Silvestres* [National Strategy for the Development and Conservation of Wild South American Camelids], which runs to the year 2021 and which will serve to orient and guide the different government institutions and the civil society organizations involved. The document is currently being revised and is expected to be approved later this year. Its first Strategic Objective is to: Promote the sustainable conservation of vicuña populations and their ecosystems.

8.6 Safeguards

With approval, the proposed amendment will allow improved traceability of processes to transform vicuña wool in importing countries, thereby stopping the manufacture of articles using contraband wool from poaching.

Due to the volume of vicuña wool traded compared to the total volume of fine wool, there will be no negative impact on trade in similar species.

9. Information on similar species

Species involved in trade that are similar to or resemble vicuñas are the wild guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) and the domesticated alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*), both species of South American camelids.

Although the light fawn colouring of Huacaya alpaca wool resembles that of the vicuña, which is light brown or cinnamon, it is easily distinguishable by the fineness, fleece size and fibre length. Guanaco wool is light brown in colour and is distinguished from that of the vicuña by its fineness and duller appearance.

Table No. 6 Characteristics of dirty camelid wool

| CHARACTERISTICS | VICUÑA | ALPACA | | GUANACO |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | | SURI | HUACAYA | |
| Weight of dirty fleece (kg) | 0.18 - 0.25 | 1.2 - 3.2 | 1.2 - 2.8 | 0.25 - 0.4 |
| Fibre length (cm) | 1.5 - 4.5 | 11 - 25 | 7 - 23 | 3 - 4.5 |
| Fibre diameter (μ) | 12 - 15 | 14 - 36 | | 15 - 19 |

10. Consultations

Letter (M) No. 009-2016-SERFOR/DGGSPFFS, of 5 April 2016, contained the proposal for amendment to the Vicuña Annotation in CITES sent to the Focal Points of the Vicuña Convention of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador for their respective approval.

Furthermore, Letter (M) No. 010-2016-SERFOR/DGGSPFFS, of 5 April 2016, contained the proposal for amendment to the Vicuña Annotation in CITES sent to the CITES Management Authorities of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador for their information and assessment.

In Ord. No. 043-2016-CONAF Arica and Parinacota of 11 April 2016, the Chilean Focal Point indicated that it found the proposal sent appropriate and acceptable.

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