CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Other proposals

A. **PROPOSAL**
Transfer of *Vini peruviana* from Appendix II to Appendix I

B. **PROPONENT**
Germany

C. **SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

1. **Taxonomy**

1.1	Class:	Aves
1.2	Order:	Psittaciformes
1.3	Family:	Loriidae
1.4	Genus:	Vini
	Species:	V. peruviana (Müller, 1776)
1.5	Scientific synonyms:	-
1.6	Common names:	English:Blue Lorikeet, Tahitian Lory, Tahitian Blue Lory French:Lori nonette German:Saphirlori, Tahiti-Blaulori Others:Vini, Kurämoó
1.7	Code numbers:	A-218.001.011.004

2. **Biological Parameters**

2.1 Distribution:
Fairly wide-spread but distributed irregularly in Southeast Polynesia. Has been recorded so far from 23 islands (COLLAR et al. 1994). Occurred formerly on all Society Islands of French-Polynesia. Is now only found on the islands of Motu One, Manuae of the Scilly Atoll and on Bellingshausen.
Also found on the islands of the Tuamotu-Archipels (French-Polynesia). The species is and was found on the island of Rangiroa, Arutua (probably extinct, LOVEGRAVE et al. 1989), and Tikehau. Other populations might still occur on islands which have -partly- not been visited since 1923 and which have suitable habitat. Evidence pointing to the existence of a population on Tiamanu motu was recorded in 1989 (Apataki-Atoll) (LOVEGRAVE et al. 1989). Locals state that the species is also found on No'otina (as well as Apataki).

The species occurs isolated on Aitutaki (Cook-Inseln, New Zealand), where it was most likely introduced by humans (PRATT et al. 1987).

Vini peruviana inhabits those areas in the low land where trees occur but preferably coconut plantations and gardens, especially those with coconut and banana trees (WILSON 1993). On Aitutaki, the species was also found occassionally in hibiscus forests (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) (WILSON 1993).

2.2 Habitat Availability

2.3 Population Status
LAMBERT et al. (1993) gives a population size of 1.500-4.000 specimens. A more precise overview is given in the following analysis of the population size on the various islands and island groups.

Society Islands:
500 individuals still live on the islands of Motu One (Atoll Bellingshausen); 600 to 800 possibly still on Manuae (=Fenua Ura, Atoll Scilly) (ROBILLER 1992, COLLAR et al. 1994). The bit of information on Scilly refers to estimates from 1974 (THIBAULT & GUYOT 1988). Whether the species exists on Bellingshausen is not known for certain (Kühn 1988).

Tuamotu-Archipel (French-Polynesia):
In 1993, 36 birds were sighted in total. Another population of several hundert animals might exist. ROBILLER (1992) gives a number of 100-200 birds for the island population. There are further small populations on Arutua and Tikehau. 60 individuals are believed to survive on the latter (POULSEN et al. in THIBAULT & GUYOT 1988, COLLAR et al. 1994).

There might be some populations on two more islands of the Tuamotu-Archipels (Apataki and Kaukura) and on islands which have - partly - not been visited since 1923 and which have suitable habitat as in the case of the Tiamanu motu (Apataki-Atoll) where at least 300 specimens were recorded in 1989 (LOVEGRAVE et al. 1989). According to locals there is also a small population on another island of the atoll of 10-12 specimens (LOVEGRAVE et al. 1989).

Cook-Islands (New Zealand):
A bigger population of approximately 1000 specimens can be found on Aitutaki (Cook-Inseln, New Zealand), where the species has most likely been introduced by humans (COLLAR et al. 1994). The population appears to have been stable within the last century which might be due to the fact that no rats occur on the island (WILSON 1993).

Only very few specimens are currently kept in captivity. Some are kept with the
San Diego Zoo and others most likely with the Loro Parque in Teneriffa (KÜHN 1988).

2.4 Population Trends
Vini peruviana was formerly found on all Society Islands (French-Polynesia) (COLLAR et al. 1994). There are records from Raiatea, Tahaa, Huahine, Moorea, Tahiti, Niau, Bora Bora, Makatea and Mopelia (THIBAULT & GUYOT 1988). The species became extinct on Bora Bora where it used to be common in the course of the 1920s (KING 1981). Today the species range is restricted to the islands of Motu One and Manuae (=Fenua Ura) (Bellingshausen and Scilly atolls). It was estimated that a population of 700-800 specimens exists on Manuae (=Fenua Ura) (THIBAULT & GUYOT 1988). The current population size on this island is not known. The species has become extinct on a number of Southeast-Polynesian islands such as Tahiti. The reason for this has been the introduction of rats (*Rattus rattus*) and cats. The same applies to the island of Tiamanu motu (Apataki) according to local people. The species could also be found on other islands of the atoll but disappeared after cats were introduced (LOVEGRAVE et al. 1989). The populations on Rangiroa and Tikehau which were thought to number still up to 200 specimens in 1980 and 1981 declined after heavy storms according to CAPPEL (zit. in ROBILLER 1992). Lovegrave et al. (1989) state that the species is extinct on Tikehau and Kaukura.

