

**Transfer of the population of *Vicugna vicugna* of the Primera Región of Chile from Appendix I to Appendix II through the modification of annotations – 106 and +211.
Proponent: Chile.**

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, subject to Annotation °606 which restricted exports to cloth made from wool sheared from live Vicuña and later to raw wool from live shearing and from stockpiles. 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 etc and for the Secretariat to compile this information for consideration at meetings of the Conference of Parties.

In Chile, 97% (ca 17 000 animals) of the national Vicuña population occurs in the Primera Región, and in 1987 part of this population (that in the Caquena management area and the Vicuña National Reserve) was transferred to Appendix II, leaving the Lauca National Park, the Volcan Isluga National Park and the Salar de Surire National Monument populations and any Vicuñas outside these protected areas in the Primera Region in Appendix I. The remaining 3% of the national population outside the Primera region are also listed in Appendix I. The SS does not provide detailed information on the total population proposed for transfer, but some information is available on the Lauca National Park where the population is estimated to be 6700 animals, ranging over some 1 344 km² and not declining. Since 1991 Chile has exported small quantities of Vicuña wool and cloth. Fairly regular population censuses are carried out. Chile is exploring the husbandry of Vicuña in semi-captivity to generate incentives for conservation for local communities. New legislation allows the sustainable management of protected species. The proponent seeks transfer of the Appendix-I listed population of the Primera Región of Chile to Appendix II, but does not state that the transfer will be subject to annotation °606 (which limits the effect of the transfer to trade in wool and manufactured products from live sheared animals). The basis for this proposal appears to be that the Vicuña population has increased since 1975 and may even have reached carrying capacity and that by providing local people with the possibility of an income from the species, conservation will be enhanced.

Analysis: It is hard to determine what the population under consideration actually comprises and therefore whether or not it continues to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. On the basis of information presented on the population of the Lauca NP, the remaining population of Vicuña in Primera Región does not appear to be small, or to have a restricted distribution and is not in decline or likely to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I within five years. The precautionary measures set out in Annex 4 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 are thus relevant. However, it is not clear if Precautionary measures B 2bi) and B 2bii) are addressed adequately. Management and trade monitoring are not described in any detail. The development of semi-captive stocks is apparently envisaged, but it is not clear that semi-captive management is beneficial to conservation of the species. Annotation: Chile does not appear to be proposing that its population is transferred to Appendix II with the same annotation as the other range States, so it appears that trade would not be restricted to wool and cloth made from live sheared wool.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p>Chile: Primera Región excluding those populations already in Appendix II.</p> <p>Range States of <i>Vicugna vicugna</i> are: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru; there is a small introduced population in Ecuador.</p>	<p>Range</p> <p><i>Populations of the Caquena Management Area and the Vicuña National Reserve are already in Appendix II, so the proposal refers to all other Vicuña in Primera Region. Protected areas in this region reportedly inhabited by Vicuña include Lauca National Park, the Volcan Isluga National Park and the Salar de Surire National Monument. It is not clear how many additional Vicuña occur outside these protected areas.</i></p>

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<u>IUCN Global Category</u>	
<i>LR/cd</i>	
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	
<p>The bulk (97%) of the national Vicuña population occurs in the Primera Región. The population of the Lauca National Park within this region, is estimated to be 6 700 animals, but according to the SS, the Lauca NP population would not be subject to harvesting for wool.</p>	<p><i>The populations in the Caquena Management Zone and the National Vicuña Reserve of the Parinacota Province were transferred to Appendix II in 1987. All other populations were retained in Appendix I.</i></p> <p><i>FWS (2002) reports that 96% of Vicuña in Chile are found within the Caquena Management Zone, the National Vicuña Reserve and Lauca National Park, all within Parinacota Province of the Primera Región.</i></p> <p><i>Vilá (2002) expresses concern about the lack of detail provided in the SS regarding the populations currently included in Appendix I and those that would be transferred.</i></p>
<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	
<p>The range occupied by the Lauca National Park population comprises 1 344.5 ha.</p>	<p><i>The remaining range of Appendix-I populations in the Primera Región is not clear. The SS cites data on Vicuña range in hectares but comparison with data in other publications suggest that the units of area must actually be km².</i></p>
<u>C) Decline in number of wild individuals</u>	
(i) Ongoing or historic decline; (ii) inferred or projected decline	
<p>Populations of Vicuña are thought to have reached carrying capacity. The national population has recovered from 2 176 in 1975 to over 17 000 in 2001, and peaked at over 25 000 in 1990. Bonacic (1996) estimated that the carrying capacity of Vicuña in Chile is 22 776.</p>	<p><i>Nationally, the Vicuña population has increased greatly since 1975. Estimates in 1989 suggested a national population of 27 900 animals (Glade and Cunazza, 1992). The same data source shows that in 1989 the Lauca population was estimated to number 10 000 animals; the estimate in the SS indicates that the population numbered 6 700 animals in 2001.</i></p> <p><i>Bonacic (2002) in a more recent publication states that the Chilean population peaked in 1990 at 22 463 and mentions various methods of calculating carrying capacity, which yield results in the range of 22 000 to 31 000 Vicuña in Chile.</i></p>
<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

Vicuña wool is a valuable commodity.

