

**PROPOSAL FOR THE 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 *Gorsachius goisagi* on Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Philippines.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1	Classis:	Aves
1.2	Ordo:	Ciconiiformes
1.3	Familia:	Ardeidae
1.4	Species:	<i>Gorsachius goisagi</i>
1.5	Common name:	Japanese Night-Heron

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

Breeds in Japan, and has been recorded in spring and summer from Russia and South Korea. Migrates through coastal China to the Philippines, which appears to be the main wintering area (though it has also been recorded as a non-breeding visitor to Indonesia, and as a vagrant to Brunei and Palau).

2.2 Population

There are probably now fewer than 1,000 mature individuals. The population is declining.

2.3 Habitat

Breeds in heavily forested areas, where there are watercourses and damp areas. Winters in dark, deeply shaded forest near water, up to 2,400 meters. It forages in swamps, rice-fields and farmlands, and is mainly crepuscular.

2.4 Migrations

A migrant between distinct summer and winter ranges, including regularly across international boundaries. The whole population is migratory.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats

The main threat is deforestation in its breeding, passage and wintering areas. On one

breeding island, the introduction of the predatory mammal *Mustela sibirica* had a serious effect.

3.2 Habitat destruction

Destruction of forests is the crucial factor.

3.3 Indirect threats

The development of dense scrub undergrowth in forest and on abandoned farmland is believed to reduce the suitability of these habitats for feeding.

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

As in 3.1 to 3.3.

3.5 National and international utilisation

Although the species has probably been hunted in many parts of its range, it is not normally regarded as utilisable.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

Legally protected in Japan and at least part of China. Birds may occur in protected areas in Japan and have done so in the Philippines.

4.2 International protection status

The species is listed as Endangered. It does not appear on any convention appendices.

4.3 Additional protection needs

The species should receive full legal protection throughout its range. Enforcement of such legislation, including to prevent trade in the species, is also needed. Survey and monitoring of the Japanese and Philippine populations is needed. Forests in its breeding and wintering areas should be protected and managed. Public awareness programmes should be established.

5. Range States

China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines (CMS Party), Russia, South Korea.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

BirdLife International (2000) *Threatened Birds of the World*. Barcelona and Cambridge, UK: Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International.