

Deletion of Grey Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii* from Appendix II

Proponent: Switzerland, as Depositary Government, at the Request of the Animals Committee (prepared by New Zealand)

Summary: The Grey Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii* is endemic to India and inhabits subtropical and tropical moist forests, bamboo thickets, open woodlands and dry deciduous shrubland. The species has a wide range, estimated at around 1 million km². It is believed to be affected by habitat loss and by some illegal hunting for its meat for domestic consumption. Good populations are likely now to be mainly confined to protected areas. The overall population is believed likely to be declining, though not at a rate fast enough to merit classifying the species as threatened. It was assessed as of Least Concern in 2012 by BirdLife International.

Gallus sonneratii was one of several species of Galliform included in Appendix II in 1975 owing to concerns about the international trade in their feathers – the males possess long neck hackles (elongated feathers) with very distinctive patterning, which are in demand for making fishing flies. In the period 2000–2010, nearly 240 000 *G. sonneratii* feathers were recorded in the CITES trade database as in international trade; 99% of these were reported as coming from captive-bred birds and virtually all exported from non-range States. Over half were exported from the UK to the USA in 2001. Very little trade in feathers has been reported since 2004. There is a small amount of trade in live, captive-bred birds. The species is reported to be easy to keep in captivity. No other species of *Gallus* is listed in the Appendices.

The species is legally protected from hunting in India. There are records of seizures of illegal shipments from India in the CITES Trade database but no records of legal commercial export. There is additional evidence to suggest some illegal trade in feathers from wild sourced birds in India to Europe.

Gallus sonneratii was one of 18 species of Galliformes chosen to be reviewed between CITES CoP13 and CoP15 as part of the Periodic Review of the Appendices. At AC26 (Geneva, 2012) the Animals Committee recommended that *Gallus sonneratii* should be deleted from Appendix II and requested Switzerland, as Depositary Government to submit this proposal.

Analysis: The Grey Junglefowl has been listed in Appendix II since 1975. It has a large though evidently fragmented range in India in which it is regarded as at least locally common. The population is thought likely to be declining, albeit slowly, and the species is not currently considered threatened. The major use of the species internationally is to supply feathers for use in fly-fishing. It is easily bred in captivity and all legal supply of feathers is derived from birds captive-bred outside the range State. The species is legally protected in India, although is subject to illegal harvest, primarily for local consumption as food, with evidence of some illegal export of feathers and skins, although this is believed to be at a relatively low level. It is unlikely that deletion of the species from the Appendices would result in it qualifying for inclusion in the Appendices in the near future. The species has not been subject to a recommendation under the provisions of the Review of Significant Trade within the last two intervals between meetings of the Conferences of the Parties.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
India Least Concern (Assessed 2012)	<u>Range</u> <u>IUCN Global Category</u> Least Concern (Assessed 2012, criteria version 3.1)

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><i>Gallus sonneratii</i> is widely distributed in southern and central peninsular India. Its range is estimated to be 1 000 300 km².</p> <p>The overall population size has not been determined but the species is considered to be locally common throughout much of its range.</p> <p><i>Gallus sonneratii</i> has largely disappeared from lowland and cultivated areas.</p> <p>The species is suspected to be declining, but the decline is not considered to be sufficiently rapid to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (>30% decline over ten years or three generations).</p>	<p><i>Madge and McGowan (2002) comment that the extensive range of this species may be deceptive as strong populations are now largely confined to protected areas.</i></p> <p><i>The population size has not been quantified, but it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (i.e. to have <10 000 mature individuals with a continuing decline estimated to be >10% in ten years or three generations) (BirdLife International, 2012).</i></p> <p><i>Populations are increasingly fragmented, in particular in Kerala (del Hoyo et al., 1994).</i></p> <p><i>The species's range is now highly fragmented across India due to agricultural encroachment and other anthropogenic activities (Ramesh et al., 2011).</i></p> <p><i>Ramesh et al. (2011) conducted line transects in Theni Forest Division, Western Ghats and found densities varying from 3.7 to 9.5 birds per km².</i></p>
<u>B) Regulation of trade required to ensure that harvest from the wild is not reducing population to level where survival might be threatened by continued harvest or other influences</u>	
<p>The vast majority of the legal trade is of loose feathers, skins or skin (neck) pieces for use of feathers in manufacturing lures for fly-fishing hooks (Table below).</p>	<p><i>Demand for hackles for fly fishing seems to be satisfied with captive-bred birds (del Hoyo et al., 1994). Feathers are used for a wide variety of artificial flies, including the woolly bugger, one of the most popular lures in North America; skin pieces for this use are referred to as bugger saddles (www.featheremporium.com). Saddles from captive bred birds in the USA are priced at USD35-80 depending on quality. Capes (feathers from around the neck) from birds bred in the UK are offered for sale on websites for GBP30-100.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions on forums indicate that a pair of <i>Gallus sonneratii</i> will cost approximately USD80-150, and that they are much easier to raise than other junglefowl. One contributor suggests using <i>Gallus sonneratii</i> as a "starter" bird for people interested in raising more difficult junglefowl such as <i>Gallus varius</i> (backyardchickens.com, 2010).</i></p> <p><i>The annual number of feathers reported by importers (excluding records measured in kg/sets) appears to be declining (Figure below). Of the 238 821 feathers in trade between 2000-2010, 99% were reported as being captive-bred (source code 'C'). The largest import was of 146 523 feathers from captive-bred birds into the USA from the UK in 2001. India, the only range State, reportedly exported 18 feathers and 30 skin pieces between 2000-2010, all of which were confiscated or seized (source code 'I').</i></p>

Supporting Statement (SS)

Gross Exports/Imports of *Gallus sonneratii* (in most cases, the unit value is the number of specimens). Data from CITES Trade Database.

Term	Total (1975-1999)	Wild (1975-1999)	Total (2000-2010)	Wild (2000-2010)
Bodies	8	3	0	0
Feathers	72 544	29 653	273 620	2540*
Garments	219		201	
Live	731	290	270	0
Pairs of shoes	24	24	0	0
Skin pieces	3240	2650	5221	0
Skins	1786	82	719	0
Specimens	1203	1200	0	0
Trophies	3	3	4	3
Unspecified	192	25	0	0
Watchstraps	6	6	0	0
Grand Total	79 956	33 936	280 035	3

* The apparent export of 2540 wild-sourced feathers since 2000, mainly from UK (2140 in 2008-09), Canada (206) and the US (193) may be in error, because none were exported from India, the only range State.

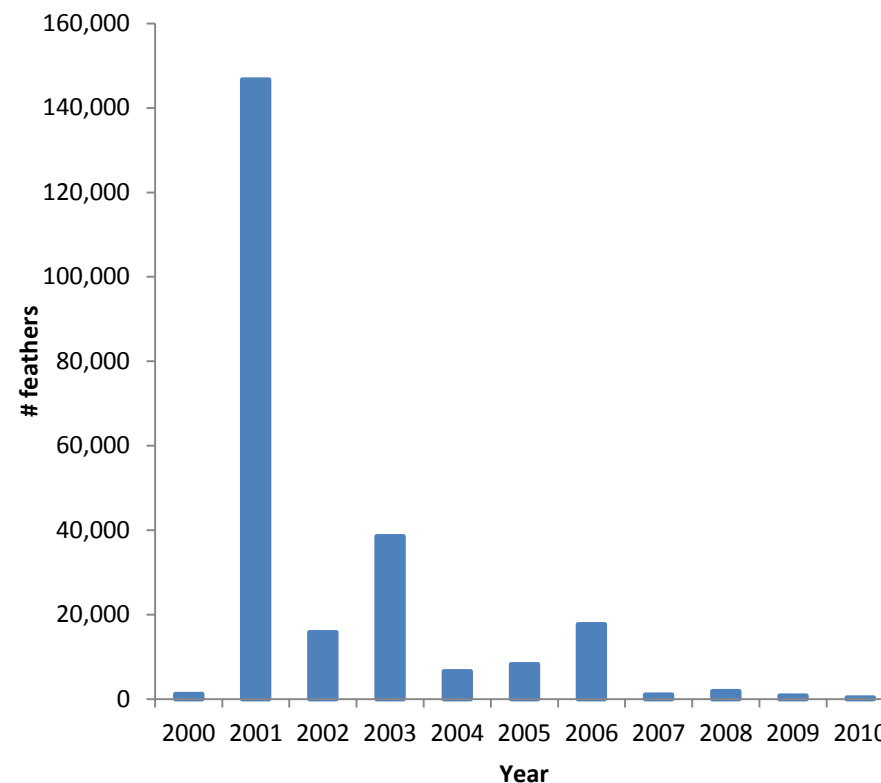
The main exporters since 2000 have been UK and Canada, and the main importers were the US, Norway, Canada and India.

