

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves	
1.2. Ordo	Ciconiiformes	
1.3. Familia	Ciconiidae	
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Anastomus lamelligerus</u>	Temminck
	1823. ssp. <u>lamelligerus</u>	

1.5. Common names

English:	African Openbill
Spanish:	Picotenaza Africano
French:	Bec-ouvert africain

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Two subspecies are recognized. The nominate subspecies breeds in Africa south of the Sahara, mainly south of the equator, and occurs north of the equator chiefly as a dry season visitor (November-May). A. l. madagascariensis is confined to Madagascar.

2.2. Population

Only one migratory population is recognized.

- A. l. lamelligerus (entire population): Probably in excess of 100,000 birds; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

Common in suitable habitat throughout its range, and locally abundant; probably the commonest stork in Africa. In 1968, the largest known colony was of 5,000 pairs in Tanzania. The population is thought to be more or less stable, although it is possibly increasing in East Africa. Less than 100 pairs breed in South Africa, and then only in wet years. The highest count in West Africa in recent years was 980 birds in the Chad Basin. During the African Waterfowl Census of July 1992, the highest national totals were from Tanzania (1,000) and Uganda (159); in January 1993, the highest totals were from Cameroon (305), Malawi (477), Zambia (644) and Zimbabwe (365) (Taylor 1993).

2.3. Habitat

Occurs mainly in extensive freshwater wetland habitats, typically in marshes and swamps, backwaters and margins of rivers and lakes, rice fields and floodplains; sometimes in moist savanna or burnt grassland, occasionally in forest clearings. A colonial tree-nester, often in

association with other species (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

The species undertakes some regular trans-equatorial movements, but these movements are poorly understood. Substantial numbers arrive in West Africa for the dry season, and the species is common in Sudan from November to April. However, most birds apparently breed south of the equator, and South African breeders are mainly resident as long as conditions remain favourable. The species normally migrates in flocks, riding on thermals, although it can perform some sustained flapping flight.

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Not generally subject to direct persecution.

3.2. Habitat destruction

Wetland loss and degradation are occurring widely in Africa, but there are no indications yet that these are having an adverse effect on numbers of A. lamelligerus. The species has adapted well to man-made wetlands, especially rice fields.

3.3. Indirect threats

Excessive application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals, especially in rice-growing areas, is likely to be having an adverse effect on the species, but no incidences of mortality have as yet been reported.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

There may be some casual hunting of the species in parts of its range, but details are lacking.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1. National protection status

Fully protected under national legislation in Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe; partially protected in Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

The population in question is considered to have a favourable conservation status, and is 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**

- Brown, L.H., Urban, E.K. & Newman, K. (1982). The Birds of Africa. Volume I. Academic Press, London & New York.
- del Hoyo, J., Elliott A. & Sargatal, J. (eds). (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Ostrich to Ducks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Hancock, J.A., Kushlan, J.A. & Kahl, M.P. (1992). Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World. Academic Press, London.
- Luthin, C.S. (1987). Status of and Conservation Priorities for the World's Stork Species. Colonial Waterbirds 10(2): 181-202.
- 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.
- Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.

Taxon: <i>Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population of ssp <i>lamelligerus</i>		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	Sr
Benin	a	W
Botswana	a	Sr
Burkina Faso	a	W
Burundi	a	Sr
Cameroon	a	W
Central African Republic	a	W
Chad	a	Wr
Congo	a	W
Cote d'Ivoire	a	W
Equatorial Guinea	a	W
Ethiopia	a	Sr
Gabon	a	W
Ghana	a	W
Guinea	a	W
Kenya	a	Sr
Lesotho	a	Sr
Liberia	a	W
Malawi	a	Sr
Mali	a	W
Mozambique	a	Sr
Namibia	a	Sr
Niger	a	W
Nigeria	a	W
Rwanda	a	Sr
Sierra Leone	a	W
Somalia	a	Rs
South Africa	a	Sr
Sudan	a	W
Swaziland	a	Sr
Tanzania	a	Sr
Togo	a	W
Uganda	a	Sr

Zaire	a	Wrs
Zambia	a	Sr
Zimbabwe	a	Sr

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	