AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

The listing of the duck species included under *Anas aucklandica* in Appendix I of CITES.

B. PROPONENT

New Zealand.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves

12. Order: Anseriformes

13. Family: Anatidae

14. Species: *Anas aucklandica*
Anas chlorotis
Anas nesiotis

Until recently, the species was regarded as comprising three subspecies, *A. a. chlorotis* from mainland New Zealand, *A. a. aucklandica* from the Auckland Islands and *A. a. nesiotis* from Campbell Island. However, in recognition of large and consistent differences between the groups, and in anticipation of further taxonomic work, they have most recently been treated as separate species (Marchant and Higgins 1990).

15. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish:

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The brown teal (*A. chlorotis*) was originally widely distributed in lowland swamps and swamp forests of the three main islands of New Zealand. It persists on Great Barrier Island, Rakitu Island, Little Barrier Island and a few Northland and Fiordland sites.

The Auckland Island teal (*A. aucklandica*) is found on seven of the subantarctic Auckland Islands but has been extirpated from the main Auckland Island.

The Campbell Island teal (*A. nesiotis*) is now restricted to Dent Island, a small island off Campbell Island.

22. Population: All three species have become considerably rarer over the last century, largely due to the impact of introduced predators but also as a result of habitat modification. The Campbell Island teal is by far the most threatened, numbering some 60-100 (McClelland 1993). The Auckland Island teal comprises 1500-2000 individuals, while the brown teal has less than 2000 birds (M.J. Williams pers. comm).

23. Habitat: The main impacts on habitat of the mainland species have been the result of coastal development such as draining of wetlands, urbanisation and intensive farming. Also of crucial importance has been the impact of introduced predators such as rats, cats and mustelids. The relict distribution of the subantarctic teal is a result almost entirely a result of introduced predators, although the Campbell Island teal is at risk from occasional catastrophic landslides.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: The brown teal (*A.chlorotis*) has been bred highly successfully in New Zealand (Hayes and Williams 1982). Birds from breeding operations are available for release into the wild. A small number of institutions hold pairs of Auckland Island teal (*A. aucklandica*) and successful breeding has been achieved. Only a small number of the Campbell Island teal (*A. nesiotis*) are held captive but there has been no successful breeding to date. Because of the rarity of the Campbell Island species, the Auckland Island teal breeding programme is being used as a surrogate for learning breeding and rearing techniques.

32. Legal International Trade: Small numbers of *A. chlorotis* are held at Slimbridge in the United Kingdom. There may be birds elsewhere, but we do not have information to confirm this.

33. Illegal Trade: No information is available. However, given the rarity and relative ease of keeping and breeding at least two of the species, demand could be high.

34. Potential Trade Threats

341. Live Specimens: As rare and threatened species of duck, the brown and subantarctic teals are under potential threat from illegal trade. However, the subantarctic species are protected to some degree by the remoteness and difficulty of access of their islands.

342. Parts and Derivatives: No known threats.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The species is protected by the Wildlife Act 1953.

42. International: The Campbell Island subspecies is listed in CITES Appendix I while the other two subspecies are listed in Appendix II.

43. Additional Protection Needs: There is an active captive-breeding programme within New Zealand for all three subspecies in New Zealand. While the efforts of non-governmental groups such as Ducks Unlimited, private breeders and the Department of Conservation facilities have had considerable success with the brown teal and some success with the Auckland Island teal, more work is required before any success is achieved with the Campbell Island subspecies.

5. Information on Similar Species

NA.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

NA.

7. Additional Remarks

The listing of the whole species under Appendix I is warranted in view of its status, the trends in its population and its actual and potential interest to keepers and breeders of rare waterfowl. The proposal also provides a small opportunity for rationalisation and simplification of the listings. While, the perilous status of the Campbell Island teal clearly warrants its Appendix-I status, the other two subspecies are also sufficiently at risk to render upgrading appropriate.

8. References

Ornithological Society of New Zealand. 1990. Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand and the Ross Dependency, Antarctica. 3rd Edition. Random Century in association with OSNZ. Wellington. 247pp.

Hayes, F.N. and Williams, M.J. 1982. The status, aviculture and re-establishment of Brown Teal in New Zealand. Wildfowl 33:73-80.

McClelland. P. 1993. Subantarctic Teal Recovery Plan. Threatened Species Recovery Plan Series No.7. NZ Department of Conservation. Wellington.