

26 October 2022

Addressing the Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

To whom it may concern

The IUCN Species Survival Commission Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group (IUCN SSC ASTSG) has congratulated the Governments of Singapore and Malaysia on their proposed amendments to the Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Panama City (Republic of Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022, in respect to the Straw-headed Bulbul and White-rumped Shama:

Transfer of Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*) from Appendix II to Appendix I in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 1, Criteria A(i) & (ii) and C(i).

Inclusion of the White-rumped Shama (*Kittacincla malabarica*) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention; found in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 2a, paragraph B whereby it is known, or can be inferred or projected, that regulation of trade in the species is required to ensure that the harvest of specimens from the wild does not reduce the wild population to a level at which its survival might be threatened by continued harvesting or other influences.

We see this as a very clear and necessary commitment to conserving both these songbird species, which we applaud. It demonstrates quite clearly the importance put on these species and the realisation that the trade in them has an adverse effect on their long-term survival.

As I hope you are aware the IUCN SSC ASTSG was established in 2017 in response to the Asian Songbird Crisis. Its aim is to prevent the imminent extinction of songbirds threatened by unsustainable trapping and trade in wild-caught Passerines. In addition it seeks to address the impact of the trade and to find solutions through which the growing threat to an ever-increasing number of songbirds can be reversed and the conservation status of all the species involved improved.

The Straw-headed Bulbul and White-rumped Shama taxa are currently recognised by the IUCN SSC ASTSG to be priority taxa, because trade is a main threat to their survival and populations are known or believed to be declining, experiencing local extirpations, or already very rare in the wild. Both species were identified needing action in 2017 and this remains to be the case today.

The IUCN SSC ASTSG offers its full support and any assistance it can in seeing the adoption of both these proposals at the CITES CoP19 in Panama this November. It sees this as a most important contribution to the conservation efforts to conserve these species, in which controlling the international trade in them is a vital component. This will help prevent extinctions and ensure sustainable and legal trade where it is allowed.

We would therefore urge you to use your influence as a Party to the convention and vote in favour of these proposals at the forthcoming CITES CoP19.

Yours sincerely,
David Jeggo



Chair
IUCN Species Survival Commission, Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group