CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of *Psittacus erithacus* in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16), Annex 1.

Paragraph C) i): A marked decline in the population size in the wild, which has been observed as ongoing.

Paragraph C) ii): A marked decline in the population size in the wild, which has been inferred or projected on the basis of a level or pattern of exploitation and a decrease in quality of habitat and a decrease in area of habitat because of high levels of deforestation in certain areas.

B. Proponent

Angola, Chad, the European Union, Gabon, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and the United States of America *:

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Aves

1.2 Order: Psittaciformes

1.3 Family: Psittacidae

1.4 Genus and species: *Psittacus erithacu*s (Linnaeus, 1758). The CITES Standard Reference for birds (Dickinson, 2003) recognizes two subspecies, *P. e. timneh* and *P. e. erithacus*, which are treated as separate species by BirdLife International (2015).

1.5 Scientific synonyms: Subspecies: *P. e. timneh* and *P. e. erithacus.*

1.6 Common names:
English: African Grey parrot, Timneh Grey parrot
French: perroquet gris, perroquet timneh
Spanish: loro yaco, loro gris africano

1.7 Code numbers: A-218.003.005.001a

[1] *This document has been provided in these languages by the author(s)*

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2. Overview

The African Grey parrot *Psittacus erithacus* has experienced marked population declines throughout its range. In June 2012 it was re-categorised as *Vulnerable* on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species on the basis that "the extent of the annual harvest for international trade, in combination with the rate of ongoing habitat loss, means it is now suspected to be undergoing rapid declines over three generations (47 years)" (BirdLife International 2015). It was further acknowledged that this rate of decline "may be a conservative estimate" given "the high levels of forest loss in parts of the range" (BirdLife International 2015). Recent accounts, including a report to the Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee in July 2012 on the status of this species in Cameroon (Tamungang and Cheke 2012), indicate **population declines in excess of 50% over three generations (46.5 years)** in multiple range States (section 4.4). In some range States declines have been very severe; in Ghana, where *P. erithacus* was once common and widespread, populations have declined between 90 and 99% since the early 1990s (less than two generations)(Annorbah *et al.* 2016, section 4.4). *P. erithacus* is extremely rare or locally extinct in Benin, Burundi, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Togo (Clemmons 2003, da Costa Lopes 2015, Martin *et al.* 2014, CITES 2014).

Due to its popularity as a pet and the ease with which large numbers can be captured, *P. erithacus* has been traded in large numbers. Since 1975, gross exports of over 1.3 million wild birds from 18 range States have been reported, making *P. erithacus* one of the most traded of all CITES-listed birds. A recent review of the global exotic pet trade indicates one of the main avian trade routes recorded on the CITES trade database is of parrots from Africa with *P. erithacus* being the most frequently exported (Bush *et al.* 2014). Trade has been widely implicated in population declines (section 6.5) and the species has been included in four CITES Animals Committee Reviews of Significant Trade (1988, 1992, 2006, 2014). Currently Cameroon is the only country that has a published export quota (3000 per annum). Until January 2016 the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) had a quota of 5,000 per annum, but this quota was routinely exceeded and the use of falsified permits widespread (section 6.2, CITES 2016a). Recent field investigations indicate exports from DRC far in excess of recommended quotas (section 6.3 Hart *et al.* 2016). At the 66th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in January 2016 it was recommended that all parties suspend commercial trade of *P. erithacus* from DRC, with an exception made for 1,600 specimens already collected and ready for export. Subsequent field research and confiscations indicate that numbers of wild specimens destined for export in 2016 already exceeds this quota (Hart 2016).

Cameroon is the only range State to have developed a National Management Plan. However the scientific basis for current quotas has been heavily criticized and meaningful steps towards implementing the management plan are lacking (section 8.1). Illegal, cross border movements of *P. erithacus* from non-exporting range States into DRC and Cameroon reflect the failure of regional management plans. Given the long history of illegal trade, poor enforcement, lack of a national management plan (DRC), the lack of compliance (found in the exceeded export quotas and the reports of large numbers of captive-bred specimens in trade that are likely to be wild-caught), and the absence of adequate data on which to base quotas, continued off-take of this species continues to drive declines (sections 6.5).

In addition, UNEP-WCMC export figures grossly underestimate the true number of birds removed from the wild. Post-capture and pre-export mortality rates for Grey Parrots have been estimated between 30-60% and as high as 70% - 90% in some instances, suggesting that the actual number of birds removed from the wild have been significantly higher than those reported through trade (McGowan 2001, CITES Review of Significant Trade 2006, Birdlife International 2015, CITES 2013). According to mortality estimates obtained from parrot trappers in DRC, a volume of trade of 800 birds leaving Kisangani per month may actually represent an off-take of 1000-1500 birds per month, or 12,000 to 18,000 birds taken annually (CITES 2013).

In conjunction with harvest for the pet trade, forest loss and fragmentation over the last 30 years have impacted population numbers by reducing available breeding and foraging habitat for Grey Parrots (Annorbah *et al.* 2016, Chatelain *et al.* 2010, CITES 2006, FAO 2008, Tamungang *et al.* 2013) (See Appendix 1 for range State deforestation levels). For example, from 2000-2010, Nigeria, which has seen a major decline in parrot numbers, had one of the highest rates of deforestation globally (4% annual loss) (FAO 2010, CITES Review of Significant Trade 2006). High rates of deforestation have also been implicated in the virtual elimination of Grey Parrots from Ghana. A 90-99% reduction in population numbers has been observed since the 1990's (Annorbah *et al.* 2016). However, in both these countries, as in all range States, collection for the pet trade is by far having the most harmful impact on Grey Parrot populations (Pain *et al.* 2006, CITES Review of Significant Trade 2006).

According to CITES criteria, *P. erithacus* is threatened with extinction due to observed and ongoing reductions in wild populations as a result of trade and habitat loss and meets the requirements for inclusion in Appendix I s, [criterion C. i) & ii) Annex 1, Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16)]. Given unsustainable harvesting practices including a high incidence of trapping-related mortalities, non-existent range State management strategies, inadequate regulation, and deforestation, a listing under Appendix I is **at present the only effective mechanism to conserve the species in the wild.** Trade practices have led, and will with high probability continue to lead, to population collapses and local extinctions in multiple range States. For the past three decades this species has been successfully and widely reproduced in captivity, and the market demand in the US, EU and South Africa can be fulfilled by current supplies of domestic captive-bred birds (section 8.4), or by those bred in captivity at a facility registered with the Secretariat in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15).

3. Species characteristics

3.1 Distribution

Grey Parrots are distributed throughout the lowland moist forests of West and Central Africa (Juniper and Parr, 1998). The West African subspecies *P. e. timneh* exists in a series of disjunct populations in Guinea-Bissau, and remnant patches of forest of the Upper Guinean shield in south-eastern Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and southwestern Côte d'Ivoire. *P. e. erithacus* historically occurred from south-eastern Côte d'Ivoire (although its continued presence there is uncertain) to Ghana, Togo and eastwards from Nigeria through the forests of the Congo Basin into Uganda and Kenya. Within this range its distribution is now patchy, following population declines and local extinctions in multiple areas (see sections 4.1-4.3). The ranges of the two subspecies do not overlap (Appendix 2).

3.2 Habitat

P. erithacus is endemic to lowland moist primary forest in West and Central Africa, at times occupying secondary forest, mangrove, gallery forest, savanna woodland and cultivated areas (Collar, 1997). As a frugivore and obligate cavity nester it is dependent on a diversity of large trees that provide food year-round (Tamungang and Ajayi 2003, Tamungang and Cheke 2012) and large natural hollows in which to breed (Dändliker 1992a, McGowan, 2001, Clemmons 2003). There is a negative relationship between the status of the species and the status of primary forest (Dändliker 1992a); where the forests are declining, so too are populations of *P. erithacus* (Clemmons 2003). Population densities are reportedly higher in more pristine habitats in Príncipe (Juste 1996) and Cameroon (Tamungang and Cheke 2012).

3.3 Biological characteristics

Similar to other parrots of its size, it has a slow life-history, being long-lived with a low reproductive rate. Although data on key life-history parameters in wild populations are largely lacking, annual breeding success is assumed to be 1-1.8 fledglings, based on observations of nests in Ghana (Dändliker 1992a), Gabon (Brosset and Erard 1986) and Príncipe (Naurois 1983). Furthermore, only a fraction of these fledglings are likely to recruit into the breeding population. Sexual maturity is reached at three to four years of age (Luft 2007). Generation length has been estimated as 15.5 years, based on data on maximum longevity in captivity and established relationships between the longevity of wild and captive birds (IUCN Standards and Petitions Subcommittee 2011). In some areas, *P. erithacus* forms large aggregations in regularly used roost trees and mineral licks, enabling trappers to efficiently capture large numbers.

3.4 Morphological characteristics

General plumage is pale grey, tail and adjacent tail-coverts are scarlet red (*P. e. erithacus*) or maroon (*P. e. timneh*), bill is black (*P. e. erithacus*) or horn (*P. e. timneh*), iris yellow, legs dark grey. Adult length is 33cm; weight is 400g (Forshaw 1998).

3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

Unknown, but due to their diet of seeds, nuts, fruits and berries and wide-ranging daily movements, likely plays a significant role in seed dispersal.

4. Status and trends

4.1 Habitat trends

Estimates of change in the availability of suitable habitat for *P. erithacus* have not been made, however metrics of overall forest loss provide a crude indication of trends affecting populations. Between 2000 and 2010, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated the West African range States of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana lost 5%, 6%, 7% and 19% of their forested areas respectively (FAO, 2010). Nigeria has experienced extremely high rates of forest loss; having lost 48% of forested areas between 1990 and 2010 (FAO 2010). Prior to this period, many of these countries had already experienced significant habitat loss. It was estimated in 2003 that West Africa had already lost 90% of the original moist forest (World Resources Institute 2003)although the area of historical forest cover in the region may have been overestimated (Chatelain *et al.* 2003).

Recently, multiple studies indicate that rates of forest loss in the Congo basin are increasing (reviewed by Ickowitz, *et al.* 2015). Ernst *et al.* (2012) reported that gross deforestation rates for Cameroon, ROC, Gabon, Equitorial Guinea, Central African Republic and DRC doubled from 0.13% to 0.26% per annum between 1990-2000 and 2000-2005. During the same period, gross degradation rates in dense forest zones also doubled from 0.07% to 0.14% (Ernst *et al.* 2012). Within these general trends, deforestation hot spots exist. In DRC, for instance, high rates of deforestation are occurring in areas where significant *P. erithacus* populations occur, including in eastern areas close to Beni (~0°N-30°E) and Bukavu (~2.5°S-28.5°E) and southern areas close to Kananga (~5°S-23°E) and to the east of Kindu (~ 5°S-27°E). About 14.7% of the Congo Basin landscape is located in designated logging concessions (Ernst *et al.* 2012). The volumes of wood harvested informally, for local markets, firewood, and charcoal production can largely exceed those associated with industrial production; for instance, the volume of forest consumed in fuelwood production in the DRC is 200 times that lost to commercial timber (FAO 2012). Agricultural expansion, and to a lesser degree shifting agriculture, are also potentially important drivers of forest loss, although their overall contribution is debated (Ickowitz *et al.,* 2015). The DRC showed the highest forest loss of all African countries from 1990-2000 (Kim *et al.* 2014).

Estimates of rates of deforestation alone do not fully reflect the extent to which habitat changes impact populations. In their report to CITES, Tamungang and Cheke (2012) concluded that lack of forest space is not a major problem in Cameroon, but rather degradation and fragmentation have resulted in a rapid reduction in key resources. Fragmentation may increase the distances that parrots have to fly between resource patches, and ultimately disconnect populations living in separated forest fragments.

Finally, in common with other large parrot species, *P. erithacus* relies on naturally occurring cavities found in large mature trees (Dändliker 1992a, McGowan 2001, da Costa Lopes 2014) and these same trees can be targeted for timber (Clemmons 2003). Natural regeneration of large trees containing suitable nesting cavities for parrots can be an extremely slow process (Manning *et al.* 2013).

4.2 Population size

Due to the ecology of the species, reliable estimates of population size are extremely difficult, and in many instances, unachievable (Martin *et al.* 2014a). Several methods for estimating population size were utilized in preparation for a workshop convened by CITES aimed at “Strengthening Capacity for Monitoring and Regulation of International Trade of African Grey Parrots” in October 2013. It was reported that the “species’ huge range, current rarity, variable abundance, cryptic habits, mobility, along with difficulty of logistics and lack of resources may present insurmountable obstacles to its effective study” (Marsden *et al.* 2013). McGowan (2001) assessed different methodologies for surveying *P. erithacus* populations and concluded that due to the difficulties involved with each, alternative methods of assessing population trends and the impacts of trade on this species are more appropriate than population estimates.

Early estimates of populations in several range States (Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon and DRC) based on roost counts (Dändliker 1992a, 1992b, Fotso 1998a, 1998b) were subsequently criticised by McGowan (2001) who suggested that these population estimates “would not withstand interrogation”. Roost counts will only produce reliable estimates if all major roosts in an area are known, and thus the proportion of the population being counted is known. It is also critical to know the

size of the area being sampled, but data on the distances individual parrots move to roosts do not exist and estimates in these studies were based on local reports and casual observation (McGowan 2001). Whilst the information gathered during these roost counts may be of considerable value for estimating trends in populations (see section 4.4) the methods by which roost count data were converted to estimates of population size make these national estimates unreliable. Furthermore, multiple lines of evidence suggest that populations in these range States have declined considerably since these estimates were made (see section 4.4) and hence, no longer reflect the situation in those countries.

Pilgrim *et al*. (in prep. cited in BirdLife International, 2015) attempted an "initial coarse assessment" for the global population of this species. However their estimate of 0.68-13 million individuals was largely based on distribution data more than twenty years old and also based on extrapolations from the estimates of Dändliker (1992a, 1992b), and Fotso (1998a, 1998b) (see previous paragraph).

Recent attempts to generate Provincial-level population estimates in Cameroon (Tamungang and Cheke 2012, Tamungang *et al.* 2013) have been strongly criticised due to methodological flaws leading to large uncertainty and upward bias in estimates (Martin *et al.* 2014a).

4.3 Population structure

Trapping and extraction of chicks from nest cavities has likely skewed the population towards adult birds in some areas (McGowan 2001). Due to the long life-expectancy of this species, a consequent lack of recruitment may not manifest as a population reduction for several years, masking the impact of off-take (McGowan 2006).

4.4 Population trends

In 2012, *P. erithacus* was reclassified as *Vulnerable* on the IUCN Red-list of Threatened Species on the basis that "the extent of the annual harvest for international trade, in combination with the rate of ongoing habitat loss, means it is now suspected to be undergoing rapid declines over three generations (47 years)" (BirdLife International, 2015). It is further acknowledged that this rate of decline "may be a conservative estimate" give "the high levels of forest loss in parts of the range" (BirdLife International, 2015).

Population trends by range State

Range State	Summary
Angola	Declines reported in Cabinda (T. Ron, contribution to CITES AC22 Side-event).
Benin	Early records reported by Bouet (1961) treated by Dowsett and Dowsett-Lemaire (2011) as potentially erroneous. Likely no naturally occurring population although feral groups commonly seen in Cotonou (Bruno Portier *in litt*. 2012).
Burundi	Declines estimated at >30% over 3 generations by D. Bizimana (*in litt.* to R. Martin, 2012). Now only occurring in Kibira forest National Park in very small numbers. Population considered endangered (CITES Notification No. 681).
Cameroon	Multiple lines of evidence indicate that populations have declined dramatically since they were described as a "very common parrot…found everywhere in the forest" by Good (1952). Field surveys conducted between 2008-2011 (Tamungang and Cheke, 2012) estimated the population as 199,390 – 202,171 individuals, substantially less than the 300,000 to 500,000 individuals estimated by a previous field survey in 1996-1997 (Fotso 1998b). These surveys used differing methods both of which have been criticised (McGowan, 2001; Martin *et al.* 2014a). However the decline of 50% over 14 years (~one generation) inferred by Tamungang *et al.* (2013) is consistent with trends based on anecdotal observations by multiple observers (Martin *et al*. 2014b). Tamungang and Cheke (2012) reported they are now "rare or completely absent in some parts of the range where they used to occur in abundance some 30-50 years ago" and in southern Cameroon "populations have dwindled rapidly in the past 30 years". In the relatively pristine forests of the Southeast Region K. Bobo in 2012 the reduction in Lobéké, Boumba-bek and Nki National Parks and surroundings, to be 30-49% since *ca.* 2001 and described how "Flocks in [roosts] are reduced by half in just five years (2008 – 2012) and some of these [roosts] are now empty" (Martin *et al.* 2014b). Similar, "significant reductions" of up to 49% since ca. 2001 in Lobéké National Park have also been reported by R. Fotso (Martin *et al.* 2014b). Trapping in the order of

