

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Phalacrocorax carbo (Western Palearctic populations, excluding the Icelandic population) in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1.1. Classis | Aves |
| 1.2. Ordo | Pelecaniformes |
| 1.3. Familia | Phalacrocoracidae |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Phalacrocorax carbo</u> (Linnaeus) 1758
ssp. <u>carbo</u> and <u>sinensis</u> |
| 1.5. Common names | |
| English: | Great Cormorant |
| Spanish: | Cormoran Grande |
| French: | Grand Cormoran |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Two subspecies occur. The nominate subspecies breeds from eastern Canada through Greenland and Iceland to Norway and the British Islands. The Icelandic population (3,500 pairs) is sedentary; Norwegian birds disperse south to the western Baltic; British birds disperse widely within the British Isles, with a small proportion crossing the English Channel to winter in France and Portugal. P. c. sinensis breeds across continental Europe and Asia, wintering south to NW Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, India and Southeast Asia. Four main migratory populations are recognized in West Eurasia.

2.2. Population

- British Isles/Norway population of P. c. carbo: 120,000; increasing rapidly (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Central European sinensis (wintering Atlantic coast of Europe and West Mediterranean): 150,000; increasing rapidly (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Black Sea/East Mediterranean sinensis: 150,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).
- SW Asian sinensis (wintering Caspian Sea to Arabia): 100,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

The species has suffered from heavy persecution in Europe in the past, but there has been a widespread increase almost throughout Europe during the present century due to protection and reduced direct persecution, and this has led to extensive recolonization. The breeding population of P. c. carbo has been estimated at about 37,000 pairs, with 21,000 pairs in Norway and 11,500 pairs in the British Isles (as opposed to only 8,000 in 1969/70). This population is increasing rapidly, although the small numbers breeding in the Faeroes have virtually disappeared in recent years.

The Central European population of sinensis has been estimated at 35,000-40,000 pairs, of which 14,100 pairs are in Denmark (following recolonization in 1938) and 13,600 pairs in the Netherlands. This population is also increasing rapidly (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

The breeding population in the Black Sea/Mediterranean region has been estimated at 35,000 pairs. Along Mediterranean coasts, numbers of breeding birds are declining, despite an increase in the wintering population (del Hoyo et al. 1992). Trends elsewhere in the range of this population are unknown.

A estimated 25,000-30,000 pairs breed in the Caspian Region. In the 1970s, the breeding population in Iran was estimated at 5,200-6,000 pairs and the wintering population at 25,000-30,000 birds (Scott 1992). Over 40,000 were recorded in Southwest Asia during the Asian Waterfowl Census of 1992, the major concentrations being in Iran, Oman and Saudi Arabia (Perennou & Mundkur 1992). No information is available on population trends in this population.

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in a wide variety of marine and freshwater habitats from the Arctic to the tropics, with habitat preferences varying regionally. P. c. carbo is markedly marine, although it rarely wanders far from the coast, preferring sheltered bays and estuaries. This subspecies normally breeds on sea-cliffs, stacks and small offshore islands, but also amongst boulders and on man-made structures such as wrecked ships. P. c. sinensis occurs mainland inland during the breeding season, frequenting fresh and brackish water lakes, lagoons, reservoirs, large rivers and seasonally flooded areas; outside the breeding season, some move to coastal waters. This subspecies nests mainly on trees or bushes and in reed-beds, but also occasionally on rocky islets in large lakes and even on the bare ground (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Migrant or partial migrant in most northerly populations, but sedentary or dispersive throughout much of its range; migrants frequently winter within the breeding range of the species. Nominate carbo is widely dispersive, wintering mainly on coasts around the breeding areas, although many also winter inland, especially in Ireland. P. c. sinensis is fairly migratory, but variable with region and year. Western populations move south towards the Mediterranean, wintering both inland and along the coast, and reaching the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population

The major threat to the species continues to be human persecution (Evans 1984). There is direct persecution by hunters for food (especially in Southwest Asia) and by fishermen who perceive it to be a competitor for fish stocks.

3.2. Habitat destruction

Wetland loss and degradation are occurring throughout the range of P. c. sinensis, but are clearly having little impact on numbers, presumably because the species is readily able to adapt to man-made wetlands (reservoirs, gravel pits and fish-ponds) as well as artificial nest-sites.

3.3. Indirect threats

Probably at risk from contamination of wetlands with pesticides and other chemicals, but details lacking.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

There is some hunting for food, especially in Southwest Asia, but the numbers taken would appear to be insignificant.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1. National protection status

Phalacrocorax carbo is fully protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC except in Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom where it may, under specific conditions, be controlled as a pest species. In North Africa, the species is protected under national legislation in Algeria and Tunisia.

4.2. International protection status

Phalacrocorax carbo is listed in Appendix III (protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention). The subspecies sinensis is also listed in Annex I of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

4.3. Additional protection needs

The populations in question are considered to have a favourable conservation status, and are not in need of any additional special protection measures at the present time.

5. **Range States**

See attached table.

6. **Comments from Range States**

7. **Additional remarks**

8. References

- Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L. (eds). (1977). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.1: Ostrich to Ducks. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- Evans, P.G.H. (1984). Status and Conservation of Seabirds in Northwest Europe (excluding Norway and the USSR). In: Croxall, J.P., Evans, P.G.H. & Schreiber, R.W. (eds), Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds: 293-321. ICBP Tech. Publ. No.2. Cambridge, UK.
- Golovkin, A.N. (1984). Seabirds nesting in the USSR: the status and protection of populations. In: Croxall, J.P., Evans, P.G.H. & Schreiber, R.W. (eds), Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds: 473-486. ICBP Tech. Publ. No.2. Cambridge, UK.
- del Hoyo, J., Elliott A. & Sargatal, J. (eds). (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Ostrich to Ducks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Perennou, C. & Mundkur, T. (1992). Asian and Australasian Waterfowl Census 1992. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- Rose, P.M. & Scott, D.A. (1993). Waterfowl Population Estimates. Draft report presented at the Fifth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, 9-16 June 1993, Kushiro, Japan. IWRB, Slimbridge.
- Scott, D.A. (1992). Summary of Waterfowl Counts in Iran in the 1970s. Unpublished manuscript on file at IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.

Taxon: <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (ssp <i>carbo</i> & <i>sinensis</i>)		
Population		
(a) British Isles/Norway (<i>carbo</i>)		
(b) Central Europe/W Mediterranean (<i>sinensis</i>)		
(c) Black Sea/E Mediterranean (<i>sinensis</i>)		
(d) West Asia/SW Asia (<i>sinensis</i>)		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	b	Ws
Austria	b	S
Azerbaijan	d	Ws
Bahrain	d	W
Belgium	b	W
Bosnia & Herzegovina	b	W
Bulgaria	c	Ws
Croatia	b	Ws
Denmark	b	Ws
Egypt	c	W
France	a	W
"	b	Ws
Gambia	b	Wr
Georgia	c	S
Germany	b	Sw
Greece	b	Ws
"	c	Ws
Guinea-Bissau	b	Wr
Hungary	b	S
Iran	d	Ws
Iraq	d	W
Ireland	a	Rws
Israel	c	W
Italy	b	W
Jordan	c	V
Kazakhstan	d	S
Kuwait	d	W
Lebanon	c	W
Libya	c	W
Liechtenstein	b	W

Malta	b	W
Mauritania	b	Wr
Monaco	b	W
Morocco	b	Wr
Netherlands	b	Ws
Norway	a	Sw
Poland	b	S
Portugal	a	W
"	b	W
Qatar	d	W
Romania	c	Sw
Russian Federation	c	S
"	d	S
Saudi Arabia	d	W
Senegal	b	Wr
Slovakia	b	S
Slovenia	b	W
Spain	b	W
Sweden	b	Ws
Switzerland	b	W
Syria	c	W
Turkey	c	Ws
Turkmenistan	d	Sw
Ukraine	c	Sw
United Kingdom	a	Rns
Uzbekistan	d	S
Yugoslavia	b	Ws

Key to Status	
S/s Breeding summer visitor	R/r Resident
W/w Winter visitor	V Vagrant
P/p Passage migrant	? Status uncertain
Upper case = primary status Lower case = secondary status	