

Transfer of the populations of *Vicugna vicugna* of Bolivia that are in Appendix I to Appendix II for the sole purpose of allowing the international trade in products made from the wool from live sheared animals bearing the label “VICUÑA – BOLIVIA”. Proponent: Bolivia.

Summary: The Vicuña *Vicugna vicugna* is a wild camelid, prized for its fine quality wool. It is native to the high Andes of Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Peru. Females produce their first young at 2-3 years and generally produce a single young per year thereafter. The global Vicuña population decreased to a few thousand during the mid-1960s and the species was included in Appendix I in 1975. With improving management and increasing populations, a number of populations have been transferred to Appendix II since 1987.

The first Bolivian populations, comprising 70% of the national population (in the Conservation Units of Mauri-Desguadero, Ulla Ulla and Lipez-Chichas), were transferred to Appendix II in 1997 with an annotation to allow only trade in cloth (not wool) made from live-sheared Vicuña, but with a zero export quota. At CoP11 the zero quota was removed, but a further proposal to transfer the remaining populations to Appendix II was withdrawn. Any specimens not specified in the annotation will continue to be deemed to be Appendix-I listed specimens. Bolivia established an export quota for fibre of 1.975 kg in 2000; of 2102 kg for 2001, and no quota for 2002 has been circulated to the Parties. Oversight of trade and management is provided for in Resolution Conf. 11.6 which requires Vicuña range States to report on levels of exports and numbers of animals sheared and for the Secretariat to compile this information for consideration at meetings of the Conference of Parties. The current Appendix-I listed populations of Bolivia number an estimated 15 670 animals distributed within an area of just over 80 000 km². The estimated population increased from 10 502 in 1996 to 15 670 in 2001. By proposing live shearing of wild animals, Bolivia wishes to create the economic incentives for communities within the range of the Vicuña to engage in the conservation, management and sustainable use of the species. The present proposal seeks the transfer of the remaining 30% of the Bolivian population to Appendix II in accordance with Article IIa, but does not refer to the criteria for amendment of the Appendices outlined in Resolution Conf. 9.24. The proposed transfer will be for the sole purpose of allowing the international trade in products made from the wool from live sheared animals bearing the label “VICUÑA – BOLIVIA”.

Analysis: Following Resolution Conf. 9.24, the remaining 30% of the Bolivian population proposed for transfer to Appendix II does not appear to meet any of the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I: the population is not small, nor is the distribution restricted and the population is still increasing. With regard to the precautionary measures, Bolivia seems to have an adequate monitoring system in place and coordinated enforcement efforts persist despite a limited budget and the large areas involved. A similar proposal was submitted to CoP11 but was withdrawn by Bolivia to facilitate further dialogue with the other countries which are signatory to the *Convenio para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vicuña*; the current proposal has the support of this organisation. The acceptance of this proposal would resolve the split-listing of the Bolivian population, which Resolution Conf. 9.24 Annex 3 notes should be avoided.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<u>Range</u>	
Range States of <i>Vicugna vicugna</i> are: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru; there is a small introduced population in Ecuador.	<i>Bolivia: populations of the conservation and management units of Patacamaya-Malla, Mauri-Sabaya, Desaguadero-Poopo, Altamachi-Morochata, Uyuni, Tupiza-Sarna; populations already included in Appendix II are those of the Conservation Units of Ulla Ulla (now renamed), Mauri-Desaguadero, and Lipez-Chichas.</i>
<u>IUCN Global Category</u>	
LR/cd	

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
Biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I	
<u>A) Small wild population</u>	
(i) Population or habitat decline; (ii) small sub-populations; (iii) one sub-population; (iv) large population fluctuations; (v) high vulnerability due to biology or behaviour	
This proposal covers 30% of the estimated national population of 56 383 Vicuña.	<i>The number of Vicuña covered by this proposal was estimated to be 15 670 in 2001.</i>
<u>B) Restricted area of distribution</u>	
(i) Fragmented or localised population; (ii) large fluctuations in distribution or sub-populations; (iii) high vulnerability due to biology or behaviour; (iv) decrease in distribution, population, habitat or reproductive potential	
National distribution covers 34 285 km ² .	<i>The area covered by this proposal is unclear.</i>
<u>C) Decline in number of wild individuals</u>	
(i) Ongoing or historic decline; (ii) inferred or projected decline	
The estimated national population was 33 844 in 1996; 45 162 in 1999; 49 234 in 2000, and 56 383 in 2001.	<i>The population under consideration was estimated to be 10 502 in 1996; 12 246 in 1999; 13 209 in 2000 and 15 670 in 2001. Population numbers from Mauri-Sabaya are recorded as having doubled in 2000-2001 suggesting an anomaly in the data.</i>
<u>D) Status suggests inclusion in Appendix I within 5 years</u>	

Trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I

The species is or may be affected by trade

As Bolivia will be trading in cloth made from wool sheared from live animals, the transfer of the remaining Bolivian populations to Appendix II is unlikely to stimulate trade in, or cause enforcement problems for, this or any other species included in Appendix I. The process of shearing live animals has resulted in an average mortality rate of 0.76%. Hence, harvest should not be of significant detriment to the population.