Range State	Summary
	several thousand each year occurred in Lobéké NP in the late 1990s (Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett 2000). Birds visited these swamps from surrounding areas, and thus the trapping likely impacted an area several times that of the reserve (Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett 2000). Similar trends have been observed in many parts of Cameroon where the species occurred in great numbers up to the 1980s, and even the late 1990s; notably around Kumba, Ebolowa, Kribi, Bertoua and Yokadouma towns, and neighbourhoods of Douala and Yaoundé cities (Tamungang and Cheke 2012).
Central African Republic	Present only in the extreme south, where it was reported in 1991 that they were at least locally abundant (Green and Carroll 1991). R. Cassidy (pers. comm. to UNEP-WCMC 2013) reported flocks of 50-200 birds in the dry season in the Dzangha-Sangha special reserve in 2012.
Côte d'Ivoire	Surveys in Taï National Park (the largest and least disturbed remnant of Upper Guinean rainforest), conducted between 1999-2002, indicated declines and complete disappearance of the species from considerable portions of the forest, particularly those areas close to human habitation (M. Waltert *in litt* to R. Martin 2012). Until 1991, it was found in all sectors of the park (Gartshore *et al.* 1995). In 2013, 32 km of distance sampling line transects and 38 hours of dedicated encounter rate surveys within Parc National d'Azagny and other likely areas where *P. erithacus* had been previously recorded in Cote d'Ivoire yielded no records of the species (Ahon 2013; CITES 2013).
DRC	Recent upsurges in trapping (Radio Okapi, 20th February 2006, 14th December 2010, 23rd December 2012) in areas previously unaffected (e.g. Salonga National Park) have been driven by the movement of traders and trappers into eastern DRC, having depleted parrot populations in the west of the country (Hart 2010, T. Hart contribution to BirdLife International Globally Threatened Bird Forums, January 2011). In areas of Maniema and Orientale Provinces, the large flocks that occurred within living memory are no longer seen (Hart 2013a, 2013b). Field surveys conducted in the proposed Lomami National Park in 2013 indicate very low densities, even in areas of apparently suitable forest (Hart 2013a). Since the population estimates made by Fotso (1998a) in Equateur Province, based on roost counts there have been no more recent surveys.
Gabon	Declines reported in some areas. F. Maisels reports that around Libreville flocks are still occasionally seen, but far less commonly than in the 1990s (Martin *et al,* 2014b).
Ghana	Recent surveys indicate populations have declined by 90-99% since 1992 (< two generations) (Annorbah *et al.* 2015). Annorbah *et al.* conducted targeted searches during 3-5 days visits to each of forty-two 100-km^2 cells which were selected to maximise the likelihood of encountering Grey Parrot populations (based on historical records of the species and the presence of substantial forest cover). In over 150 days of fieldwork, just 32 groups (max. group size = 12) were recorded in ten cells. Encounter rates averaged 0.15 individuals per hour of targeted search, around 15 times lower than those recorded in the early 1990s during surveys by Dändliker (1992a). Attempts to repeat counts at 22 parrot roosts made by Dändliker (1992a) two decades ago, recorded no parrots. Only 18 individuals were recorded in three roost areas that each harbored 700–1,200 birds two decades ago. These findings corroborate those of Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett (2014) who reported local extinctions from multiple areas, including from Bia National Park (southwestern Ghana), Ofinsi district forest reserves, and Ejura and Mampong areas (central Ghana), as well as the Mpraeso scarp and Takoradi areas (southern Ghana). Prior to the surveys by Dändliker (1992a), populations were already considered to be greatly reduced due to trapping for export (Grimes 1987).
Guinea	Clemmons (2003) reported that trappers described recent declines of at least an order of magnitude. Very large numbers were exported during the early 1990s (nearly 12,000 reported exports in 1991), which exceeded the estimated national population at that time; although evidence suggests that many of these were illegally imported from neighbouring countries (Clemmons 2003). A maximum count for the only intact roost located in 2003 was 200 individuals (Clemmons 2003). Ten years previously, this same roost was reported to contain 500-600 individuals (Dändliker 1992b) although observations were made at different times of year. Clemmons (2003) found that at many locations where trappers previously claimed there were roosts; there were few or no parrots present. In 2006, surveys made from vehicles (covering 509 km in Guinée

Range State	Summary
	Maritime and 818 km in Guinée forestrière and driven at 50 km h−1) and on foot (covering 21 km in protected areas including Pic de Fon, Bossou/Nimba and Ziama) did not record a single individual (Rondeau *et al.,* 2007). Demey and Rainey (2004) similarly reported that they were not seen in the forests of Pic de Fon.
Guinea-Bissau	Despite the presence of apparently suitable habitat, no populations exist on mainland Guinea-Bissau with populations only persisting on some of the Bijagós islands. In 2003, a survey of the Bijagós islands reported their presence on nine out of 15 islands surveyed (Clemmons 2003). Recent surveys conducted in 2014 indicate densities are now very low on most islands and it can only be reliably seen on two protected islands within the João-Viera – Poilão Marine National Park that have no permanent human settlements (da Costa Lopes 2014).
Kenya	Now restricted to a single locality, Kakamega Forest (an isolated forest fragment of only 230 km^2, of which 45km^2 is protected as a Forest Reserve), but was previously more widespread (Lewis and Pomeroy 1989). I. Madindou (*in litt.* to R. Martin 2012) has been conducting surveys of *P. erithacus* since 2007 and estimates the population has experienced a major decrease [30-49% since *ca.* 2001] and appears extremely vulnerable to extinction.
Liberia	Once described as occurring commonly throughout most parts of the country (Bannerman, 1951), but more recently described as locally common, rare in the northern and northwestern areas and lacking in some coastal areas (Gatter 1998). They appear to have become extinct from the forests on and near Mt Nimba in Nimba County, Liberia; surveys between 2008 and 2011 in the East Nimba Nature Reserve and nearby forest failed to find the species, and there was no indication from locals that they have been present in recent times (Dowsett- Lemaire and Phalan 2013). The species was surprisingly scarce in the Nimba area as early as the 1970s (Colston and Curry-Lindahl 1986). Rapid surveys (5–8 days spent in each location) conducted in 2005 reported that they were encountered most days in North Lorma National Forest, encountered daily in Grebo National Forest and were present but not encountered most days in Gola National Forest (Demey 2007). In Zwedru forest, they were seen or heard almost daily in low numbers (maximum group size of four) in 2013 (Phalan *et al.* 2013).
Mali	Not known to occur. The listing of Mali as a range State was based on an erroneous early account which has since been refuted (Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett 2005, AC22 Doc. 10.2 Annex 1).
Nigeria	McGowan (2001) conducted field surveys in southern Nigeria in early 2001 and reported their distribution as highly fragmented, having disappeared from many areas where they formerly occurred widely. P. Hall (*in litt.* to CITES Secretariat 2006) reported the species as having suffered alarming reductions in numbers throughout the country, ascribed mainly to trapping. The national population at that time was estimated to comprise of less than 5 000 birds in total, with around 100 birds in the south-west (particularly Okomu National Park), under 1 000 in the Niger Delta (the decline here reportedly owing to heavy recent trapping) and under 1 000 in the south-east (P. Hall *in litt.* to CITES Secretariat 2006). Olmos and Turshak (2009) noted a dramatic decline in numbers of the species in Omo Forest Reserve, southwest Nigeria, recording only one pair and a single bird in 2007 in three weeks of surveys, in an area where Green *et al.* (2007) had observed flocks of hundreds in the 1990s. Most recently, P. Hall (*in litt.* to R. Martin 2012) reported that the species was found only in isolated populations in the south-west in Omo Forest Reserve and Okomu National Park and in the south-east in the Cross River National Park and estimated that the national population was perhaps around a thousand individuals.
Republic of Congo	Reported as declining near large cities (Inskipp *et al*. 1988). Large declines since the early 2000s in the numbers of birds roosting in Bomassa, close to Lobéké, Ndoki and Nouabalé-Ndoki NPs have been reported (Martin *et al.* 2014a). Populations in some more remote areas might be stable (J Mokoko and K Cameron *in litt.* to R. Martin 2012).
Rwanda	Restricted to a few forest fragments, the largest of which is Nyungwe National Park where populations were described as having undergone a sharp decrease in the 50 years prior to 1990 (Dowsett 1990). Today only regularly seen in the southeast parts of Nyungwe close to the Burundi border (Claver *in litt.* to R. Martin 2014).