A recent study estimated a potential global demand for Vicuña wool of 37 100 kg. A fleece can produce

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p>The proposal describes harvesting of the wool, presumably referring to live-shearing, but this is not explicit.</p>	<p><i>0.2 kg wool on average and raw fibre has been auctioned for up to USD 500/kg (FWS, 2002).</i></p> <p><i>CITES Annual Report data from Chile for 1991-2001 indicate exports of 55 kg of hair and a few shipments of cloth and specimens.</i></p> <p><i>Vilá (2002) points out that Vicuña may suffer increased mortality after shearing if the weather is bad. According to the SS of CoP 12 Prop. 13, the process of shearing live animals has resulted in an average mortality rate of 0.76%.</i></p>

Precautionary Measures

B2a: CoP satisfied with: no enforcement problems for other species, Annex 4, Res Conf 9.24

The transfer of the remaining population of the Primera Región to Appendix II is not likely to stimulate trade in, or cause enforcement problems for, any other species included in Appendix I.

B2b: CoP satisfied with: i) implementation of Article IV, Annex 4, Res Conf 9.24

According to the SS for CoP 12 Prop. 13, the process of shearing live animals has resulted in an average mortality rate of 0.76%. Hence, harvest would not be of significant detriment to the population.

The SS is not explicit about whether it would propose to trade under Annotation 606 which only allows the export of wool sheared from live animals and cloth made from that wool.

Implementation of Article IV, particularly of the non-detriment finding, is unclear, although population monitoring is undertaken.

According to FWS (2002), the Chilean Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) will reportedly take charge of capture, register the quantity of harvested fibre, seal the warehouse where the fibre would be stored, provide export permits including dealing with the registering and offering for sale of products. The report concludes that the adequacy of regulatory mechanisms have not yet been demonstrated and that this factor is a threat to the Vicuña in Chile.

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

Enforcement issues are discussed only in general terms.

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 the CoP in working document, Doc. 24.

There is no information provided in the SS about management, marking of products, harvest or export quotas, or returns of revenue.

Bonacic (2002) points out that there is no mention in the SS of the main enforcement activities carried out in Chile. The provisions of national legislation may be insufficient to control off-take and trade because the current legal situation for captive Vicuña can be challenged by private investors. The newly opened US market will almost certainly result in increasing

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
	<i>demand with unknown impacts on market forces. In this context, there is concern that private investors may seek to export live Vicuña from their native range (Bonacic, 2002).</i>

Other information

Threats

It is believed that Vicuña contribute to grassland degradation diminishing the efficiency of domestic stock production and causing antagonism towards Vicuña.

Poaching is not considered an important threat in Chile (FWS, 2002). However, Vilá (2002) comments that some poaching for pelts and fibre does exist.

Conservation, management and legislation

A number of Aymara communities in the Chilean Altiplano live in Protected Wildlife Areas. This has hampered the development prospects for the communities, which are some of the poorest in Chile. A model for joint government and Andean community management has been developed as a part of the Vicuña Conservation Plan.

Since 1999, a project involving the shearing of wild Vicuña for production purposes has been under way. The wool was sold and the profits distributed to the "beneficiaries participating in the project".

Hunting and commercial use of Vicuña was banned from 1929 until 1987. In 1996 a new Wildlife Act (No. 19 473) enabled the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) to authorize the use of protected wildlife species when deemed sustainable. The following year the "Pilot Plan for Harvesting Vicuña Wool in the Province of Parinacota" was carried out. This is described as having given rise to new working options and to the conclusion that exploitation is economically viable.

The SS notes that the Vicuña population of Lauca NP is precluded from being used for the harvest of wool, it is not clear if this is due to national Park status or the fact that the animals are included in Appendix I and occur within a national park.

No details are provided in the SS regarding what future management of these animals will consist of (TRAFFIC South America, 2002).

All of the 32 census points listed in Figure 1, and then referred to in Table 1 of the SS, are in the Lauca National Park or areas already included in Appendix II. None are in areas newly proposed for management, that is those within the Primera Región but outside the Parinacota province.

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 Final Rule published in the US Federal Register states that the Chilean government is planning to develop a captive management program that may take up to 3 000 Vicuña from the wild and keep them in captivity in the Altiplano (Galaz, pers. comm. cited in Bonacic, 2000).

Vilá (2002) states that Chile is in an experimental phase with a few animals in enclosures.

Other comments

This proposed change of listing has been acknowledged by the member countries of the *Convenio para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vicuña* (Vicuña Convention) at the 19th and 21st

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
Ordinary Meetings of its Technical-Administrative Commission.	

Reviewers: B. Vilá, C. Bonacic, TRAFFIC South America.

References:

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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.

Glade, A. and Cunazza, C. 1992. Chile: The Vicuña, a portion of Section 2, Country Reports. *In South American Camelids: an Action Plan for Their Conservation*. IUCN/SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group, Gland, Switzerland.

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

Vilá, B., 2002. *in litt.* to IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme, Cambridge, UK.