

**CoP17 Prop. 19. [Angola, Chad, European Union, Gabon, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and United States of America] Transfer of African Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* from Appendix II to Appendix I**

The African Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* has an extensive range across Central and West Africa, where its relatively low productivity and gregarious nature makes it particularly vulnerable to trapping for the wild bird trade. This trade has been implicated as a major cause of decline, which has been noted in at least 20 of its 22–23 range States. BirdLife International recently recognized the two former subspecies as full species: Timneh Parrot *P. timneh* from central Cote d'Ivoire westwards and Grey Parrot *P. erithacus* from eastern Cote d'Ivoire east across Central Africa. IUCN state of both “The rate of decline is hard to quantify, but given the massive level of capture for trade and the high levels of forest loss in parts of the range a decline of 30-49% in three generations (47 years) may be a conservative estimate” and also state that data on *P. (e) erithacus* suggest that around 21% of the wild population is being harvested annually. Nevertheless, with little evidence from large parts of its range there is insufficient basis to determine with confidence that the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I are met.

Currently, *P. erithacus* is listed in Appendix II, with much reported trade now in captive-bred birds originating outside of range States. The species has already been included in the Review of Significant Trade three times (in the 1980s, in 2004 and 2011), resulting in recommendations for various exporting range States. Currently Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have published annual export quotas of 3,000 and 5,000 specimens respectively. The Animals Committee imposed a two-year ban from January 2007 on exports of *timneh* while in 2016 the Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend imports of African Grey Parrots (*erithacus*) from DRC, the major exporter in recent years, because of persistent trade irregularities (Notification 2016/021).

Clearly current measures in place to protect this species from over-exploitation have failed over a number of years and are continuing to do so. Given the above irregularities and ongoing reported declines caused by trapping, a suspension of further trade from wild sources appears to be in the conservation interest of the species.

**ACCEPT**