

**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 *Oxyura maccoa* on Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT: Government of Kenya.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

1. Taxon

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| 1.1 | Class: | Aves |
| 1.2 | Order: | Anseriformes |
| 1.3 | Family: | Anatidae |
| 1.4 | Genus/species/subspecies: | <i>Oxyura maccoa</i> |
| 1.5 | Common names: | English: Maccoa Duck
French: Érismaure maccoa |

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

Predominantly Afrotropical duck species of inland wetlands. Found in Ethiopian highlands, eastern and southern Africa regions.

2.2 Population

Considerable differences exist on reports in abundance and distribution in East Africa. In East Africa the population is estimated at 1000-1500, Ethiopia, 500-3000, Southern Africa <10000. Generally numbers are decreasing within its range, and in Kenya, the species is listed as rare with a population estimate of about 700.

2.3 Habitat

Resident on alkaline and freshwater lakes, shallow waters and swamps with fringing vegetation. Are bottom feeders where they dive to sift the bottom mud for small invertebrates, plant debris and seeds. Males are territorial during the breeding seasons. In Kenya, it is uncommon in its preferred habitats in the Rift Valley and central highlands, and ranges mainly above 1500 m above sea level.

2.4 Migrations

Mainly sedentary with small-scale dispersive movements in eastern and southern Africa. In most cases migrations are seasonal subject to the availability of suitable habitats during dry seasons. In Kenya, it migrates regularly within its range, but there are no adequate details about movements.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats

Drowning in fishing nets on lakes is common for this species. Habitat changes such as drainage and discharge of wastes also directly affect this species. Illegal and recreational hunting has been reported in some areas within its range. Diseases associated with the direct pollution to the wetland ecosystems could be affecting the species, but this has not been extensively investigated.

3.2 Habitat destruction

Degradation of wetlands from sewage, industrial effluents and agricultural runoffs that find their ways to the wetlands. Loss of catchments due to degradations affect the hydrology and water volumes for the major lakes where the species is found in Kenya.

3.3 Indirect threats

Though not documented in Kenya, competition with other duck species could be happening. Nest predations by other wetland species could also be affecting its breeding performance.

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

The continued encroachment, drainage of particular wetlands and invasive species in areas where it inhabits. Incoherent legislations governing species conservation and land use around the preferred habitats for the species.

3.5 National and international utilisation

No direct utilization known in Kenya, but the species is perhaps utilized elsewhere within the range.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1 National protection status

Like all other wildlife species in Kenya, the species is protected under Wildlife Act but has no special protection at present.

4.2 International protection status

The species is listed as vulnerable (VU A1b,d; A2b,d; C1; C2b (BirdLife International)). But not listed in Appendices I or II of CMS. In eastern Africa, the species is listed as regionally threatened.

4.3 Additional protection needs

Enforcement of protection of the staging wetlands for the species in the Afrotropical region is necessary. Development of species action plan would further enhance its conservation.

5. **Range States¹**

Angola, Botswana, Burundi, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, Ethiopia, ERITREA, KENYA, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, RWANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, Sudan, Swaziland, UGANDA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

6. **Comments from Range States**

Range States are currently involved in the development of Maccoa Duck Species Action Plan.

7. **Additional remarks**

The on-going monitoring programme for the species under the Africa Waterbird Census programme coordinated by Wetlands International should continue and expand to more marginal areas within the Range States including the sites that have not been monitored consistently. There is need to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the conservation and management of the species and its habitats among the Range States.

¹ CMS Parties in capitals.

8. References

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