Case Studies

The group considered the following individual case-studies: *Cacatua sulphurea* from Indonesia, *Cacatua galerita* and *Platycercus eximius* from New Zealand*, Psittacus erithacus* in Nigeria, *Amazona auropaliata* in Nicaragua and *Falco cherrug* in the United Arab Emirates. Additional reports on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Parrots in Mexico, Collecting Data in Support NDFs for Parrots, and Population Assessment of Raptors in Guinea also provided key information and examples for the working group. The group acknowledged the large range of situations encompassed by birds in trade, including rare species with wide ranges, patchily distributed or colonial species, widely ranging or migratory species, species introduced outside their native range, island endemic taxa, etc.

Risk Analysis

The group first developed a decision tree to categorize the origins of specimens proposed for trade. The group also developed, as a preliminary step towards making an NDF for birds, a standardised framework for assessing the following risk categories: vulnerability of the population; general threats to population; potential impact of proposed harvest; and management of harvest. Testing the framework on sulphur-crested cockatoo in New Zealand, saker falcon, Java sparrow, crestless fireback pheasant, African grey parrot and yellow-naped amazon reinforced the value of this approach.

Assessment Tools

The case studies illustrated the need for access to practical methods of population and harvest assessment for a large range of species, countries and situations, and developed tables for assessing which method might be appropriate in each case. Techniques for population survey and monitoring were assessed in categories of complexity according to the study aim, field data required, situational suitability, availability of resources and expertise, possible field methods, strengths and weaknesses, example species and key references. Similarly, harvest assessment methodologies were assessed according to scope, data required, methods, stage of trade being assessed, strengths and weaknesses, other benefits and the impact of illegal trade.

Decision framework

Within an overall framework of considering origin of specimens, gathering information, assessing risk and analysing the information, a decision tree was developed to help in actually making an NDF. This allowed consideration of whether enough information is available and if so, whether the requested harvest is within sustainable limits, consideration of other factors affecting the population and conditions that might be placed on the trade to render it acceptable.

Recommendations

Recommendations focused on:

Examination of past Significant Trade Reviews to identify technical issues and potential difficulties;

Access to advice and data on relevant biological information, e.g life history;

The development of technical advice on particular approaches and methods for population assessment and measuring the effects of harvest and trade;

Encouraging bilateral support in these matters;

Recognising that addressing many of these issues may have significant other benefits to the species concerned and their ecosystems.