

Deletion of Pig-footed Bandicoot *Chaeropus ecaudatus* from Appendix I

Proponent: Australia

Summary: The Pig-footed Bandicoot *Chaeropus ecaudatus* was a highly distinctive Australian marsupial, regarded as the sole representative of the family Chaeropodidae, although previously included with other bandicoots in the family Peramelidae. It formerly had an extensive range in the interior of Australia. The last confirmed specimen was collected in 1907, with sightings and unconfirmed records reported into the 1920s, recollections of the species by the Pintupi people in the Great Sandy and northern Gibson Deserts into the 1950s and reports by Aboriginal people of its presence in and around the Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory into the 1960s. The species has been classified as Extinct by IUCN since 1982.

Chaeropus ecaudatus was included in CITES Appendix I in 1975, when the Convention came into force, by which time it was almost certainly extinct. No trade in any specimens has ever been recorded under CITES.

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.

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
Family Chaeropodidae	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Taxonomy</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Formerly included in the family Peramelidae (Thornback and Jenkins, 1982)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Range</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> </p>
Australia	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<u>IUCN Global Category</u>	
Extinct	<i>Classified as Extinct in 1982 (Thornback and Jenkins, 1982).</i>
Biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I	
<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 last confirmed records of the Pig-footed Bandicoot were in 1843 for Western Australia and in 1857 for New South Wales. Aboriginal testimony indicates that the Pig-footed Bandicoot disappeared from arid South Australia between 1910 and 1920. There were reports from Aboriginals in the Northern Territory that suggest the Pig-footed Bandicoot survived until the 1960s in the Tanami Desert and areas west of this region.</p>	<p><i>The only confirmed specimen in the 20th century was one collected on the west bank of North Lake Eyre in 1907 (Thornback and Jenkins, 1982).</i></p> <p><i>Reports of sightings in central Australia during the 1920s were unconfirmed. Burbidge et al. (2008) reported that there were recollections of this species by the Pintupi people in the Great Sandy and northern Gibson Deserts into the 1950s.</i></p>
Trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I	
<u>The species is or may be affected by trade</u>	
<i>Never reported in trade under CITES.</i>	
Precautionary Measures	
<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>Chaeropus ecaudatus</i> even if 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>	
Other information	
<u>Threats</u>	
<p>The reasons for the extinction of the Pig-footed Bandicoot are unknown. Collapse of <i>C. ecaudatus</i> populations was rapid after European settlement. Population declines preceded the establishment of the European Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> and Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> but feral cats <i>Felis catus</i> were established. Feral cats may have contributed to its decline. The most likely cause of extinction of the Pig-footed</p>	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p>Bandicoot was alteration to its habitat. Changes in fire regimes coincided with declines in the Aboriginal population during the 19th century. The mosaic burning practices of the Aboriginals encouraged patches of fresh new growth which would have favoured the Pig-footed Bandicoot as it was a grazer. Sheep and cattle introduced in large numbers by the Europeans may have also affected habitat structure and food availability for the Pig-footed Bandicoot.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Similar species</u></p> <p>The species can be easily distinguished from other bandicoots by its very distinctive feet.</p>	<p><i>One other species of bandicoot, the Western Barred Bandicoot Perameles bougainville, is listed in CITES Appendix I; it is quite different in appearance from Chaeropus ecaudatus.</i></p>

References:

- Burbidge, A., Dickman, C. and Johnson, K. (2008). *Chaeropus ecaudatus*. 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.