Range State	Summary
São Tomé and Príncipe	Long-term population declines were reported by local residents (Juste 1996, Fahlman 2002). However, repeated field surveys made in 2003 and 2012 indicate the population has increased following a national ban on the parrot trade (S. Valle *in litt.* to R. Martin 2012).
Sierra Leone	Likely absent from most unprotected areas (Marsden *et al.* 2013). Surveys conducted in 2005 and 2007 in the Gola forest area and Tiwai island, which likely contain the largest populations, reported them as frequent in primary and secondary forest, forest edge and farmbush particularly in NE parts of Gola forest (Klop *et al.* 2010). Additional surveys conducted in the Gola Forest reserve in 2006 observed them on 27 out of 32 days (Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett 2007).
Republic of Tanzania	Restricted to an extremely small population in the far northwest of the country and a small introduced population on islands in Lake Victoria (N. Baker, *in litt.* to R. Martin 2012) although reportedly more widespread historically, possibly occurring on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro (Mackworth-Praed and Grant 1952).
Togo	Thought not to occur naturally in this country due to lack of suitable habitat (see details for Benin)(Doc. SC30.6.1).
Uganda	Surveys conducted in 2002-2003 in two forest reserves in central Uganda report populations as “small” and “rather fragmented” and “likely to fragment even further as the forest there is threatened with further degradation” (Amuno *et al.* 2007). Carswell *et al.* (2005) considered the species as having been formerly common, especially on the islands and shoreline of Lake Victoria, but reported that it had become quite rare especially on the Ssese islands; they considered the species to be possibly threatened, although still fairly common in Mabira Forest.

4.5 Geographic trends

In West Africa, forest habitat is now largely restricted to forest reserves and National Parks (Chatelain *et al.* 2003). Even within protected areas high levels of trapping have drastically reduced populations (see section 4.4. and 5). The majority of the range now lies within Central Africa, where the largest tracts of lowland moist forests remain. However forest loss and trapping have led to the fragmentation of populations (Tamungang and Cheke 2012) and a reduction in the area of occupancy. Populations in most East Africa states are close to extinction and the species is now only known from very few localities in Rwanda, Kenya and Tanzania, although larger Ugandan populations are also likely in decline (see section 4.4).

5. Threats

Principally threatened by the wild bird trade (legal and illegal) and habitat loss/degradation. Although these two threats often act in concert, trapping has driven local declines and extinctions despite the presence of suitable habitat in Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Ghana, Liberia (details given in sections 4.4 and 6.5). Deforestation rates in many range States have historically been extremely high and continued declines are predicted (see section 4.1). Additionally, domestic trade in live birds, bush meat and regional trade in body parts for medicine and magic also likely impact populations to a lesser degree (see section 6.1).

6. Utilization and trade

6.1 National utilization

Trade of live birds for local markets occurs in most of the range countries, but only in a few countries has it been reported as moderate to considerable, such as in Cameroon (Tamungang and Cheke 2012), Liberia (F. Molubah, *in litt.* to R. Martin 2012) and Nigeria (McGowan 2001), while in other range countries the local trade appears to be limited. The species is also hunted within its range as bushmeat (Fa *et al.* 2001) and to supply heads, legs and tail feathers for use as medicine or fetishes in black magic (Clemmons 2003, Fotso 1998b, McGowan 2001). Trade for these purposes is likely to be negligible compared with the international pet trade.

6.2 Legal trade

Wild-caught *P. erithacus* have at times been traded in higher volumes than any other CITES-listed member of the parrot family (*Psittacidae*). Gross exports reported from 1975 to 2013 totaled 1,550,197 (UNEP-WCMC Trade Database 2015). During the peak of trade, between 1984 – 1992, more than 50,000 individual wild birds were traded annually. Annual export totals since 1975 are provided in Appendix 3. BirdLife International (2013) emphasized that official trade figures represented minimum levels of harvesting, due to mortality in capture and confinement before export. Mortality of this species from capture to export is estimated in DRC to be 40-50% (Fotso 1998a) and 10-50% (Hart 2013c), in Nigeria to be 60-66% (McGowan 2001), in Guinea/Guinea-Bissau to be up to 50% (Clemmons 2003) and in Cameroon to be 30-50% (Fotso 1998b) and up to 90% (F. Dowsett-Lemaire *in litt.* to BirdLife International 2012). Assuming a 40%-60% mortality rate between capture and export, the total number of birds captured to supply just the legal trade is likely on the order of 2.1-2.5 million since 1975.

Up until the early 1990s, the majority of legal[2] exports originated from range States in West Africa, but following significant population declines in the region, exports shifted to Central Africa (see Appendix 3). Since the early 1990s, exports from the majority of range States have declined or ceased altogether, in response to declining wild populations, reductions in demand resulting from moratoriums on trade in importing countries and reductions in CITES quotas. The majority of legal exports are now reported to originate in Central Africa. Currently the only countries with national quotas are Cameroon (3,000) and DRC (5,000).

National quotas have been regularly exceeded; from 2007 to 2013 a total of 28,721 individuals were traded in excess of published quotas. During this period 15,114 were exported from countries with no published quota, 2,983 were exported from countries with quotas of zero, 4,440 were reported to have originated in non-range countries.

A summary of country-specific patterns and CITES decisions relating to legal trade are summarized in Appendix 4.

6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

Trade of feathers and body parts for traditional medicine has been reported by Fotso (*in litt.* 2012) as being largely a by-product of the pet trade, involving a large number of birds because of the high mortality rate of the trapped birds. Dändliker (1992b) reported the trade of body parts from Cameroon, to Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, and Benin. The only documented cases of trapping Grey parrots for their body parts occurred in the Lobéké National Park, Cameroon, with the repeated arrests of the same poacher found with parrot heads and bodies which were reportedly.

6.4 Illegal trade

P. erithacus is subject to significant levels of illegal trade which can occur under the guise of legal trade (accompanied by falsified or fraudulent CITES permits) or clandestine shipments, or through false identification of wild-caught birds as captive-bred.

Illegal activity has been widespread throughout the history of trade in *P. erithacus.* An analysis of the international illegal wildlife trade found *P. erithacus* to be the parrot species most mentioned in reports of illegal incidents (Kievet 1998). Illegal trade has been reported from Cameroon to Nigeria (McGowan 2001); from Guinea to Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone (Clemmons 2003); from DRC to ROC, Central African Republic, Uganda and Zambia (Fotso 1998a); from Cameroon and ROC to Benin, Guinea and Senegal (Fotso 1998b); from Côte d'Ivoire to Guinea (Clemmons 2003, Dändliker 1992a); from Guinea-Bissau to Portugal, Russian Federation, Japan, Senegal, France and Guinea (Clemmons 2003); and from Príncipe to Gabon, Angola and Portugal (Juste 1996).

In recent years, several range States have reported significant exports of captive-bred specimens (CITES Source code 'C') despite there being no known breeding facilities in these countries. Between 2008 and 2013, approximately 7,266 specimens of *P. e. erithacus* were reported as 'C' by Guinea,

[1] *A proportion of trade declared as legal may be illegal, having been misreported as captive-bred when it is wild caught, or otherwise not in compliance with CITES requirements.*

Central African Republic, ROC, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Cameroon and DRC where no captive breeding facilities are known to exist. Between 2009 and 2011, 450 code 'C' specimens of *P. e. timneh* were exported from Guinea even though no commercial captive breeding of specimens of CITES-listed species occurred in Guinea, meaning this trade had been in violation of the Convention and had involved the use of invalid and fraudulent permits and certificates (SC62 Doc. 29). Despite this, in 2013 Malaysia reported importing 150 *P. erithacus* from Guinea under code 'C'.

For the two range States with current published export quotas (DRC and Cameroon) the use of fraudulent or copied permits has been widespread. Quantities reported by importers have regularly exceeded export quotas and exceeded the number of export permits reportedly issued by range States.

In DRC, undercover investigations conducted by investigative journalists in February 2013, revealed large-scale abuses involving corruption, photocopying export permits for multiple shipments, and yearly trapping of thousands of specimens in the Maniema Province where trapping is prohibited. In March of the same year, the Curator of the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) in Banundu, DRC, reported that since the beginning of 2013, 500/600 parrots had been illegally trapped to be transported to Kinshasa for export, and that the ICCN lacks the resources to control the illegal trade (Digital Congo 2013). Recorded air shipments from Kindu and Kisangani over a 4-month period (May–August) in 2015 indicated a minimum of 6,632 birds were shipped from the two cities, averaging over 400 per week (Hart *et al.* 2016), suggesting exports in 2015 will exceed published quotas. Additional records indicate parrots passed through Kisangani airport at a similar rate in 2013 and 2014. In 2014, an increasing level of trafficking was reported to be occurring elsewhere in eastern DRC with an estimated 54,000 trafficked between 2011-2014 in Maniema, Sud-Kivu and Nord-Kivu Provinces (http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/104469). In 2009, 2010 and 2012, reported imports by the Republic of South Africa from DRC exceeded the annual export quota of DRC and the exports reported to CITES in each of these years. In April 2014, CITES notified Parties of a large number of fake or falsified permits apparently issued by DRC that came to light over many months (CITES Notification 2014/017). In addition, Parties that sent requests to the DRC Management Authority received at times irregular or contradictory responses, in some cases from non-authorized persons. Copies of large number of permits are missing from the files. The Secretariat recommended that Parties not accept any CITES export permits or certificates allegedly issued by DRC unless their validity had been confirmed by the Secretariat; and that Parties inform the Secretariat if any of the missing permits listed is presented, or has been presented, to authorize import or re-export of CITES specimens.

A mission to DRC, by the CITES Secretariat in November 2015, identified issues with the cancellation of permits and issuance of replacements, lack of security of the physical location of the CITES Management Authority, a far from optimal relationship between the Management and Scientific Authorities, issuance of export permits with validity periods in excess of 6 months, export quota consistently exceeded since 2008, inability to verify the legal origin of the African Grey parrots harvested in Maniema and Orientale provinces of DRC, lack of recent scientific studies on the status of the DRC populations of *P. erithacus* to inform a solid non-detriment finding, lack of a Management Plan, illegal exports and use of fraudulent permits (CITES SC66 Doc. 28).

At its 66th meeting (SC66, Geneva, 11-15 January 2016), the Standing Committee recommended a trade suspension of *P. erithacus* from DRC, until several conditions will be met. The trade suspension exempted 1,600 specimens already harvested and ready to be exported (CITES SC66 Sum. 6).

Similarly for Cameroon, in March 2012, CITES notified Parties of multiple recent cases of fraudulent permits accompanying shipments originating from Cameroon (CITES Notification 2012/021). The Secretariat recommended that Parties not accept any CITES export permits or certificates allegedly issued by Cameroon unless their validity had been confirmed by the Secretariat.

Obtaining detailed, quantified data on the scale of illegal trade is challenging. Recent confiscations and other events indicating the nature of illegal trade in recent years are summarized in Appendix 5.

6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

The negative impacts of trade on grey parrot populations have been recognized by IUCN in its justification for the reclassification under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species of *P. e. erithacus* and *P. e. timneh* to Vulnerable, and are further described in Sections 4.4, 6.2, 6.4 of this document. Trapping for the wild bird trade has been implicated in declines in Burundi, Cameroon,

Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, and Uganda.

Local declines and extinctions driven by trade have occurred in the presence of suitable habitat; populations have declined or become extinct in Cameroon (Korup NP, Lobéké NP and others), Côte d'Ivoire (Taï NP), DRC (Salonga NP), Ghana (Bia and Kakum NP and others) and Liberia (Nimba) (see section 4.4).

The long history of trade between range countries (AC22 Doc. 10.2 Annex 1), poor enforcement, the lack of effective national management plans, the lack of compliance (found in the exceeded export quotas and reports of large numbers of falsely claimed captive-bred specimens in trade), the difficulties for importing countries of verifying the validity of export permits with the CITES Secretariat, and the complete absence of adequate data on which to base quotas or CITES non-detriment findings, strongly suggest that continued legal trade pursuant to Appendix II will lead to further substantial declines in wild populations (and that the species qualifies for inclusion in Appendix I, due to: C) ii): a marked decline in the population size in the wild, which has been inferred or projected on the basis of a level or pattern of exploitation.

It is further worth noting that there is no evidence that the stricter domestic import restrictions placed by the main importers, such as the USA (Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992) and the EU (Commission regulation (EC) No 318/2007), have caused any increase of the illegal trade of this species. Field data and research undertaken in the wake of the prohibitions pursuant to the US Wild Bird Conservation Act indicate poaching rates of neotropical parrots declined (Wright *et al.* 2001).

7. Legal instruments

7.1 National

Totally protected (all trapping prohibited): Angola, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda

Partially protected (trapping permitted in adherence with regulations): Cameroon, Central African Republic, ROC, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Rwanda, Sierra Leone

Unknown: Benin, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Togo, São Tomé and Príncipe.

7.2 International

P. erithacus has been included in CITES Appendix II since 1981. International trade is regulated by Article IV of the Convention.

8. Species management

8.1 Management measures

Neither species management plans nor regulatory mechanisms governing capture, holding, transport and export exist in the majority of range States. Birds are targeted for capture at all life stages and in all seasons both inside and outside protected areas (AC22 Doc. 10.2); (Eniang *et al.* 2008); (Hart 2010).

Cameroon recently developed a National Management Plan which aims to improve parrot welfare, encourage rural community participation in parrot conservation, improve enforcement and administration and conduct scientific research, including long-term population monitoring and studies of the breeding biology (Tamungang and Cheke 2012). Whilst many of the goals of the management plan would likely improve the conservation of this species if implemented, the additional proposal to initiate a new parrot trade session in Cameroon in January 2013, appears inconsistent with the key findings of the population study, which reports considerable population declines and emphasizes uncertainty over the parameters used to determine quotas (Tamungang and Cheke 2012). In particular, the field and analytical methods used to estimate the abundance of Grey parrots in Cameroon have been strongly criticized as they likely confer systematic bias overinflating estimates and failing to address sources of uncertainty (Martin *et al.* 2014a).

An EU-CITES Capacity Building Project 'Strengthening Capacity for Monitoring and Regulation of International Trade of African Grey Parrots' involving participants from five range States (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC and Cameroon) was undertaken in 2013. The project involved field trials of methodologies for monitoring parrot populations and trade and developed a framework for the establishment of national management plans. The project culminated in a workshop convened in Monrovia, Liberia, which was attended by representatives of governments and conservation organizations from all participating range States.

8.2 Population monitoring

The majority of range States do not have population monitoring programmes focusing on this species. The exceptions are Cameroon, which has incorporated population monitoring into its recent National Management Plan (Tamungang and Cheke 2012) and Kenya where monitoring of the population in Kakamega forest was initiated in 2007 (I. Madindou, *in litt.* to R. Martin 2012). The methodological approach to monitoring populations used as a basis for the Cameroon National Management Plan has recently been strongly criticized by researchers from the World Parrot Trust, BirdLife International, Wildlife Conservation Society, The Centre for African Parrot Conservation and Research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal South Africa and the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology and the University of Cape Town South Africa (Martin *et al.* 2014a). Furthermore it is unclear if population monitoring is ongoing in Cameroon.

8.3 Control measures

8.3.1 International

There are no international control measures beyond those of CITES.

8.3.2 Domestic

In Guinea-Bissau, a community-based conservation project has been operational since 2013. The project works with local communities to end the unsustainable and illegal trapping of parrots and involves employing former parrot trappers to assist with research and protect nests. It is coordinated by the World Parrot Trust (an international conservation NGO) in partnership with the government Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas with the support of the IUCN Save Our Species fund.

In eastern DRC, the Lukuru Foundation (a DRC-based conservation organization focused on protected areas) is working with Congolese Provincial authorities to improve enforcement of restrictions on parrot trapping in the region. Investigations of the socio-economic dimensions of trade, and workshops with Provincial authorities are identifying opportunities for improved control.

8.4 Captive breeding and artificial propagation

For the past three decades *P. erithacus* has been successfully and widely reproduced in captivity. Global reported exports of captive-bred *P. e. erithacus* and *P. e. timneh* from 1985 to 2011, excluding those from African States, totaled 54,937 specimens. The growth in captive supply of this species within US and EU markets appears to be due to demand shifts and importing country legislation (AC26/PC20 Doc. 7). However a number of seizures of wild birds illegally imported into the EU (see section 6.4 and Appendix 5) indicates that a market for wild birds persists, albeit at levels much reduced compared with pre-2006. The Republic of South Africa is the largest exporter of captive-bred birds to the global market and in 2012 exported over 42,000 specimens under CITES code C. Currently commercial-scale breeders in the Republic of South Africa import high volumes of wild-caught birds as inexpensive breeding stock. Reported imports from the DRC alone have regularly exceeded that country's export quota in recent years (see section 6.4). There are not currently known any commercial scale captive-breeding operations in range States.

8.5 Habitat conservation

Several key areas of habitat fall within National Parks and receive some legal protection. However, many of these are inadequately enforced and habitat degradation reportedly occurs within park

boundaries due to commercial logging and to meet the demands of local communities for firewood and construction materials.

8.6 Safeguards

Other than the legal instruments and management efforts previously described, no safeguards are in place for this species.

9. Information on similar species

P. erithacus can be distinguished from other parrot species having all grey feathers with the exception of a red undertail. The red tail is variable in hue and is often described as 'crimson' in *P. e. erithacus* and mauve in *P. e. timneh*

10. Consultations with range States

All range States (CITES Management and Scientific Authorities) were consulted in writing in December 2015 (and a draft proposal was provided in English or French). Their comments and suggestions were taken into account in the preparation of this document. Responses received from range States are summarized below.

Range State	Response
Angola	Supports the proposal and intends to co-sponsor it.
Benin	No response received at time of submission.
Burundi	Supports the proposal. In Burundi, *Psittacus erithacus* is in the mountain forest Kibira. The species is threatened by poaching; its exploitation for commercial profit has been prohibited in Burundi since 1992.
Cameroon	Does not take a position at this time.
Central African Republic	Supports the proposal.
Côte d'Ivoire	Supports the proposal.
Democratic Republic of Congo	Opposes the proposal.
Equatorial Guinea	Opposes the proposal.
Ghana	Supports the proposal.
Guinea	Did not give an opinion at time of submission
Guinea-Bissau	Supports the proposal and intends to co-sponsor it.
Kenya	No response received at time of submission.
Liberia	Supports the proposal.
Mali	No response received at time of submission.
Nigeria	Supports the proposal, noting the species is on schedule I of Nigeria's Endangered Species Decree of 1985 and its Endangered Species Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004; therefore, all international trade from Nigeria is absolutely prohibited.
Republic of Congo	Supports the proposal (citing several factors threatening the species).
Rwanda	Supports the proposal. Noted that "some countries have exceeded their quota and have been trying to export from neighboring countries. In Rwanda we have confiscated African grey parrots coming from DR Congo with documents of non-authorized or unrecognized institutions.
São Tomé and Príncipe	No response received at time of submission.
Sierra Leone	No response received at time of submission.
United Republic of Tanzania	No response received at time of submission.

Range State	Response
Togo	Supports the proposal and intends to co-sponsor it.
Uganda	No response received at time of submission.

In addition to the consultation letters, a CITES CoP17 Coordination Workshop between West and Central African countries was held in Senegal March 15-17, 2016. Gabon presented a draft proposal to transfer the African Grey Parrot from Appendix II to Appendix I. Representatives from West and Central Africa, many of which are range states for the species, provided feedback on the draft proposal during the workshop

11. Additional remarks

12. References

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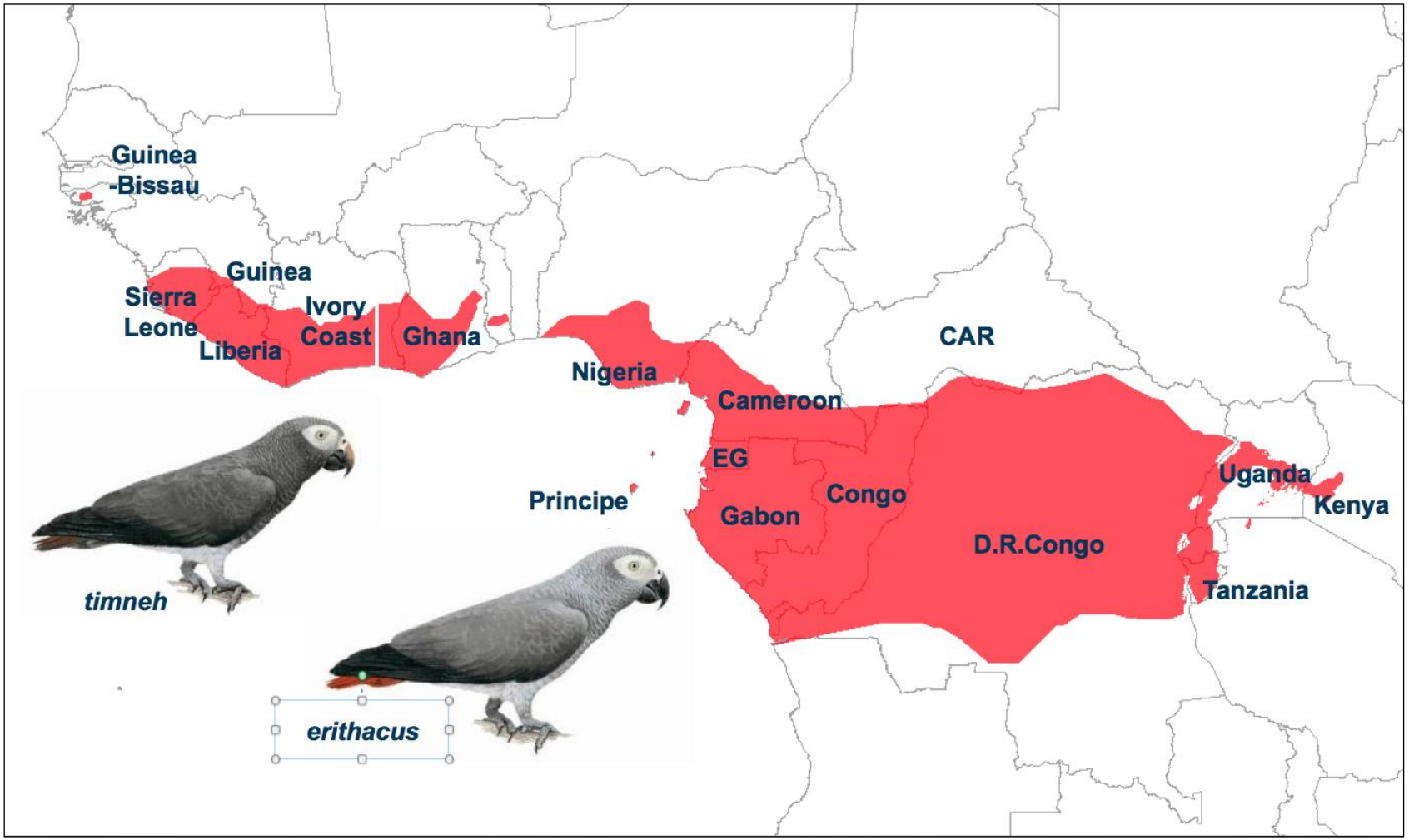
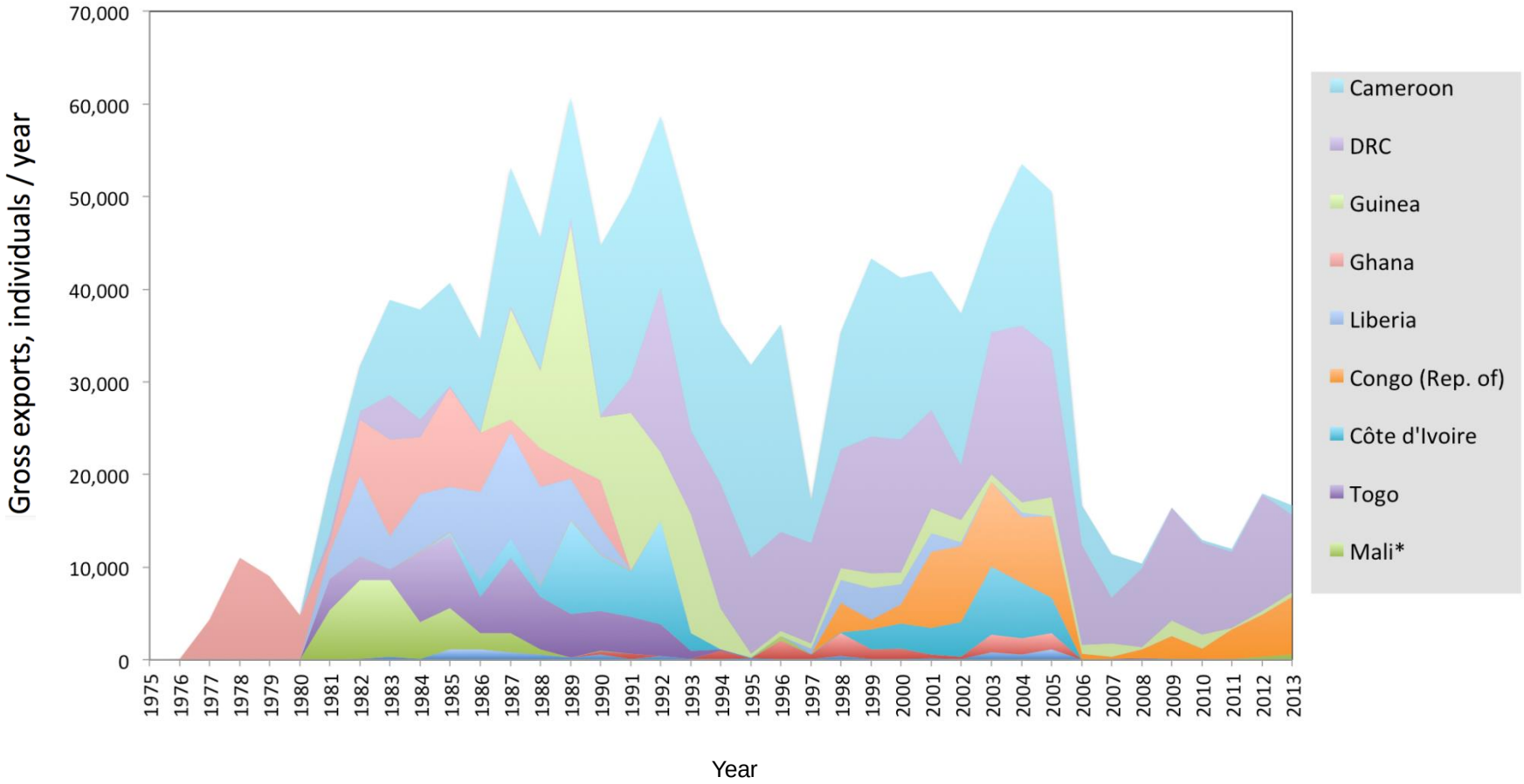
Rates of deforestation in *Psittacus erithacus* range countries from 1990 – 2010, data taken from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2010 Global Forest Assessment 2010: Main report. FAO Forestry Paper No. 163 (Table #3, page 229).
Grey cells indicate countries with the highest annual rates of forest loss.

