

## Deletion of Crescent Nailtail Wallaby *Onychogalea lunata* from Appendix I

### Proponent: Australia

**Summary:** The Crescent Nailtail Wallaby *Onychogalea lunata* was one of three members of the genus *Onychogalea* (part of the Kangaroo family or Macropodidae) endemic to Australia. It was a small wallaby, formerly distributed over a large part of western central Australia. The last reliable report dates from 1956. In 1964 a wallaby carcass from the Gibson Desert was reportedly identified as this species on the basis of a still greasy mandibular fragment, but the specimen was not preserved and the authenticity of this record has been questioned. The species has been classified as Extinct by IUCN since 1982.

*Onychogalea lunata* was included in CITES Appendix I in 1975, when the Convention came into force. No trade in any specimens has ever been recorded.

In the highly unlikely event of the species being rediscovered, it would be covered by Australian legislation that prohibits the export of native mammal species for commercial purposes and requires a permit for export for non-commercial purposes.

Of the two other species in the genus, one, the Bridled Nailtail Wallaby *O. fraenata*, from Queensland, is classified by IUCN as Endangered and is included in Appendix I; the other, the Northern Nailtail Wallaby *O. unguifera*, is classified by IUCN as Least Concern and is not listed in the Appendices.

**Analysis:** Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) notes in Annex 4 (Precautionary measures) that no species listed in Appendix I shall be removed from the Appendices unless it has been first transferred to Appendix II, with monitoring of any impact of trade on the species for at least two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (para. A. 1). It also notes: 'Species that are regarded as possibly extinct should not be deleted from Appendix I if they may be affected by trade in the event of their rediscovery; these species should be annotated in the Appendices as 'possibly extinct' (para. D).

It is not evident that either of these two apply in this case. Para. A. 1 clearly applies to extant species as there can be no impact of trade on an extinct species, while para. D applies to species that are 'possibly extinct' rather than species that are regarded as extinct, as in the present case. There is no reason to assume that the species would be affected by trade in the extremely unlikely event of its rediscovery. Export for commercial purposes would be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
Australia	<u>Range</u>
Extinct	<u>IUCN Global Category</u>
	Classified as Extinct in 1982 (Thornback and Jenkins, 1982).

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<b>Biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I</b>	
<p><b><u>A) Small wild population</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>(i) Population or habitat decline; (ii) small sub-populations; (iii) concentrated geographically during one or more life-history phases; (iv) large population fluctuations; (v) high vulnerability</u></b></p>	
<p>Extinct.</p> <p>There are no quantitative population trend data for this species. It declined at the eastern and western extremities of its range during the last two decades of the 19th century. It was common in the south-west agricultural zone until after 1900. Thereafter its decline appears to have been precipitous; several specimens were collected between 1904 and 1907; the last Western Australian specimen was collected in the south-west in 1908. It persisted in remote parts of South Australia and Western Australia until the late 1920s. It was reported to be in small numbers in the southern Flinders Ranges-Northern Mt Lofty region of South Australia by 1941, although it had disappeared from South Australian coastal areas by about 1900. One was reportedly killed between the Tarlton and Jervois Ranges, Northern Territory in or about 1956. Unsubstantiated reports came from the Carnarvon Range, Western Australia in the 1960s and the Warburton Ranges, WA in 1964, but there have been no further verifiable records. Aboriginal people reported the Crescent Nailtail Wallaby had disappeared from the Flinders Ranges of South Australia by the 1890s and from western deserts by the 1940s.</p>	<p><i>There is a record from Western Australia in 1964, when a dead wallaby found near the Gahnda Rockhole in the Gibson Desert, apparently killed by a fox, was reportedly identified on the basis of a still greasy mandibular fragment; the veracity of this record has been questioned and the specimen was not preserved (Thornback and Jenkins, 1982).</i></p>
<b>Trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I</b>	
<b><u>The species is or may be affected by trade</u></b>	
<i>Never reported in trade under CITES.</i>	
<b>Precautionary Measure</b>	
<p>The EPBC Act regulates trade in CITES listed and Australian native wildlife and their products. Export of live Australian native mammals is strictly prohibited for commercial purposes but they may be exported for specific non-commercial purposes (e.g. for research, education or exhibition). As an Australian native mammal an Australian native export permit would be required for the export of <i>O. lunata</i> even if it were removed from the CITES Appendices.</p> <p>If the species was rediscovered, any take from the wild would be strictly regulated by relevant Australian domestic environmental legislation.</p>	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p><b>Other information</b></p> <p>The reasons for the extinction of <i>O. lunata</i> are unknown but this may have resulted from the cumulative effects of competition for grazing with introduced herbivores (e.g. rabbits, sheep); habitat loss exacerbated by overgrazing, erosion, altered fire regimes and drought; loss of habitat mosaic which formerly provided drought refuges; and predation by introduced predators.</p> <p>The genus <i>Onychogalea</i> includes two other endemic, extant Australian wallaby species: Northern Nailtail Wallaby <i>O. unguifera</i> and Bridled Nailtail Wallaby <i>O. fraenata</i>. <i>Onychogalea fraenata</i> was formerly distributed across a large part of inland eastern Australia. It was hunted extensively and thought extinct until its rediscovery in 1973. It now survives only in two small protected areas in western Queensland. <i>Onychogalea unguifera</i> has a wide distribution across tropical Australia, where it inhabits savannahs and grasslands. It is not threatened but is apparently uncommon in parts of its range.</p>	<p><b><u>Threats</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Similar species</u></b></p> <p><i>Onychogalea fraenata</i> is listed in <i>CITES Appendix I</i>; a very small amount of trade in this species was recorded in the 1980s. <i>Onychogalea unguifera</i> is not listed in the <i>Appendices</i>.</p>

**References:**

Thornback, J and Jenkins. M. (1982). *The IUCN Mammal Red Data Book part 1*. IUCN, Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland.