

Deletion of Guadalupe Caracara *Caracara lutosa* from Appendix II

Proponent: Mexico

Summary: The Guadalupe Caracara *Caracara lutosa* was a falcon endemic to the 240 km² Guadalupe Island in the Gulf of California, Mexico. It was described in 1875 but by 1889 it was thought to have been extirpated from the island as a result of persecution from local goat farmers protecting their livestock through poisoning and hunting. However, eleven individuals were reportedly collected in 1900. A survey in 1906 failed to locate a single individual, and more recent surveys through the 20th century have found no individuals. The species is classified on the IUCN Red List as Extinct.

Caracara lutosa was listed in Appendix II in 1975 as part of the listing for all Falconiformes, of which all species are included in either Appendix I or II except for *Sarcoramphus papa*, listed in Appendix III by Honduras in 1987. The Guadalupe Caracara was one of three species in the genus *Caracara*, and was similar in appearance to the two others *Caracara cheriway* (Northern Crested Caracara) and *Caracara plancus* (Southern Crested Caracara), both extremely widespread birds in the Americas, neither of which is considered threatened. There has been some trade in *Caracara plancus* with 323 live birds reported as exported since 1977, around 14% of these being reported as hatched or bred in captivity. Minimal trade has been recorded for *Caracara cheriway* since 2008 (one live, one captive-bred body and four scientific specimens).

In the highly unlikely event of the species being rediscovered it would be protected by Mexican legislation under the Ley General de Vida Silvestre which would only authorize the use of specimens of species at risk when prioritizing collection and capture for restoration activities, restocking and reintroduction.

Analysis: *Caracara lutosa* was last recorded in the wild at the start of the twentieth century. Since then surveys conducted over an appropriate time-frame have not found any specimens in the wild; it is now considered to be extinct. It has not been recorded in international trade since it was listed in Appendix II as part of the listing of all Falconiformes. It is said to have resembled two other caracaras, one of which seems to be in moderate demand internationally. In the highly unlikely event of its rediscovery, Mexican legislation would prevent its collection for purposes other than conservation and would prohibit its export for commercial purposes. It does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. However, because *Caracara lutosa* was listed in Appendix II as part of the listing of all Falconiformes (at a time when it was undoubtedly already extinct), it is not clear that removing the species from the Appendices would simplify the implementation of the Convention.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
Mexico	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Range</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>IUCN Global Category</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Classified as Extinct in 1988.</p>
Extinct	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
Biological and trade criteria for retention in Appendix II (Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2 a)	
<u>A) Trade regulation needed to prevent future inclusion in Appendix I</u>	
<p>The Guadalupe Caracara <i>Caracara lutosa</i> was an endemic to Guadalupe Island in the Gulf of California, Mexico, which is now considered extinct. The species was discovered by Dr. Edward Palmer in 1875 at which time it was apparently present and abundant throughout the island. Ten years later (1885) a significant decrease in population numbers of the species was observed. In 1896, four individuals were seen by goat hunters and one was seen in March 1897. By 1889 it was reported that the species had been extirpated from the islands. However, in 1900 a flock of eleven individuals (the last remaining individuals on the island), were collected by Rollo Beck, a scientific collector. During a two-month stay on the island in 1906 researchers failed to see a single individual. Similarly, there have been no individuals of this species recorded in recent surveys at the end of the 20th century. The species is listed as Extinct in both Mexican law (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010) and by IUCN.</p>	<p><i>Howel and Cade (1953) stated that the species was last recorded in 1903 and was now extinct.</i></p> <p><i>No trade has been recorded for this species.</i></p>
Retention in Appendix II to improve control of other listed species	
<u>A) Specimens in trade resemble those of species listed in Appendix II under Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2 a or listed in Appendix I</u>	
	<p><i>Listed in Appendix II in 1975 along with all Falconiformes spp.</i></p> <p><i>No trade has been recorded for this species.</i></p> <p><i>Similar in appearance to Caracara cheriway (Northern Crested Caracara) and probably also Caracara plancus (Southern Crested Caracara). Minimal trade has been recorded for Caracara cheriway since 2008 (one live, one captive-bred body and four scientific specimens). There has been more trade in Caracara plancus with 323 live birds reported as exported, around 14% of these being reported as hatched or bred in captivity. Around 80% were reported as for commercial trade or with no reported purpose.</i></p>
Other information	
<u>Threats</u>	
<p>The species was persecuted by inhabitants of Guadalupe Island because it attacked baby goats. Additionally the scientific collection of skins, grazing and uncontrolled breeding of goats caused a significant reduction in available habitat for nesting and feeding of this species.</p>	<p><i>The primary cause of the species's decline was direct persecution by settlers (BirdLife International, 2012; Greenway, 1967).</i></p>

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<u>Conservation, management and legislation</u>	
	<i>Were the species to be re-discovered it would be classified as "En peligro de extinción" (In danger of extinction) and under the Ley General de Vida Silvestre the only authorized collection of specimens would be for restoration activities, restocking and reintroduction.</i>

References:

- BirdLife International (2012). *Caracara lutosa*. In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 29 November 2012.
- Greenway, J. C. (1967). *Extinct and vanishing birds of the world*. Dover Publications, New York.
- Howell, T. R. and Cade, T. J. (1953). The birds of Guadalupe Island in 1953. *Condor* 56: 283-294.