

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Other proposals

A. **Proposal**

Inclusion of Northern Helmeted Curassow (*Pauxi pauxi*) in APPENDIX II in accordance with Article II 2 (a) ~~X~~ Conference Resolution 9.24

B. **Proponent**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands;

C. **Supporting Statement**1. **Taxonomy**

- 1.1 Class: Aves
- 1.2 Order: Galliformes
- 1.3 Family: Cracidae
- 1.4 Genus, species, subspecies: *Pauxi pauxi* (Linnaeus, 1766)
- 1.5 Scientific synonyms: *Crax pauxi*
- 1.6 Common names: Northern Helmeted Curassow (Helmeted/Galeated Curassow)
 Spanish: Paují de Yelmo
 Dutch & German: Helmhokko
 French: Hocco à pierre
- 1.7 Code numbers:

2. **Biological Parameters**

2.1 Distribution

The nominate race of this curassow was formerly common in the northern coastal mountains (500 - 2000 m but mostly 1,000 - 1500 m) of central Venezuela. Its status in the Andes of Merida across the border into Colombia and the adjacent departments of Colombia is unknown. The race *gilliardi* from the Sierra de Perijá on the Colombia/Venezuela border is also believed to be under great pressure. (Collar et al 1992)

2.2 Habitat availability

The species occupies very dense, wet, cool, mountain forest on steep slopes in the subtropical and adjacent upper tropical and temperate zones. It avoids forest

edge, preferring humid gorges with a thick undergrowth of dwarf palms and terrestrial aroids. In the Venezuelan Coastal Range this species seems to prefer windward northern slopes. Females tend to select drier places when nesting. Birds are highly site-faithful and tend to seek safety in lower branches when not foraging on the ground for fallen fruit and seeds, or taking grasses, buds, and leaves.

Deforestation in both Venezuela and Colombia have reduced the habitat available for this species. (Collar et al 1992)

2.3 Population status

The species has been described as occurring at a naturally low level of abundance with 5 - 10 birds per km², but nevertheless in drastic decline. The nominate subspecies was described as already very rare in Colombia over 25 years ago, and there appears to be no subsequent evidence of its status there or indeed of the race *gilliardi* in either Colombia or Venezuela. It is estimated that a total population of less than 2,500 mature individuals exists, which is also severely fragmented. (Collar et al 1994)

2.4 Population trends

In the last century this species was common in the mountains of Northern Venezuela. In 1875 a collector took more than 50 specimens in just a few weeks. Even in the 1950s it was thought to be fairly abundant. In Colombia the nominate race was considered to be very rare in 1965. In 1987 the species was said to suffer a drastic decline in Venezuela. Now it is held to be scarce in some areas and virtually exterminated in settled locations. A further decline of between 50 and 80% is anticipated due to habitat loss and potential levels of exploitation. (Collar et al 1994)

2.5 Geographic trends

2.6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

2.7 Threats

Deforestation and indiscriminate hunting - even in national parks - both in Venezuela and Colombia are responsible for the substantial decline in this species.

It is vulnerable to human disturbance, notably road construction and use. It is hunted for meat and for its horn which is used in the making of necklaces.

3. Utilisation and Trade

3.1 National utilisation

The species is hunted for both meat and the ornamental use of its helmet.

3.2 Legal international trade

In the period 1980 to 1992 from such records as are available 9 specimens were exported from Venezuela and one from Brazil.

3.3 Illegal trade

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Apart from the export of live specimens, there may or could be a market in the necklaces and other ornaments containing helmet.

3.5 Captive breeding (outside country of origin)

Over 300 birds, mostly captive bred, are in a centre in Mexico. Of forty birds recorded in various collections by ISIS (June 1993) all but one were reported as captive-bred.

4 Conservation and Management

4.1 Legal status

4.1.1 National

4.1.2 International

Listed on Appendix III of CITES by Colombia on 21.9.88

4.2 Species management

4.2.1 Population monitoring

4.2.2 Habitat conservation

The species occurs, but is hunted, in Rancho Grande National Park, Venezuela, and also in Guatopo and Yacambú National Parks. In Colombia it is present in both El Cocuy and Tamá National Parks.

4.2.3 Management measures

A major educational campaign is being mounted in both Venezuela and Colombia to generate interest in saving the species. A proposal to support a captive breeding and reintroduction programme has been elaborated.

4.3 Control measures

4.3.1 International trade

The species has been listed on Appendix III of CITES by Colombia since September 21st 1988. It is also proposed for listing on Annex B of the draft EU CITES Regulation.

4.3.2 Domestic measures

In Colombia commercial hunting of all birds has been prohibited since 1973 under resolution No. 849

In Venezuela virtually all hunting of indigenous wildlife was banned in 1970

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Other Comments

Classified as Endangered in Birds to Watch 2 under IUCN threat categories A2b,c;C1;C2a (1994) and as Endangered in the 1990/1992 IUCN Red List.

7. Additional remarks

8. References

8.1 Collar NJ, Crosby MJ, and Stattersfield AJ (1994) *Birds to Watch 2: The World List of Threatened Birds*, BirdLife International, Cambridge UK

8.2 Collar NJ, Gonzaga LP, Krabbe N, Madroño Nieto A, Naranjo LG, Parker TA, and Wege DC, (1992) *Threatened Birds of the Americas - The ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book* Third Edition part 2, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington and London.

8.3 Erritzoe J (1993) *The Birds of CITES* The Lutterworth Press, Cambridge UK

8.4 International Species Information System (1993) *ISIS Bird Extract*, ISIS, Apple Valley MN USA

8.5 Mulliken T A, (1995) *Responses to Questions Posed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds*, Traffic International, Cambridge UK

8.6 World Conservation Monitoring Centre (1993). *World Checklist of Threatened Birds*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough