

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Species specific matters

AFRICAN GREY PARROTS (*PSITTACUS ERITHACUS*)

1. This document has been submitted by South Africa.*
2. **17.256 (Rev. CoP18) Directed to range States of *Psittacus erithacus***

The range States should, with the support of the CITES Secretariat, relevant experts, relevant CITES Parties, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, develop National Action Plans, with timeframes, deliverables, and milestones, for the conservation of the species. The following key issues should be addressed:

- a) actions to undertake a scientifically based field survey to establish the population status of the species in the range States;
- b) the establishment and maintenance of information systems or databases relating to the populations;
- c) the development and implementation of relevant long-term monitoring systems to enable range States to monitor trends in the populations;
- d) the development and implementation of national management plans, where required. These plans should provide for regional cooperation, where appropriate;
- e) actions to implement law enforcement programmes to combat poaching and illegal trade (both national and international) and report on the results of the programmes in terms of enforcement efforts, seizures and prosecutions;
- f) the identification of suitable habitat in range States for re-population of *Psittacus erithacus* where appropriate and feasible; and
- fg) the investigation of the possibility of establishing *in situ* captive-breeding facilities for the species, in collaboration with States with breeding facilities.

17.258 (Rev. CoP18) Directed to Parties and the Secretariat

Until the 48th 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in the evaluation of applications to register facilities breeding *Psittacus erithacus* for commercial purposes, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*, consideration should be given to:

* 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.

- a) the recommendations of the Management Authority and Scientific Authority of the Party;
 - b) national measures to regulate domestic trade in this species which may not previously have been required due to its former Appendix-II status;
 - c) any compliance measures directed to the Party submitting the application to register the facility; and
 - d) whether the Party has been included in the Review of Significant Trade concerning the species in the prior 10 years from the effective listing date.
3. Decisions to remain unchanged 17.253, 17.254, 17.255, 17.257:

17.253 *Directed to the Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall seek funding to assist range States in the development and implementation of National Action Plans for the conservation of *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*

17.254 *Directed to the Secretariat*

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat, shall, in consultation with the range States, appoint relevant experts, to develop regional management plans for the conservation and management of *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*, in collaboration with the range States, relevant experts, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders; taking into account the national management plans.

17.255 *Directed to range States of Psittacus erithacus*

The range States of *Psittacus erithacus* should participate in the development and implementation of regional management plans for the conservation and management of *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.

17.257 *Directed to Parties and the Secretariat*

The Secretariat, CITES Parties, donors, relevant experts, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, are requested to support range States of *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*, as appropriate, to develop and implement National Action Plans for the conservation of the species.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. South Africa seeks to extend Decisions 17.253 to 17.258 concerning African grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*), with one amendment to Decision 17.256 for range States to identify suitable habitat for re-population of the species. Document CoP18 Doc. 81 does not contain a discussion of, or justifications for the proposed extensions and (minor) amendment.
- B. The Secretariat reminds that much of the content of Decisions 17.253 to 17.258 originates from Decisions on *Psittacus erithacus* that were agreed at CoP14 in 2010 in the context of the Review of Significant Trade (RST) of the species. At CoP17, the Secretariat reported that these Decisions (Decisions 14.82 to 14.85) had largely been complied with [see document CoP17 Doc. 21 (Rev. 1)]. The Conference of the Parties nonetheless adopted new Decisions on *P. erithacus* at CoP17, which maintained most of the activities mentioned in the CoP14 Decisions. At the same meeting, the species was transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I and, therefore, many of the activities included in the Decisions adopted at CoP17 seem to be no longer relevant, such as the development of national or regional management plans, and population monitoring systems and databases. The Secretariat notes that document CoP18 Doc. 34 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa* contain a section dedicated to illegal trade in African grey parrots in these regions.

- C. Concerning Decisions 17.253, 17.254, 17.255 and 17.257, the Secretariat considers that they do not need to be renewed and can be deleted, as they reflect activities that are no longer required or have been completed. In this regard, relevant range States are recommended to consult the outcomes of the CITES workshop on *Strengthening Capacity for Monitoring and Regulation of International Trade of African Grey Parrot*, held in Moravia, Liberia, in September 2013, to find *inter alia* information on national and regional management plans for *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*, and on species monitoring systems (see <https://cites.unia.es/cites/file.php/1/files/cb-africa-grey-parrot-en.pdf>).
- D. Concerning draft decision 17.256 (Rev. CoP18), the Secretariat proposes to remove the species management-related activities dating from a time when *P. erithacus* was included in Appendix II, and amend it as follows (deletions in ~~strikeout~~; new text underlined):

17.256 (Rev. CoP18) Directed to range States of *Psittacus erithacus*

The range States of *Psittacus erithacus* should: ~~with the support of the CITES Secretariat, relevant experts, relevant CITES Parties, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, develop National Action Plans, with timeframes, deliverables, and milestones, for the conservation of the species. The following key issues should be addressed:~~

- a) ~~actions to~~ as appropriate, undertake a scientifically based field survey to establish the population status of the species in the range States ~~to review progress made towards the restoration and conservation of the species, and in support of the activities proposed in paragraph c);~~
- b) ~~the establishment and maintenance of information systems or databases relating to the populations;~~
- c) ~~the development and implementation of relevant long-term monitoring systems to enable range States to monitor trends in the populations;~~
- d) ~~the development and implementation of national management plans, where required. These plans should provide for regional cooperation, where appropriate;~~
- e) ~~actions to implement law enforcement programmes activities to combat poaching and illegal trade (both national and international) and report results in their annual illegal trade and implementation reports on the results of the programmes in terms of enforcement efforts, seizures and prosecutions;~~
- f) ~~identify the identification of suitable habitat in range States for re-population of *Psittacus erithacus* where appropriate and feasible; and~~
- dfg) ~~assess the investigation of the possibility of establishing *in situ* captive-breeding facilities for the species, in collaboration with States with breeding facilities.~~

- E. Concerning Decision 17.258, the Secretariat supports its extension until CoP19, as proposed by South Africa.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS**

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding.