Project S-99/04-P

CITES PROJECT PROPOSAL

SECTION 1 - PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Title of Project: Status Assessment of Chattering Lory (*Lorius garrulus*) in the Moluccas, Indonesia.

1.2 Project Number: S-99/04-P

1.3 Geographic Scope: Bacan, Halmahera, Morotai and Obi, Indonesia

1.4 Implementation: Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI)
Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA)
IUCN/Species Survival Commission
BirdLife Indonesia Programme

1.5 Duration of the Project: Eight months, commencing as soon as funds are available

1.6 Cost of Project: US$ 58,100

1.7 Project Summary

The Chattering Lory (*L. garrulus*) is confined to the northern Moluccas, occurring on Bacan, Halmahera, Morotai, Obi and the smaller surrounding islands.

International concern for the status of this species led to the inclusion of *L. garrulus* in the CITES Significant Trade review in 1986. In response to that review, the CITES Animals Committee recommended a moratorium on international trade in *L. garrulus* pending a field survey to determine its status. Subsequently, a joint IUCN-LIPI-PHPA survey, conducted in 1991 and 1992, estimated the minimum population to be 46,000 individuals, based on population densities at selected sites on Bacan, Halmahera and Obi and on available habitat. A number of recommendations relating to the conservation and trade of *L. garrulus* were made as a consequence of this survey. One of these recommendations was to set moderate quotas, but the recommended quotas have been greatly exceeded. Another of the recommendations was that surveys should be carried out periodically to monitor changes in population, although this is acknowledged to be extremely difficult given the wide range of estimates using different methodologies and the bias introduced using different observers.

Following recommendations made by the CITES Animals Committee in 1994, the government of Indonesia imposed a voluntary moratorium on the export of live *L. garrulus*, although it is acknowledged that considerable domestic trade in this species took place during that period. This moratorium was lifted by Indonesia in 1997, and an export quota of 450 *L. garrulus* was set by the Indonesian government. This project is a response to concern for this species and aims to ascertain the current status and levels of harvest of the species.

SECTION 2 - BACKGROUND AND PROJECT CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL CITES IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Background

The Chattering Lory (*L. garrulus*) is confined to the northern Moluccas, occurring on Bacan, Halmahera, Morotai, Obi, and the larger surrounding islands including Rau and the Widi Islands (White and Bruce 1986). Of the three subspecies, the one occurring on Bacan and Obi,
Lorius. g. flavopalliatus, is very distinctive and the most attractive, characterized by a large, bold-yellow patch on the back. This enables relatively easy identification of the origin of specimens of this species in trade. *L. garrulus* is the most popular parrot pet in the northern Moluccas and is a very important species in both domestic and international trade.

In 1945, *Lorius g. morotaianus* was reported to be the most common parrot on Morotai and Rau (Lendon, 1946). It was still common on Morotai and in other parts of its range in the early 1980s (Smiet, 1985). However, in 1985 Milton and Marhadi (1987) rarely encountered
Lorius g. flavopalliatus on Bacan and concluded that it was an uncommon species that might soon become rare.

In 1991-1992, Lambert (1992) investigated the status and trade in of *L. garrulus* on Bacan, Halmahera and Obi. He found that *L. garrulus* was primarily a forest species and that the species is now most frequently found in hill and montane forest and on steep-sided ridges, occurring up to at least 1300 metres on Mt. Sibela, Bacan. Although tolerant of logging, evidence strongly suggests that this species does not normally frequent agricultural land. *L. garrulus* was always observed in pairs. *L. garrulus* is a nectarivore, feeding on nectar and pollen. Small groups of up to five birds were occasionally observed congregating at flowering trees (Lambert, 1992). It is likely that *L. garrulus* also acts as a pollinator for some species of trees at which it feeds and may, therefore, play an important role in the ecosystem. Pollinators that are capable of rapidly moving over long distances, such as nectarivorous parrots, may be of particular importance in the recovery of forests that have been selectively logged.

Although some accounts (Lendon, 1946) suggest that this species sometimes feeds on the flowers of coconuts along the coast, this behaviour was not observed, suggesting that it is seasonal or that populations have declined in coastal areas, as suggested by Forshaw and Cooper (1989). On Bacan, informants had not seen *L. garrulus* in coastal coconuts, but near Kelo, Obi, one informant claimed that *L. garrulus* visited coastal coconuts during prolonged dry seasons.

As with most psittacines in Indonesia, little is known about their breeding habits. Lambert (1992), however, documented breeding activity between September and October on Obi and noted that it may continue until at least late February since birds were observed entering holes at this time. Suitable nesting sites are apparently usually found in the largest trees in the forest, though this species may sometimes nest in the top of broken-off palm trunks.

International concern regarding the status of *L. garrulus* arose as a consequence of the large numbers entering international trade reported to CITES and the large domestic trade in this species. In 1986, the CITES Significant Trade project identified a number of CITES Appendix-II species believed to be traded at unsustainable levels. Although field studies of some of these species have yielded information for the elaboration of management programmes, many species continue to be traded at significant levels in the absence of essential data. In an effort to accelerate the process of collecting data, the Convention, at its seventh meeting (Lausanne, 1989) requested the assistance of IUCN in developing and conducting studies on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade. *L. garrulus* was one of those species. A field study to assess its status was conducted in 1991-92 (Lambert 1992).

Based on variable circular plots and transect data, Lambert (1992) estimated that the minimum total population of *L. garrulus* was 46,000 individuals, although maximum population size was probably considerably higher. Nevertheless, in view of the difficulties in assessing population sizes using these survey methods, the minimum value was the one used in formulating recommendations relating to harvest and harvest quotas. Anecdotal evidence obtained by interviews suggests that 15-20 per cent of *L. garrulus* die prior to shipment to other destinations in Indonesia and that during 1991 the estimated minimum number of *L. garrulus* caught for trade was 9,600. Furthermore, Lambert (1992) found that *L. garrulus* is one of the most frequent Indonesian parrots in domestic trade. Approximately 30 per cent of the specimens of this species caught were sold on the domestic market. Trade is still substantial, and during a survey on the islands of Sangihe and Talaud in 1996, *L. garrulus* was found to be a common pet on these islands, despite their isolation. Traders passing the island on their way from the Moluccas to the Philippines were said to carry significant numbers of this species (Lambert 1997). Recommendations relating to *L. garrulus* that were made in the 1992 report included:

> The mechanics of the quota system for both trapping and export should be reviewed and simplified;
>
> Each island should be treated as a management unit for the purposes of setting capture quotas;
>
> Capture quotas for *L. garrulus* should be revised in accordance with a suggested interim capture quota of 80 for Bacan, 860 for Halmahera, 100 for Morotai and 120 for Obi;
>
> There should be periodic monitoring of traded parrot populations on the islands inhabited by *L. garrulus*.

Despite the recommendations made by Lambert (1992), international trade in *L. garrulus* was reported to have increased, and illegal trade is still believed to be significant. For example, net trade in live *L. garrulus* reported to the CITES Database was: 1991 - 6,305; 1992 - 7,726; 1993 - 4,331 (Anon 1995).

At the tenth meeting of the Animals Committee the following recommendations were made to Indonesia regarding *L. garrulus*:

> Primary recommendation: The Management Authority of Indonesia should immediately suspend exports, pending the development and implementation of a population monitoring programme for *L. garrulus.*
>
> Secondary recommendation: The Management Authority of Indonesia should develop and implement a population monitoring programme and should inform the Secretariat.

In response to these recommendations, international trade in live *L. garrulus* was the subject of a voluntary moratorium by the Indonesian government (H. Jenkins *in litt*.). However, Indonesia's export quota for *L. garrulus* for 1997 is 450 (CITES Notification 980, 2 June 1997: Export Quotas for 1997). Nevertheless, despite these interim measures, there is still serious concern for this species, which may have been affected by the high level of past international trade and the present level of domestic trade. This project is a response to that concern and to the Animals Committee's recommendations. It seeks to investigate the status of the bird seven years after the 1992 survey.

2.2 Project contribution to the overall Implementation of CITES

This project will ascertain whether the population of *L. garrulus* is sufficiently robust to allow sustainable trade, and if so, make recommendations relating to the level of capture and management of harvests and harvesting practices. Recommendations relating to its conservation and the safeguarding of its habitat will also be made.

SECTION 3 - NEEDS AND RESULTS

3.1 Needs

The project responds to a recommendation CITES Animals Committee.

3.2 Results

The result of this project will depend on the status survey. It is likely that the project will result in recommendations relating to the setting of quotas for the sustainable exploitation of the species.

3.3 Assumptions to achieve results

Suitable counterparts are available for training and implementation and that the Indonesian authorities provide adequate assistance and access to all selected sites. It is assumed that the Indonesian authorities will implement recommendations resulting from the study.