	Forest Area (1,000 ha)				Annual Change Rate					
COUNTRY	**1990**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**1990-2000**		**2000-2005**		**2005-2010**	
					1,000 ha/yr	**% change**	**1,000 ha/yr**	**% change**	**1,000 ha/yr**	**% change**
Angola	60 976	59 728	59 104	58 481	-125	-0,21	-125	-0,21	-125	-0,21
Benin	5 761	5 061	4 811	4 561	-70	-1,29	-50	-1,01	-50	-1,06
Burundi	289	198	181	172	-9	-3,71	-3	-1,78	-2	-1,01
Cameroon	24 316	22 116	21 016	19 916	-220	-0,94	-220	-1,02	-220	-1,07
Central African Republic	23 203	22 903	22 755	22 605	-30	-0,13	-30	-0,13	-30	-0,13
Congo	22 726	22 556	22 471	22 411	-17	-0,08	-17	-0,08	-12	-0,05
Côte d'Ivoire	10 22	10 328	10 405	10 403	11	0,10	15	0,15	n.s.	n.s.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	160 363	157 249	155 692	154 135	-311	-0,20	-311	-0,20	-311	-0,20
Equatorial Guinea	1 860	1 743	1 685	1 626	-12	-0,65	-12	-0,67	-12	-0,71
Gabon	22 000	22 000	22 000	22 000	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
Ghana	7 448	6 094	5 517	4 940	-135	-1,99	-115	-1,97	-115	-2,19
Guinea	7 264	6 904	6 724	6 544	-36	-0,51	-36	-0,53	-36	-0,54
Guinea-Bissau	2 216	2 120	2 072	2 022	-10	-0,44	-10	-0,46	-10	-0,49
Kenya	3 708	3 582	3 522	3 467	-13	-0,35	-12	-0,34	-11	-0,31
Liberia	4 929	4 629	4 479	4 329	-30	-0,63	-30	-0,66	-30	-0,68
Mali	14 072	13 281	12 885	12 490	-79	-0,58	-79	-0,60	-79	-0,62
Nigeria	17 234	13 137	11 089	9 041	-410	-2,68	-410	-3,33	-410	-4,00
Rwanda	318	344	385	435	3	0,79	8	2,28	10	2,47
Sao Tome and Principe	27	27	27	27	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
Sierra Leone	3 118	2 922	2 824	2 726	-20	-0,65	-20	-0,68	-20	-0,70
Togo	685	486	386	287	-20	-3,37	-20	-4,50	-20	-5,75
Uganda	4 751	3 869	3 429	2 988	-88	-2,03	-88	-2,39	-88	-2,72
United Republic of Tanzania	41 495	37 462	35 445	33 428	-403	-1,02	-403	-1,10	-403	-1,16

Distribution of *Psittacus erithacus timneh* and *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* adapted from Benson *et al.* (1988).



Gross Exports of wild specimens from range States between 1975 and 2013 (UNEP-WCMC Trade Database downloaded 18/03/2016. For visual clarity, all countries with total exports between 1975-2013 of less than 5,000 individuals are combined as 'Other', these include São Tomé & Príncipe, Rwanda, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Tanzania, Uganda, Angola, Nigeria, Benin*, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, CAR.
*Countries sometimes listed as range States but where no wild populations are known to occur.



Summary of legal trade by range State

Range State	Summary
Angola	Low levels of exports reported – 48 individuals since 2000.
Benin	Low levels of exports reported.
Burundi	Very low levels of exports reported. Burundi announced its decision to suspend exports of the species in 1992 "in order to protect its endangered population of *P. erithacus*" (CITES Notification No. 681).
Cameroon	Imports of *P. e. erithacus* from Cameroon were suspended in November 1993 as a result of a lack of response to request for information on the scientific basis of Cameroon's export quota (CITES Notification No. 775). Cameroon established an annual export quota of 12,000 in April 1994 (CITES Notification 794). The prohibition was revoked in April 1994 (CITES Notification 800). In November 1996, the CITES Secretariat recommended that the Parties reject permits from Cameroon as its 1996 quota was exceeded, later found to be by 11,000 birds (CITES Notification No. 945). In October 1997, the CITES Standing Committee recommended that Parties not accept any imports of the species from Cameroon until 31 December 1997, stating that the 23,000 birds exported in 1996 covers the quota of 12,000 specimens for both 1996 and 1997 (CITES Notification No. 993). Prohibition revoked in March 1998 (CITES Notification No. 1998/05). Concerns regarding quota implementation in Cameroon in 1996 led to the temporary cessation of exports in 1997. In response to concerns raised under the CITES Review of Significant Trade, the Secretariat recommended Cameroon establish a moratorium on export of this species, to be effective January 2007. Despite the CITES-imposed zero export quota, Cameroon exported 4,715 specimens in 2007; 708 in 2008; 10 in 2009; and 302 in 2010. In 2012, the Standing Committee approved an annual quota of 3,000 specimens (SC62 Sum. 8 (Rev. 1)).
Central African Republic	Between 1995 and 2010, reported exports of 1,039 specimens although no export quotas were established. At the 66th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee it was recommended that all parties suspend trade of *P. erithacus* from CAR (CITES 2016c)
Côte d'Ivoire	In May 1993, the CITES Secretariat recommended that Parties not accept documentation from Côte d'Ivoire for trade until surveys of wild populations are completed and, based on those surveys, Côte d'Ivoire establishes a management plan for trade (CITES Notification No. 746). Between 2000 and 2006, Côte d'Ivoire exported a total of 9,121 specimens of *P. e. erithacus* and 4,212 of *P. e. timneh* exceeding export quotas.). In response to concerns raised under the CITES Review of Significant Trade (AC22 WG1 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)), Côte d'Ivoire was requested to establish a moratorium on export of this species, to become effective January 2007.
DRC	Between 1994 and 2013, the reported exports by DRC were of 224,382 specimens of *P. e. erithacus*. In February 2001, the CITES Secretariat reported that there was evidence of large-scale abuse of export permits issued in the DRC, the majority relating to exports of *P. e. erithacus* (CITES Notification No. 2001/002). From 1994 to 2013, DRC exported over 60,911 specimens in excess of the export quotas (UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade database 2015). In response to concerns raised under the CITES Review of Significant Trade, an export quota of 5,000 specimens was established for trade in this species from DRC, to become effective January 2007. Exports consistently exceeded this quota; 8,578 in 2008; 12,158 in 2009; 7,502 in 2010. In November 2013, due to concerns about the volume of trade and the lack of annual reports, the Secretariat requested DRC to provide copies of export permits issued in 2011, 2012, and 2013, and to continue to do so up to the end of 2014 (CITES Notification 2013/051). In addition, Parties were invited to verify all DRC export permits with the Secretariat before accepting them. In April 2014, the CITES Secretariat notified parties of a large number of fake or falsified permits apparently issued by DRC that came to light over many months (CITES Notification 2014/017). In addition, Parties that sent requests to the DRC Management authority received at times irregular or contradictory responses, in some cases from non-authorized persons. Copies of large number of permits are missing from the files. The Secretariat recommended that Parties not accept any CITES export permits or certificates apparently issued by DRC unless their validity had been confirmed by the Secretariat; and that Parties inform the Secretariat if any of the missing permits listed was presented, or had been presented to authorize import or re-export of CITES specimens.
Equatorial Guinea	Exports of *P. e. erithacus* totaled 1,495 between 2003 and 2005. No exports have been reported since 2006.
Gabon	Low level of export reported.

