

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Crecopsis egregia in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Gruiformes
1.3. Familia	Rallidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Crecopsis egregia</u> (Peters) 1854 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	African Crake
Spanish:	-
French:	Rale des pres

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Occurs widely in Africa south of the Sahara, from Senegambia to Nigeria, Cameroon, Zaire, southern Sudan and Ethiopia, south through Angola to northern Namibia, northern Botswana, and through Burundi and East Africa to Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa to eastern Cape Province (Urban et al. 1986).

2.2. Population

Only one population can be identified.  
- Entire population: Unknown (over 100,000).

No information is available on numbers or population trends. Widespread and locally common except in rain forest and desert. Reported to be an uncommon resident and scarce visitor in Senegambia, widespread and locally common in Nigeria (except in the Sahel zone), a scarce breeder in southern Sudan, abundant on the plain of the lower Ruzizi River and shores of Lake Tanganyika in Burundi, widespread and locally common in East Africa, common below 1,500 m in Malawi (during the rains), locally common in Zambia (November to May), and locally not uncommon in Mozambique (Urban et al. 1986).

2.3. Habitat

Frequents freshwater swamps, reedy marshes, rank vegetation by rivers and streams, seasonally inundated grasslands, grassy edges of dams, marshes and dambos, and rice fields; also occurs far away from water in dry grasslands, airfields, tall grass savanna, grassy areas in dry woodland, weed patches, edges of cultivation, and maize and cotton fields, sometimes close to human habitation (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

## 2.4. Migrations

A rains migrant, with populations breeding in the northern and southern parts of the species' range moving towards the equator during the dry season and then overlapping with sedentary equatorial populations. In Nigeria, it moves north to breed during the rainy season (June to September), returning to the south during the dry season. Similar movements have been reported in Senegambia, Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroon. Common at Belinga in Gabon from December to February, but absent from March to November. Present all year round in equatorial regions (e.g. in Zaire and Burundi), but commoner at certain times of the year, suggesting an influx of migrants. Non-breeding birds present near Mombasa, Kenya, from May to December are presumably migrants from southern Africa. Throughout most of southern Africa, it is present only during the rainy season, from October, November or December to April (Ripley 1977; Urban *et al.* 1986).

## 3. Threat data

### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

The grassland breeding habitat is frequently burnt by man during the dry season, forcing birds to emigrate (Urban *et al.* 1986).

### 3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread destruction of grassy plains and marshes through over-grazing by domestic livestock or conversion to agricultural land poses the principal threat to the species.

### 3.3. Indirect threats

The widespread application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals may be having a harmful effect on some populations.

### 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 Benin, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania; partially protected as a game species in Benin and the Central African Republic; partially protected in Rwanda.

### 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**

Ripley, S.D. (1977). Rails of the World. Godine, Boston, U.S.A.  
Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Crecopsis egregia</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	Sr
Benin	a	Rws
Botswana	a	S
Burkina Faso	a	S
Burundi	a	Wr
Cameroon	a	Wr
Central African Republic	a	Wr
Chad	a	Wr
Congo	a	Wr
Cote d'Ivoire	a	Rsw
Equatorial Guinea	a	Wr
Gabon	a	Wr
Gambia	a	S
Ghana	a	Sw
Guinea	a	Rsw
Guinea-Bissau	a	S
Kenya	a	Wr
Lesotho	a	S
Liberia	a	Rw
Malawi	a	S
Mali	a	S
Mozambique	a	S
Namibia	a	S
Niger	a	S
Nigeria	a	Wrs
Rwanda	a	Wr
Sao Tome & Principe	a	V
Senegal	a	S
Sierra Leone	a	Rsw
South Africa	a	S
Sudan	a	Rws
Swaziland	a	S
Tanzania	a	Rsw

Togo	a	Ws
Uganda	a	Wr
Zaire	a	Wrs
Zambia	a	S
Zimbabwe	a	S

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