

PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

- A. **PROPOSAL:** Listing of *Amazona tucumana* in Appendix II.
- B. **PROPONENT:** Government of the Argentine Republic
- C. **SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

1. **Taxon**

- 1.1 Class: Aves
1.2 Order: Psittaciformes
1.3 Family: Psittacidae
1.4 Genus/Species: *Amazona tucumana*
1.5 Common names:
Spanish: loro alisero
French: Amazone de Tucuman
English: Tucuman Amazon, Alder Parrot

2. **Biological data**

2.1. Distribution

Southeast Bolivia (Chuquisaca and Tarija) and northeast Argentina (Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán and Catamarca). Distribution possibly discontinuous.

2.2. Population

Despite the absence of data permitting a quantitative assessment of the populations of the species, the total population can be reckoned to number at least 20,000, considering that in 1985 alone 7,500 individuals were captured (see below) and that since then ten years have elapsed. According to Nores, although the species is not very common in the major portion of its range, it can be found in great numbers locally. The largest number reported by that author is between 1,500 and 2,000 individuals in the El Rey National Park (Salta) in 1976. In recent surveys of that park Babarkas et al. describe it as "common" in that area. According to Fjeldsa, it has disappeared from many areas as a result of deforestation.

2.3. Habitat

The whole of its range lies within Yungas. In summer it nests in woods of alder (*Alnus acuminata*) and hill pine (*Podocarpus parlatorei*) at altitudes of between 1,500 and 2,600 m. In August it moves down to the mountain forests and transitional woods at the edge of the "chaco" (scrubland).

2.4. Migrations

Movements from one altitude to another occur until the beginning or middle of August, from the alder woods to forests and woods at a lower altitude, and back again in November. At the end of spring and in summer the alder and hill pine wood offers abundant food. At the advance of winter there is snowfall at these altitudes, giving rise to movement towards more varied forests and woods. During this period individuals are usually seen sharing resting places with *A. aestiva* (albeit always in smaller numbers) in transitional woods at the edge of the "chaco" below 300 m above sea level.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population

In Argentina the species suffered from the intensive capture of adults and juveniles between 1983 and 1989 for marketing as mascots. According to provincial customs officers in that country, in that period 29,385 individuals were marketed, most of them for export purposes. According to the same source, the highest figure was recorded in 1985 with 7,500 individuals concerned. A large proportion are thought to come from Bolivia, a country where there was and still is a prohibition on the capture and sale of the species. The biggest importer was the USA. The CITES decision to list it in Appendix I (prohibition on international trade) in 1989 was undoubtedly the right one in view of the scant knowledge possessed about the biology of the species and the high prices that it was fetching on the market, higher than any other psittacine species in Argentina, including *Amazona aestiva*. At the present time there is no organized capture or sale of the species. It is possible that a few specimens are captured and marketed locally each year.

3.2. Habitat destruction

In Argentina, within the species' range, there still exist extensive areas of alder woods and mountain forests, some of which are protected by national parks (see below). However, outside these areas, the mountain forests are subject to intensive (and unregulated) tree felling. Even more worrying is the fate of the transitional woods (occupied by the species during part of the winter and spring) as they are rapidly being replaced by cropland, with no part of the woods being placed under protection. In Bolivia there is also increasing destruction of the alder parrot's habitat in the southeastern portion of its range.

3.3. Indirect threats

Although requirements regarding nesting sites are not known, it can reasonably be expected that the felling of large-size trees in forests will reduce the availability of suitable hollows for nesting.

3.4. Threats specially related to migrations

Although little is known about seasonal migration routes, a significant portion of the population undoubtedly passes through extensive unprotected areas. Since large numbers of the species congregate outside the breeding season, such concentrations are exposed to possible threats such as hunting or habitat destruction.

3.5. National and international utilisation

Between 1983 and 1989 there was intensive trade in the species. At the present time a few individuals get caught in the nets of hunters who capture *A. aestiva* in the wintertime in the vicinity of resting places. It is possible that they are sold locally although there is no evidence of this.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

The National Wildlife Act (22.421/81) gives effect nationally to the decisions adopted by CITES at the Conferences of the Parties. Accordingly, since 1989 it has been prohibited to trade in the species within the territory of Argentina. Part of its habitat is protected in the

National Parks of Calilegua (76,000 ha), Baritú (72,439 ha) and Campo de Los Alisos (250,000 ha) and in the provincial parks and reserves of Río Yala (4,292 ha), La Florida (9,892 ha) and Sosa (890 ha).

4.2. International protection status

In 1989, at the seventh Conference of the Parties to CITES, the species was listed in Appendix I (prohibition on international trade). In Bolivia trade in the species is prohibited and part of its habitat is protected in the Tariquía National Reserve (246,870 ha).

4.3. Additional protection needs

In Bolivia it would be desirable to grant protection status to EBA B57 (21° 30' S 64° 52'W) in the western part of Tarija, which contains substantial portions of the alder woods. In Argentina, although it is not known to what extent the transitional woods may be important for the species during the critical months, it seems necessary as a matter of urgency to establish protected areas that are representative of this habitat given that it has been totally replaced by cropland in the southern portion (Catamarca, Tucumán and southern Salta) and since the same will be happening in the next ten years or so in the northern portion of Argentina (Jujuy and northern Salta). There is also a need to carry out as soon as possible detailed studies on all aspects of the biology of the species since at present only a tiny amount is known on this subject.

5. **Range States**

Argentina and Bolivia.

6. **Comments from Range States**

7. **Additional remarks**

8. **References**

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