The population appears to have been stable within the last century on Aitutaki (Cook Islands, New Zealand) which might be due to the fact that no rats occur on the island (WILSON 1993).

2.5 Geographic Trends
Was formerly found on all Society Islands(French-Polynesia). The species is today restricted to the islands of Motu One and Manuae (COLLAR 1994). Subsequently, the original geographic range of *Vini peruviana* has decreased significantly.

2.6 Role of the Species in its Ecosystem

2.7 Threats
Introduced rats and the Swamp-Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus approximans*) are the major threats to the species according to SEITRE & SEITRE (1992) . The rat (Rattus rattus) seems to pose the biggest threat . When rats are introduced to an island where *Vini peruviana* occurs, populations start to decline to the point where the species becomes extinct SEITRE & SEITRE 1992).

Even though it is illegal to catch and sell the birds, locals still pose a further threat (COLLAR et al. 1994). Other threats are introduced cats, possibly mosquitos [Culicoides, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, transmitters of bird malaria (Plasmodium relictum)] (LOW 1994, ROBILLER 1992). KING stated in 1981 that mosquitos were the cause for the disappearance of the species from the island of Niau. LOW (1994) believes that the use of insecticides on banana plantations might be also be a certain threat because the species does like the banana flowers. The species is further impaired by a growing competition for nesting sites with the Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) which has been introduced to a number of islands (KÜHN 1988).

Threat status according to Collar (1994): Vulnerable: B1 + 2d;C2a

The species meets the following criteria in accordance with the "Criteria for Admendment of Appendices I and II, Annex 1": A i, ii, v, B i, iii, iv, C i, ii.

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1 National Utilization

3.2 Legal International Trade

CITES-reported trade 1980-1992 14 birds:

Year	Country of origin	Number of birds
1980-1984	Bolivia	6
1980-1984	Great Britain	2
1991	French Polynesia	6

3.3 Illegal Trade

In 1977 some birds were imported illegally into the USA and confiscated by customs (LOW 1989).

3.4 Actual or Potential Trade Impacts

3.5 Captive Breeding for Commercial Purposes (Outside Country of Origin)

4. Conservation and Management

4.1 Legal Status

4.1.1 National

Protected by law on Society Islands and Rangiroa

4.1.2 International

Listed in CITES Appendix II.

4.2 Species Management

4.2.1 Population Monitoring

4.2.2 Habitat Conservation

4.2.3 Management Measures

Attempts to reintroduce the species in 1940 to Tahiti failed (ROBILLER 1992). A private protection area was established on Tetiaroa (50 km away from Tahiti). The few specimens which were introduced had disappeared in 1985 after heavy storms. Their survival on the atoll was most unlikely anyway due to the existence of the Swamp-Harrier (RINKE in ROBILLER 1992). Metall cuffs were put around nesting trees on some islands in order to protect the species from rats (KÜHN 1988). LAMBERT et al. (1993) state that an international captive breeding programme for the species is already in place.

Conservation programmes including the establishment of breeding groups are undertaken by the San Diego Zoo according to an agreement between the Zoo and French Polynesia (ROBILLER 1992).

4.3 Control Measures

4.3.1 International trade

4.3.2 Domestic Measures

5. Other Comments

The CITES Management Authority of France has been contacted in October 1996. In response France has approved the proposal (annex 1).

6. References

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Annex

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Objet : Propositions de la République Fédérale Allemande d'amendements des Annexes de la CITES, en vue de la X Conférence des Parties (Harare/Zimbabwe, juin 1997).

Cher Collègue,

Je vous prie de trouver ci-joint les avis de l'Autorité scientifique française relatifs à des propositions d'amendements des Annexes de la CITES, émanant de votre établissement, en vue de la prochaine Conférence des Parties.

Avec l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs

Dr. Geneviève HUMBERT
Responsable des conventions internationales

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AVIS SCIENTIFIQUE
de l'Autorité scientifique française pour la CITES

Convention concernée : CITES

Objet : Transfert de *Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I.
Transfert de *Amazona agilis* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I.
Transfert de *Vini peruviana* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I.
Transfert de *Aceros waldeni* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I.
Transfert de *Eunymphicus cornutus uvaeensis* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I.
Transfert de *Amazona viridigenalis* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I.
Transfert de *Vini ultramarina* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I.
Transfert de *Vini kuhlii* de l'Annexe II à l'Annexe I.
Inscription de *Tangara fastuosa* à l'Annexe II.

Avis : favorables sur toutes les propositions.

Expert consulté : C. ERARD (Laboratoire de Zoologie Mammifères & Oiseaux).

Date : 08/11/1996.