

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Myrmecobius fasciatus in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Commonwealth of Australia.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

- 11. Class: Mammalia
- 12. Order: Polyprotodonta
- 13. Family: Myrmecobiidae
- 14. Species: Myrmecobius fasciatus
- 15. Common Names: English: numbat
French: numbat
Spanish:
- 16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

Historical: At the time of European settlement the range of the numbat extended from western New South Wales, through South Australia and across much of the southern half of Western Australia.

Current: M. fasciatus now only occurs in a small area of southwestern Western Australia.

- 22. Population: There was a dramatic decline in the number of sightings in the 1970's indicating a possible population crash. However, since then populations have increased in numbers, but are estimated to total fewer than 2,000 individuals.
- 23. Habitat: Mixed eucalypt forest dominated by Eucalyptus wandoo (wandoo) or Eucalyptus marginata (jarrah). Formerly also found in Acacia aneura (mulga) woodland and Eucalyptus salmonophloia (salmon gum) woodland.

3. Trade Data

A captive breeding programme for the numbat has been commenced by the Western Australian Government with the long-term aim of re-establishing wild populations of the species in Western Australia.

31. National Utilization: Ten (10) specimens are currently held in captivity in Western Australia; three (3) are held at the Perth Zoo, and seven (7) at the Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre. Nine (9) animals have so far been bred in captivity.
32. Legal International Trade: Exportation of native Australian wildlife is regulated by the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982. No specimen of M. fasciatus has been exported since the Act came into force on 1 May 1984.
33. Illegal Trade:
34. Potential Trade Threats:
 341. Live Specimens: Trade in captive specimens currently held in zoos. There is a risk that animals could be removed from the wild for trade purposes.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Protected in Western Australia. Listed under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 as a species "likely to become extinct, rare or otherwise in need of special protection". Also included in the CONCOM national list of endangered vertebrates.
42. International: None.

5. Information on Similar Species

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6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Myrmecobius fasciatus is endemic to Australia.

7. Additional Remarks

The species is recommended for inclusion in Appendix I because of its endangered status, the potential for trade in specimens currently held in zoos and the threat this may pose to wild populations.

8. References

- Burbidge, A.A. & R.W.G. Jenkins (eds), 1984. Endangered Vertebrates of Australia and its Island Territories. Report of the Working Group on Endangered Fauna of the Standing Committee of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers. ANPWS, Canberra.
- Friend, J.A., N.D. Thomas and B.G. Turner, 1986. Re-establishment of the Numbat (Myrmecobius fasciatus) on Boyagin Nature Reserve, southwestern Western Australia. In Abstracts of the Australian Mammal Society 32nd Scientific Meeting May 20-22, 1986.
- Strahan, R., 1983. The Australian Museum Complete Book of Australian Mammals. Angus & Robertson, Sydney.