Range State	Summary
Ghana	No permitted exports since 1992, although an export quota of 5,000 was reported in 1995
Guinea	All parties were requested to suspend imports in April 1993 as a result of a lack of response to a request for information on the scientific basis of Guinea's export quota (CITES Notification No. 737). This suspension was revoked in April 1994 (CITES Notification No. 800) and Guinea agreed to an annual export quota of 450 for *P. e. timneh* and an annual quota of 0 for *P. e. erithacus* (CITES Notification No. 797, Doc. AC.15.Sem.5). This same notification requested all Parties to consult the Secretariat before accepting any permit authorizing export or re-export of *P. e. erithacus* from Guinea to confirm the validity of the document and to ensure that the export quota is not exceeded. In 1991, a field survey (Dändliker 1992a), undertaken as part of the Review of Significant Trade, estimated Guinea's population of *P. e. timneh* to number 5,000-10,000 individuals, and recommended an export quota of 450. In 1992, Guinea exported a number of birds greater (10,894 specimens / UNEP-WCMC 2003) than the maximum estimated national population. From 1994 to 2010, Guinea reported exports of 15,065 specimens of *P. e. timneh* and 13,472 of P. *e. erithacus*, 17,113 in excess of its export quotas (N.B. Guinea is not a range State for *P. e. erithacus*). In response to concerns raised under the CITES Review of Significant Trade (AC22 WG1 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)), Guinea was requested to establish a moratorium on export of this species, to be effective January 2007. Guinea has continued exports, reporting as captive-bred, despite the absence of breeding facilities (see section 6.4 for further details). In May 2013, CITES recommended that all parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species until further notice (CITES Notification No. 2013/017).
Guinea-Bissau	Negligible: 33 individuals exported since 1975. 4 since 2003.
Kenya	Currently negligible. During 1990s, close to 500 were exported. 2 since 2002.
Liberia	In 1993, Liberia satisfied the recommendations following Phase 1 of the CITES Review of Significant Trade (AC Doc. 8.10) by stating that it had prepared a proposal for population surveys (Doc. SC30.6.1), however the surveys were never undertaken (AC22 Doc. 10.2 Annex 1). Liberia exceeded its annual export quota of 2,500 in 1999, and increased it to 3,000 in 2001. From 1997 to 2005, 11,425 wild specimens of *P. e. timneh* and 1,997 'captive-bred' P. *e. erithacus* were exported. In response to concerns raised under the CITES Review of Significant Trade (AC22 WG1 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)), Liberia was requested to establish a moratorium on export of this species, to be effective January 2007. No exports of wild birds have been reported since 2006.
Mali	Neither *P. e. erithacus* or *P. e. timneh* occur in the wild in Mali nor does it have captive breeding facilities for the species. Between 2011 and 2014, importers reported 1,880 P. erithacus and 1,490 P. e. timneh with code W from Mali.
Nigeria	In 2005 UAE reported imports of 400 *P. e. erithacus* under code 'C'.
Republic of Congo	A total of 53,671 specimens were exported from 1994-2010. Between 2001 and 2005, 6,493 specimens were exported in excess of the quotas. In response to concerns raised under the CITES Review of Significant Trade, an export quota of 4,000 specimens was established to be effective January 2007. Since 2012, no export quota has been published. Between 2011 and 2013, imports of 8,623 specimens originating from ROC have been reported, although no trade reports on exports have been submitted to the Secretariat.
Rwanda	Negligible: Less than 20 individuals exported since 1975
São Tomé and Príncipe	Negligible: Less than 5 individuals exported since 1975
Senegal	Although not a range State, Senegal reported exports of more than 800 *P. e. erithacus* between 1994-2005, and for *P. e. timneh* 6,941 between 1994-1996, and a further 100 wild *P. e. Timneh* in 2001.
Sierra Leone	12,459 specimens of *P. e. timneh* and 650 of *P. e. erithacus* (N.B. Sierra Leone is not a range State for *P. e. erithacus*) were reported from 1996 to 2005. From 2003 to 2005, 1,750 specimens of *P. e. erithacus* were exported in excess of quotas. In response to concerns raised under the CITES Review of Significant Trade (AC22 WG1 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)), Sierra Leone was requested to establish a moratorium on export of this species, to be effective January 2007. No exports of wild birds reported since 2006. In 2013, exported 28 *P. e. timneh* under code 'C'.
Republic of Tanzania	Negligible: Less than 100 individuals exported; none since 1996.
Togo	Currently negligible, although historically high. Between 1981 and 2000, exports of 56,543. 102 since 2000.
Uganda	Only 63 reported exports between 1983 and 2000. 6 since 2005. None for commercial purposes.

Summary of recent (previous 5 years) confiscations and other reports of illegal trade

Date	Details
2009, December	730 found dead on a private plane between Johannesburg and Durban; the birds were believed to have been sourced from DRC.
2010, February	More than 1,000 seized at Douala Airport in Cameroon.
2010, April	107 from Lebanon seized in Bulgaria.
2010, September	More than 500 seized in DRC and placed in a rehabilitation center in preparation for release in the wild; these same birds were returned to the original dealer in September 2010, despite being accompanied by no official documents when seized.
2010, December	700 seized on a highway in Cameroon.
2011, January	132 seized entering Uganda from DRC at Mpondwe border post, Uganda
2011, January	140 seized in Kawuku, Wakiso District, Uganda. Reportedly originated from Kalangala island on Lake Victoria.
2011, April	161 seized entering South Africa from Mozambique in transit from DRC. Later handed over to a bird breeder in Mozambique who claimed birds had been stolen from him in Mozambique.
2011, November	300 confiscated from poachers who were reportedly intending to move them to DRC for export.
2012, July	97 confiscated in Nigeria. Reportedly originated from Cameroon.
2013, March	The Curator of the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) in Banundu, DRC, reports that since the beginning of 2013, 500/600 parrots have been illegally trapped to be transported to Kinshasa for export, and that the ICCN lacks the resources to control the illegal trade.
2013, September	150 seized in Kasese district, Uganda. At least 21 reportedly originated in Queen Elizabeth National Park and seized on transit to DRC.
2013, December	Poaching reported in Idiofa, DRC, http://radiookapi.net/environnement/2013/12/12/idiofa-liccn-invite-la-population-simpliquer-dans-la-conservation-de-la-nature/#.U7ZJaY2SxFA
2014, January	24 seized at Kindu International Airport from the Egyptian UN peace force.
2014, May	32 seized at Muhammed Ali Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, Pakistan
2014, May	3 seized at Aranyaprathet Border Checkpoint, Thailand
2014, September	'Many' confiscated in Southern Cameroon.
2014, September	30 seized in Vidin, Bulgaria. Reportedly on their way to the Czech Republic, traveling with a forged CITES permit.
2014, December	114 seized at border entering Hungary from Romania by Bulgarian citizen.
2014 December	The administrator of Shabunda, DRC, Daniel Eloko Nsala reports the increased trafficking of P. erithacus. The Coordinator of Environmental Civil Society, Pastor Joshua Aruna had denounced in July the traffic of more than 54,000 Grey parrots since 2011 by a mafia network in Kakumba and Idumba, with the majority of parrots trapped in the Parc National de Kahuzi Biega, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. http://www.digitalcongo.net/article/104469 http://www.radiomaendeleo.info/trafic-illicite-des-perroquets-gris-a-shabunda-au-sud-kivu-2/
2015 September	Over 80 P. e. timneh confiscated in Senegal, with export permit issued by the Mali MA and meant to be exported to Jordan . http://www.wombolombo.com/articles/38979/un-contrebandier-de-perroquets-defere-au-parquet-par-la-surete-urbaine?st=sm
2015 December	158 confiscated in Bertoua, Cameroon as they were being transported to Nigeria. http://www.cameroun24.net/actualite-cameroun-Cameroun_3A_158_perroquets_saisis_sur_des_contreband-1-1-27026.html
2016 February	Over 400, in transit to Kinshasa, confiscated for violating the seasonal trapping ban established by the Province of Maniema. http://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-15981.html