A recent study estimated a potential global demand for Vicuña wool of 37 100 kg. A fleece can produce 0.2 kg wool on average and raw fibre has been auctioned for up to USD 500/kg (FWS, 2002).

CITES Annual Report data show that 1 068 m of cloth was exported to the United Kingdom in 1991-1992. In 1993, 77 live animals were exported to Ecuador to establish an introduced population and in 2000, 762 specimens were exported for scientific purposes to the USA.

Bolivia established an export quota for fibre of 1975g in 2000; of 2 102 kg for 2001, but no quota for 2002 has been circulated to the Parties.

Precautionary Measures

B2a: CoP satisfied with: implementation of Article IV, Annex 4, Res Conf 9.24

The SS sets out plans to expand population monitoring, to control poaching and to monitor exports.

B2b: CoP satisfied with: enforcement controls, Annex 4, Res Conf 9.24

Commercial production of fabric of Vicuña wool is only just being launched. There is a stockpile of 195 kg of wool live-sheared from Appendix-II listed animals, as well as 206 whole hides, 89 half hides, 25 hides from young animals and 83 scraps of hide.

Resolution Conf 11.6 requires that Parties to the Convenio para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vicuña report to the Secretariat annually on the quantity of products exported, the numbers of animals sheared and the local populations to which they belong. The Secretariat will report the results to

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p>Bolivia is redoubling training programmes and information campaigns to fulfil the commitments to CITES. Game wardens, community wardens, park rangers, national police, armed forces and customs authorities will all be involved in the Vicuña Monitoring System.</p>	<p><i>the CoP in working document, Doc. 24.</i></p> <p><i>Increases in population numbers are attributable in large part to the protection provided by campesino communities, particularly those with government sponsored game wardens (FWS, 2002).</i></p> <p><i>The details of the monitoring system are not clear, in terms of determining, whether or not wool has been obtained legally.</i></p>

Other information

Threats

Subsistence poaching, carried out by local people most of whom live in extreme poverty, is estimated to result in the annual deaths of just over 2% of the national Vicuña population. Commercial poachers also operate, and in one area, Toledo, gangs killed an estimated 12% of the local population.

There are consistent indications of illegal poaching and trade within Bolivia. Although systematic measures are in place to deal with it, the problem is made difficult by the large areas involved (FWS, 2002).

TRAFFIC South America (2002) comments that there is no consensus as to the magnitude of poaching.

Vilá (2002) points out that the antagonism to Vicuña is a threat to populations. TRAFFIC South America (2002) concurs that the biggest threat to Bolivian Vicuña populations is marginalization, exclusion, lack of interest and animosity from local people.

Conservation, management and legislation

Bolivia's National Program for the Conservation of Vicuña has advanced steadily since its inception in 1997. It focuses on the use of free-ranging Vicuña populations and the development of regional management associations to give custody over Community Managed areas to local communities. It ensures that effective population monitoring is carried out annually. Under this programme, habitat conservation measures will be developed and a five year national management plan will be drafted. Local communities will have to organise themselves into co-operatives and will require training in Vicuña capture and shearing techniques.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS, 2002) reports on the legal development of laws relevant to Vicuña conservation and management. Custodianship of the Vicuña was granted to rural communities in March 1997 (Supremo Decreto 24529). These communities now have exclusive rights to use Vicuña fibres, subject to listed obligations and management conditions. The System for the Protection of the Vicuña is established in this decree.

An estimated 24% of the national population occurs within protected areas.

Similar species

Vicuña are readily distinguished from the other three species of South American camelids. The fur of Guanacos and some Alpacas is similar to that of Vicuña, but can be readily differentiated by measuring the hair.

Captive breeding

The Patacamaya Experimental Station, run by the Service of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, currently holds 65 semi-captive Vicuña for research. The Station also raises orphaned Vicuña.

The Patacamaya Experimental Station holds animals for experimental purposes, and not for the production of parental stocks or the equivalent. The whole Bolivian programme is focused on management of wild populations (TRAFFIC South

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America, 2002).

Other comments

The growth in Vicuña populations in Bolivia has led to increasing conflicts with local people, only the generation of economic incentive from the trade in Vicuña wool can change the negative attitude.

The proposal is supported by the *Convenio para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vicuña* (Vicuña Convention).

TRAFFIC South America (2002) argues that the creation of an economic incentive is the only viable weapon against poaching, as the capacities of police and military forces are very weak.

Reviewers: TRAFFIC South America, B. Vila.

References:

FWS (US Fish and Wildlife Service), 2002. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Certain Vicugna Populations from Endangered to Threatened With a Special Rule *Federal Register* 67(104): 37695-37723, May 30, 2002.

TRAFFIC South America, 2002. *in litt.* to TRAFFIC International, Cambridge, UK.

Vila, B., 2002. *in litt.* to IUCN/SSC, Cambridge, UK.