Exports of live birds since 2000 were mainly from the Netherlands (256) to the United Arab Emirates (180), and Thailand (46).

Illegal trade Information is not readily available, but is not believed to be significant.

Actual or potential trade impacts information is not readily available, but capture for trade does not appear to be a significant issue.

Additional information



Number of feathers reported (by importers) in trade between 2000-2010.

The countries which reported exporting the greatest number of feathers between 2000-2010 were the UK, Kenya, Canada and Denmark. The countries which reported importing the greatest number was the US, Norway, Canada, the UK and Japan.

There is evidently some illegal trade in feathers and skin pieces from India. According to seizures data collected by EU Member States between 2005-2010, 16 skins, 58 feathers, 261 specimens and 15 bodies were illegally imported into the EU from India. According to the CITES Management Authority of Latvia (Nature Conservation

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	<p>Agency) in litt. 2012, specimens imported into Latvia were falsely declared as domestic cock. The CITES trade database contains records of 218 feathers and 37 skin pieces that have been seized, the majority of which were reported as coming from EU countries or India. There does not appear to be an overlap in the seizures from these two data sources.</p> <p>Finnish and Indian authorities investigated an individual who was sending Gallus sonneratii parts from India to a fishing tackle company in Finland (Hirvonen, 2012), indicating at least some of the illegal trade is for commercial purposes. A search of the individual's office in 2010 resulted in the seizure of 934 pieces of Gallus sonneratii neck feathers which were ready to be smuggled from India to an EU Member State (Czirák, in litt., 2012).</p> <p>The price of necks from wild birds imported from India to Norway was a tenth of the price of necks from captive-bred birds from the UK imported to Norway (Czirák in litt., 2012).</p> <p>Ahmed (in litt., 2012) notes that the main reason for poaching is for meat of which the major by-product are sets of neck feathers which are then routed to be traded in an organized manner for the fly-fishing industry (Ahmed in litt., 2012). He believes that poaching is a significant problem for the species.</p> <p>In their wildlife enforcement identification notes, the US Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (1996) comment that the colour and definition of feathers from captive-bred fowl is poor.</p>

Retention in Appendix II to improve control of other listed species

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

<p>Similar to Red Junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i>, Green Junglefowl <i>G. varius</i> and Sri Lanka Junglefowl <i>G. lafayetti</i>, but neck feathers and neck skins, which form the bulk of international trade in <i>G. sonneratii</i>, are readily identifiable.</p>	<p>None of the similar species noted in the SS are currently listed in the CITES Appendices.</p>
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Other information

Threats

<p>Primary threats to the species are habitat loss and degradation caused by agricultural practices and encroachment, timber extraction and fires.</p> <p>Illegal hunting for meat, often using snares, is a threat.</p>	<p>Firewood collectors may destroy essential vegetation in the forest understorey and take eggs. The main threat in Periyar Tiger Reserve appears to be egg collecting and poaching (Zacharias, 1997).</p> <p><i>Gallus sonneratii</i> can hybridise with Red Junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i> in the narrow zone where the two ranges overlap (Madge and McGowan, 2002) and domestic fowl</p>
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<i>(Eriksson et al., 2008). This may endanger the long-term genetic purity of the species.</i>	
<u>Conservation, management and legislation</u>	
<p><i>Gallus sonneratii</i> has been listed in CITES Appendix II since 1975, and is currently included in EU Annex B.</p> <p>Protected from hunting through its listing in Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.</p> <p>The range of <i>Gallus sonneratii</i> includes many protected areas, such as National Parks and Tiger Reserves.</p>	
<u>Captive Breeding/Artificial Propagation</u>	
<p>Records of this species in captivity in Europe indicate that there were 80 adult birds and 109 young raised in 2011, mainly in Germany and France. In 2012, 38 captive individuals were recorded in nine International Species Information System (ISIS) institutions outside India. All of these records rely on voluntary submission of records.</p> <p>There are records of 68 captive individuals in seven zoos in India in 2011/12.</p>	
<u>Other comments</u>	
<p>The proposal was sent to the Management and Scientific Authorities of India on 17 August 2012 with a request for comments. As of 24 September 2012, those officials had not responded.</p>	

Reviewers: P. McGowan, R. Thomas.

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