

**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 *Ardeola idae* on Appendix I.

**B. PROPONENT:** Government of Kenya.

**C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

**1. Taxon**

- |            |                      |   |
|------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>1.1</b> | <b>Class:</b>        | Aves  |
| <b>1.2</b> | <b>Order:</b>        | Ciconiiformes   |
| <b>1.3</b> | <b>Family:</b>       | Ardeidae  |
| <b>1.4</b> | <b>Species:</b>      | <i>Ardeola idae</i>   |
| <b>1.5</b> | <b>Common names:</b> | Madagascar Squacco Heron; Malagasy Pond-heron;<br>Madagascar Pond-heron |

**2. Biological data**

**2.1** Distribution

Breeds in Madagascar (throughout the country, but always uncommon), Seychelles (on Aldabra island) and the island of Europa (Réunion, to France). It has a large non-breeding range in Central and East Africa including Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**2.2** Population

The population is estimated at 2,000 – 6,000 and is decreasing, with a decline reported over the last 50 years, most notably on the high plateau of Madagascar.

**2.3** Habitat

Shallow bodies of water, ringed with vegetation or with floating plants; favours wetlands in wooded habitats rather more than some closely related herons. Occasionally in mangroves and on the seashore.

**2.4** Migrations

In Madagascar, breeds from October to March. Migrates to tropical Africa mainly from May to October, though some non-breeding birds remain there all year round.

**3. Threat data**

**3.1** Direct threats

Exploitation of eggs and young is the most serious threat on the breeding grounds. Habitat destruction is a problem throughout its range.

**3.2** Habitat destruction

The loss and degradation of wetlands is likely to be partly responsible for the decline of this species. Its generally thin distribution means that the conservation of a number of well-spread sites is important, rather than a few sites holding large numbers of the species.

### 3.3 Indirect threats

The species may suffer from competition with the closely related Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, which is better adapted to human-made wetland habitats.

### 3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

### 3.5 National and international utilisation

The eggs and young of the species are heavily exploited at many of its breeding colonies in Madagascar, and perhaps elsewhere.

## 4. **Protection status and needs**

### 4.1 National protection status

There are few published data on national protection status. In Kenya, the species is protected under Wildlife Act like all other species. It is presumed that this bird is given general protection in those countries that have enacted species protection legislation. It should now be added, as appropriate, to such appendices as cover endangered species.

### 4.2 International protection status

The species appears on Appendix II of CMS and Annex II of AEWa.

### 4.3 Additional protection needs

Enforcement of protection at the breeding colonies is essential to the successful conservation of the species.

## 5. **Range States<sup>1</sup>**

Burundi, Comoros, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, KENYA, Malawi, Mozambique, RWANDA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UGANDA, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## 6. **Comments from Range States**

Kenya: No comment

## 7. **Additional remarks**

Monitoring programme currently being undertaken should continue to generate more data on the species

## 8. **References**

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

BirdLife web site <http://www.birdlife.net/datazone/index/xxxx.html>: accessed 15 June 2005

Brown, Urban and Newman (1982) *The Birds of Africa* Vol. 1, Academic Press, San Diego and London

---

<sup>1</sup> CMS Parties in capitals