

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Ciconia abdimii 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>Ciconia abdimii</u> Lichtenstein 1823 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Abdim's Stork
Spanish:	Ciguena de Abdim
French:	Cigogne d'Abdim

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

The species occurs widely in Africa south of the Sahara. A trans-equatorial migrant, breeding during the wet season (May-October) north of the equator from Somalia, Ethiopia, Uganda and northwest Kenya to Senegal, and spending the dry season mainly in the southern tropics of eastern Africa south to the Zambesi and Transvaal. Small numbers of birds reach southwestern Arabia during the boreal summer, and the species has bred in Yemen.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- Entire population: In the range 25,000-100,000; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

Common to locally abundant, with flocks of up to 10,000 recorded on migration in Uganda. Numbers are considered to be relatively stable. The West African population has been estimated at roughly 50,000 birds (Perennou 1991). During the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993, the highest national totals were from Botswana (672), Namibia (1,715) and Zimbabwe (1,521) (Taylor 1993). Only small numbers were recorded in the Arabian Peninsula during the Asian Waterfowl Censuses of January 1991 and January 1992 (37 and 12, respectively, all in Yemen), but up to 4,000 have been recorded in summer.

2.3. Habitat

Normally found in open grassland, but also in areas of cultivation; often found near water but also in very dry zones, including semi-desert. The species feeds almost exclusively on insects, especially swarming locusts and caterpillars of the army worm (Spodoptera

exempta). Roosts on trees and cliffs, and often rests by marshes and pools. A colonial nester on trees and cliffs, often in company with other species; also nests in villages where protected from disturbance by superstition (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

A trans-equatorial migrant, breeding north of the equator between May and August, and spending the period November-March in the southern tropics; in both regions, its presence coincides with the rainy season. Often travels in vast flocks of up to 10,000 birds, landing daily to feed, except perhaps when over forest.

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Widely protected from persecution by superstition as a 'bringer of rain', and welcomed as a predator on grasshoppers and army worms. Nesting on the roofs of huts is sometimes encouraged by the inhabitants, who erect a suitable basket-like structure, as the birds are supposed to bring them good luck (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.2. Habitat destruction

A grassland species, closely tied to 'plagues' of grasshoppers and army worms, and apparently as yet unaffected by the widespread conversion of natural grasslands into agricultural land, presumably because its principal prey species have clearly benefitted from this conversion.

3.3. Indirect threats

Pesticide control of locusts does not seem to have affected the birds as yet.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

None known.

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 Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

The species 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.
- Perennou, C. (1991). Les recensements internationaux d'oiseaux d'eau en Afrique tropicale. IWRB Special Publication No.15. 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.
- Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.

Taxon: <i>Ciconia abdimii</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	W
Benin	a	S
Botswana	a	W
Burkina Faso	a	W
Burundi	a	W
Cameroon	a	S
Central African Republic	a	S
Chad	a	S
Cote d'Ivoire	a	S
Djibouti	a	S
Ethiopia	a	S
Greece	a	S
Guinea-Bissau	a	S
Kenya	a	S
Lesotho	a	W
Malawi	a	W
Mali	a	S
Mauritania	a	S
Mozambique	a	W
Namibia	a	W
Niger	a	S
Nigeria	a	S
Rwanda	a	W
Saudi Arabia	a	S
Senegal	a	S
Somalia	a	S
South Africa	a	W
Sudan	a	S
Swaziland	a	W
Tanzania	a	W
Togo	a	S
Uganda	a	S
Yemen	a	S

Zaire	a	Sw
Zambia	a	W
Zimbabwe	a	W

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	