

Deletion of Buff-nosed Rat-kangaroo *Caloprymnus campestris* from Appendix I

Proponent: Australia

Summary: The Buff-nosed Rat-kangaroo *Caloprymnus campestris* was a small marsupial recorded in semi-arid and arid areas in eastern central Australia. It bore a resemblance to species of bettong *Bettongia* but was placed in its own genus. The last definite records of the species were in 1935. There were unconfirmed sightings in western Queensland following periods of rain in 1956-1957 and 1974-1975 and in South Australia as recently as 1988 although a comprehensive search in north-east South Australia and south-west Queensland carried out between 1984 and 1989 failed to find convincing evidence of its survival. The species is believed likely to have been affected by predation by introduced Red Foxes *Vulpes vulpes* and feral cats and by habitat alteration owing to grazing by cattle. These factors are so pervasive that it is thought highly unlikely that the species still survives. It is now classified as Extinct by IUCN.

Caloprymnus campestris was included in CITES Appendix I in 1975, when the Convention first entered into force. It has never been recorded in international trade.

In the 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.

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 applies in this case. Para. A. 1 clearly applies to extant species as there can be no impact of trade on an extinct species. With regard to para. D there is no reason to assume that the species would be affected by trade in the unlikely event of its rediscovery. Commercial export would, in any event, be prohibited by Australian legislation.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
Australia	<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;">Extinct</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Classified as Extinct in 1994.</i></p>

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p>Biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I</p> <p>A) Small wild population (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</p> <p>Extinct.</p> <p>The Buff-nosed Rat-kangaroo was endemic to arid regions of South Australia and Queensland. The species was first described by John Gould in 1843 based on three specimens from South Australia. It was over 90 years later in 1931 that the species was first recorded in the wild by Finlayson near Ooroowilanie, east of Lake Eyre, South Australia. The historical records indicate that the species was always rare and patchily distributed. The last reliable sighting of the Buff-nosed Rat-kangaroo was in 1935. Since then unconfirmed sightings have been recorded in Queensland in 1956–1957 and 1974–1975 following periods of drought-breaking rains and in South Australia up until 1988.</p> <p>A comprehensive search for the Buff-nosed Rat-kangaroo in north-east South Australia and south-west Queensland was carried out between 1984 and 1989. The study involved an examination of historical accounts, a study of Aboriginal names and places where the species possibly occurred, interviews with people that sighted the species in the 1920s to 1950s, a poster seeking the public to report sightings and spotlight surveys of selected sites. The study did not find the species; however, evidence was found of sightings during the 1970s to 1980s that described a small wallaby that matched the description of <i>C. campestris</i> and was seen within parts of its assumed former range. The most compelling evidence that the species survived up until 1988 was sightings of bettong-like animals on Clifton Hills Station of South Australia. One of the animals was observed carrying nesting material in its tail which was behaviour of <i>C. campestris</i>.</p>	
<p>Trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I</p>	<p><u>The species is or may be affected by trade</u></p> <p><i>Never reported in trade under CITES.</i></p>
<p>Precautionary Measures</p> <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>Caloprymnus campestris</i> even if it were removed from the CITES Appendices.</p>	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
If the species was rediscovered, any take from the wild would be strictly regulated by relevant Australian domestic environmental legislation.	
Other information	
<u>Threats</u>	
The rapid decline of the Buff-nosed Rat-kangaroo in the 1930s coincides with the invasion of the Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> into its habitat. Predation by feral cats and red foxes and habitat alteration due to grazing by cattle and rabbits are likely to have contributed to the extinction of the species along with the bust cycles that the populations experienced during drought conditions. Given these threats, it is considered unlikely that the species will reappear as it had in the past following a good season of rain.	
<u>Similar species</u>	
Other species of rat-kangaroo, especially <i>Bettongia</i> spp. are similar in appearance.	<i>The genus Bettongia is currently included in Appendix I. The CITES species database recognises 4 extant spp, all endemic to Australia; IUCN Red List includes an additional extinct species (B. pusilla) known only from sub-fossil remains.</i>
<u>Other comments</u>	
	<i>The species was classified as Indeterminate by IUCN in 1982 (Thornback and Jenkins, 1982) and was reclassified as Extinct in 1994 (Australasian Mammal Assessment Workshop, 2008).</i>

References:

- Australasian Mammal Assessment Workshop (2008). *Caloprymnus campestris*. In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 22 October 2012.
- Thornback, J. and Jenkins. M. (1982). *The IUCN Mammal Red Data Book part 1*. IUCN, Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland.