

**PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF
WILD ANIMALS**

- A. PROPOSAL:** Listing the entire population of *Rynchops flavirostris* on Appendix II
- B. PROPONENT:** Government of Kenya
- C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT:**

1. Taxon

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1.1 | Classis | Aves |
| 1.2 | Ordo | Charadriiformes |
| 1.3 | Familia | Rynchopidae |
| 1.4 | Species | <i>Rynchops flavirostris</i> |
| 1.5 | Common name(s) | English: African Skimmer, Scissorbill
French: Bec-en-ciseaux d’Afrique |

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

Distributed in the Afrotropical region in major rivers and lakes south of the Sahara. Irregular and uncommon at several widely scattered localities but frequents and breeds in small numbers in eastern and southern Africa.

2.2 Population

The numbers are estimated at 7,000 – 13,000 (West & Central Africa), 8000-12000 (East and southern Africa). Most colonies of the species support about 50 pairs.

2.3 Habitat

Large rivers of low waters, bays, lakes, coastal lagoons, salt pans and open marshes. Rests and breeds on sand bars and beaches within its range.

2.4 Migrations

Locally common resident in the Afrotropical region. Migrates north and south of Sahara in large rivers and inland lakes.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threat

Habitat disturbance of colonies by human and cattle. Disturbance generally affects its breeding performance. Egg collections have been reported in some Range States. Occasional rise in water levels during breeding swamps the breeding islands affecting breeding success.

3.2 Habitat destruction

General catchments degradations that affect the river flows and water volumes of lakes. Pollution and chemical use around lakes that affect fish abundance for this species and for all other fish eating birds.

3.3 Indirect threat

Overfishing and decimation of native fish fauna by introduced predators in some wetlands within its distribution range. Dam buildings that affect the river flows and competition from other fish eating birds particularly terns could be other factors affecting the species.

3.4 Threat connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5 National and international utilization

None known.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

Protected under Wildlife Act as all other wildlife species in Kenya, but has no special protection at present.

4.2 International protection status

Listed as globally near-threatened (NT). Additionally listed in eastern Africa as regionally threatened/vulnerable. Presently not listed in any of the CMS Appendices.

4.3 Additional protection needs

Protection of the known breeding colonies and staging areas is essential within the Range States.

5. Range States¹

ANGOLA, CAMEROON, CHAD, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (Zaire), KENYA, Malawi, MALI, Mozambique, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, TANZANIA, UGANDA, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

6. Comments from Range States

Kenya: Species currently listed as a priority for more inventories and breeding surveys.

7. Additional remarks

A monitoring programme for waterbirds including this species is on-going in Kenya, but more specific research programmes targeting this species has been prioritized.

8. References

- BirdLife International (2000) *Threatened Birds of the World*. Barcelona and Cambridge, UK: Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International.
- Bennun, L. A. & Njoroge, P. 1996. Birds to watch in East Africa : A preliminary red data list. Centre for Biodiversity, National Museums of Kenya Research Reports. Ornithology 23.
- Bennun, L.A. & Njoroge, P. 1999. Important Bird Areas. EANHS, Nairobi.
- BirdLife web site <http://www.birdlife.net/datazone/index/xxxx.html>: accessed 15 June 2005.
- Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. eds. 1992. Handbook of the birds of the world, Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Lewis A. & Pomeroy, D. 1989. Bird Atlas of Kenya. Balkema: Rotterdam.
- Sinclair, I. & Ryan, P. 2003. Birds of Africa south of the Sahara. Struik Publishers, Cape Town.
- Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H., Keith, C. eds. 1986. Birds of Africa. Vol. 1, Academic Press, London.
- Wetlands International. 2002. Waterbird population estimates – third edition. Wetlands. International Global Series No. 12. Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- Zimmerman, D.A., Turner D.A. & Pearson, D.J. 1999. Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania. Russell Friedman Books: South Africa.

¹ CMS Parties in capitals.