SECTION 4 - OUTPUT, ACTIVITIES, WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE, BUDGET, FOLLOW UP

4.1 Output

A comprehensive report (in English and Indonesian) to the Indonesian Management and Scientific Authorities and CITES Secretariat regarding the status of *L. garrulus,* with an assessment of the effects of past and present trade.

4.2 Activities

Field activities will take place on the islands of Bacan, Halmahera, Morotai and Obi for a period of 5 to 6 months, after an initial month of training. During this time, data will be collected on the distribution and status of the species in the wild, on trapping techniques, past and present trapping levels and population trends as judged by local inhabitants. Data on other psittacines in similar habitats in the Moluccas, such as the White Cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*) and Violet-necked Lory (*Eos reticulata*) will also be collected. The following objectives will determine field activities:

to assess the present status of *L. garrulus* throughout its range and to estimate the maximum and minimum populations;

to compare the status of the species with that found in the 1991 surveys carried out by IUCN, using similar techniques;

to collect additional biological and ecological data on the species, particularly with regard to habitat preferences, diet, breeding and ranging behaviour of the three subspecies;

to provide training of Indonesian field staff from relevant institutions building up capacity to implement recommendations relating to monitoring of population;

to assess the extent of current harvest and trade in this species;

to provide recommendations for the management and conservation of *L. garrulus* and to assess the extent of implementation of recommendations made by IUCN in 1992;

to provide information on the status of other endangered bird species in the northern Moluccas, in particular those that are in trade and those considered to be threatened.

Methodology

Methodology will follow those used by Lambert (1992, 1997) in similar studies, relying primarily on Variable Circular Plot and transects and analysis of results with the programme DISTANCE. The 1992 survey included *L. garrulus,* and some of the same field sites will be revisited. Interviews and observation will provide the basis for the analysis of the impact and level of present and past trade.

4.3 Work plan and timetable

Fieldwork (including training): 24 weeks
Research and reporting: 4 weeks
Amending report after peer review: 1 week
Preparation of report for publication: 2 weeks

4.4 Budget

10	**Project Personnel**	**USD**
1100	Project personnel Salary, trainer (assumes 3 man-months; responsible for training, data analysis and report.)	15,000
	Salary of Indonesian counterparts (PHPA/LIPI personnel**)**	6,000
	Field subsistence (all personnel under 1100)	8,000
1200	Consultants (Indonesians responsible for data collection, with counterparts)	11,000
1300	Administrative personnel	1,500
1400	Volunteers	
1600	Travel on official business (includes vehicle hire, international and domestic flights)	7,500
40	**Equipment and Premises**	
4100	Expendable equipment	3,000
50	**Miscellaneous**	
5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment (includes repair and insurance of equipment)	600

5200	Reporting cost (includes review, translation, printing, distribution)	4,000
5300	Sundry (includes visas, permits, miscellaneous costs)	2,100
60	**Other Costs** Contingency for field (over-runs may be incurred in time waiting for visas and exit permits expenses/cost over-runs)	1,500
	TOTAL	**58,100**

4.5 Cash Advance Requirements

All funds for fieldwork are needed in advance of project implementation. Funds for publication and distribution of final report and final installments of consultant fees can be held back until completion of project and publication of final report.

4.6 Follow-up

A report should be distributed for peer review and subsequently submitted to the CITES Animals Committee. PHPA and LIPI are responsible for considering recommendations made by the project and implementing accepted recommendations.

SECTION 5 - INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

5.1 Institutional framework

This project will be implemented by consultants approved by the CITES Scientific Authority of Indonesia and will involve staff of the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities. IUCN and BirdLife can provide consultants if requested, as well as training and project evaluation. BirdLife has an office in Ambon and a programme in the northern Moluccas.

5.2 Evaluation

Evaluation of the research findings and conclusions will be made during peer review.

SECTION 6 - MONITORING AND REPORTING

6.1 **Progress Reports** Project duration is considered to be too short to require progress reports.

6.2 **Terminal Reports** A final report is to be completed within three months of completion of field work.

6.3 **Financial Reports:** An interim financial report is due within two weeks of completion of field work. A final financial report is due within two weeks of publication of final report.

In addition, work carried out in the field should be monitored and evaluated by IUCN.

6.4 **Terms and Conditions**

6.4.1 Non-expendable equipment will be provided by national authorities.

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