

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

A. PROPOSAL: Listing of the Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea* (entire population) in Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

B. PROPONENT: **Republic of South Africa.**

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1_	Class	Aves
1.2	Order	Procellariiformes
1.3	Family	Procellariidae
1.4	Genus & Species	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i> (Gmelin, 1789)
1.5	Common names	English: Grey Petrel, Gray Petrel, Brown Petrel, Great Grey Shearwater, Pediunker French: Puffin gris German: Grausturmvogel Spanish: Pardela gris

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

Circumpolar pelagic range in the Southern Ocean, primarily in southern cool-temperate and sub-Antarctic waters north of the Antarctic Polar Front between 32-58_S. Reaches South Africa and the Pacific coast of South America as far north as Peru. Breeds on southern cool-temperate and sub-Antarctic islands (Table 1). Previously bred on sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island (Australia), but was extirpated by introduced Wekas *Gallirallus australis*, feral cats *Felis catus* and Black Rats *Rattus rattus*.

2.2 Population

No accurate censuses of breeding numbers, and therefore of trends, exist for this burrowing species at any breeding locality. Best estimates are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Estimates of breeding populations of Grey Petrels *Procellaria cinerea*

Locality	Administrative authority	Nature Reserve status	Population (breeding pairs)	Year
Tristan da Cunha Islands	United Kingdom	Yes (part)	50-100 (Tristan)	1972/74
Gough Island	United Kingdom	Yes	100 000s	1984
Prince Edward Islands	South Africa	Yes	1000s	1984
Ile Amsterdam	France	Yes (part)	Few suspected	1983
Iles Crozet	France	Yes (part)	1000s	1981/82
Iles Kerguelen	France	Yes (part)	5000-10 000	1984-87
Campbell & Antipodes Islands	New Zealand	Yes	10 000-50 000	1984

Proposal II / 102.3 Habitat

Marine, in southern coastal and pelagic waters. Breeds in winter in burrows in vegetated slopes on islands.

2.4 Migrations

Only found on breeding islands during the winter breeding season. Winter distribution farther north than in summer, but patterns of movement are poorly understood. No satellite-tracking has been undertaken and recoveries of banded birds are very few.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats

The main threats are from incidental mortality from longline fishing activities (see below) and from predation by introduced predators, especially feral cats and rats *Rattus* spp., described by breeding island group below.

Tristan da Cunha Island group: Tristan Island is permanently inhabited, whereas the smaller islands of Inaccessible and Nightingale are uninhabited. Tristan Islanders have exploited seabirds (for eggs, chicks, feathers and guano) since the commencement of the settlement in 1811. Tristan Island also supports an introduced population of Black Rats.

Prince Edward Islands: The population on Marion Island was severely affected (reduced numbers, very low breeding success) by feral cats during the 1980s. The cats have since been eradicated. The population on cat-free Prince Edward Island has remained unaffected.

Ile Amsterdam: Feral cats and Brown Rats *R. norvegicus* occur.

Iles Crozet: Introduced feral cats and Black Rats have severely affected populations of burrowing petrels breeding on these islands, through direct predation on adults, chicks and eggs. Ile aux Cochons' population thought to have been extirpated by feral cats. Ile de l'Est is the only island of this group that lacks introduced predators.

Iles Kerguelen: Populations of Black Rats and feral cats occur. Although Black Rats are confined to the immediate surrounds on the base, cats are more widespread and have a larger impact.

Auckland Islands: Introduced populations of feral cats and pigs *Sus scrofa* are present on Auckland Island.

Campbell Islands: Introduced populations of feral cats (possibly now extinct) and Norway Rats *R. norvegicus* exist on Campbell Island.

3.2 Habitat destruction

Inhabited Tristan da Cunha has been greatly altered by fire, wood-cutting, grazing and trampling by domestic animals, especially domestic sheep *Ovis aries*, and the introduction of alien pastures. Direct effects on Grey Petrels are unknown. Domestic sheep (now extirpated) on Campbell Island greatly affected vegetation by grazing and trampling, but the effects of this on Grey Petrels is unknown. Similarly, the pigs on Auckland Island uproot vegetation and may thus affect Grey Petrels.

3.3 Indirect threats

Entanglement in marine debris and fishing gear and consumption of plastic particles; accumulation of chemical contaminants; fluctuations in numbers of important prey species; oceanographic change.

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

There is particular concern for this species in New Zealand waters where it has been the most frequent species killed by the tuna longline fishery. Substantial incidental mortality of Grey Petrels has also been recorded in the tuna longline fisheries off Australia and South Africa. Ninety-six percent of Grey Petrels caught off New Zealand were adult females. It is likely that this species is also being caught in substantial numbers by the large tuna longline fishery operating in international waters in the southern Indian Ocean, for which little seabird bycatch information exists. Incidental mortality of Grey Petrels has also been recorded in the Patagonian Toothfish fishery in the close vicinity of sub-Antarctic breeding colonies.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

New Zealand, some parts of French, South African and some United Kingdom (Gough and Inaccessible) breeding islands are formally protected as nature reserves. New Zealand and South African breeding islands and Gough Island have current management plans controlling human activities. Accorded Near Threatened status in the current update of the South African Red Data Book.

4.2 International protection status

New Zealand breeding islands and Gough Island (UK) are inscribed as natural properties on the World Heritage List of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. CCAMLR regulations aim to reduce mortality in the Patagonian Toothfish longline fishery. Not listed by CITES or in *Birds to Watch 2* (1994), but candidate species with a Near Threatened status in current revision of the IUCN Red Data Book for birds being undertaken by BirdLife International.

4.3 Additional protection needs

Inclusion in Appendix II of the Bonn Convention and within a range-state Agreement for Southern Ocean seabirds at risk from longline fisheries. Inclusion within National Plans to be produced by longline fishing range states as part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. Unregulated fishing for Patagonian Toothfish needs to be halted and CCAMLR regulations strictly enforced. All unprotected or part-protected breeding localities require nature reserve status and management plans which strictly control introduction of predators as well as human disturbance from logistical, scientific and tourist activities. Feral cats should be eradicated at all breeding localities where they are present, as has been successfully achieved at Marion Island. Inaccessible Island (Tristan Group, UK) should be considered for World Heritage status.

Proposal II / 105. Range States^a

Argentina (M), Australia (M), Brazil (M), Chile (M), France, (B) New Zealand (B), Peru (M), South Africa (B), United Kingdom (B), Uruguay (M).

^aB = breeding range, M = occurs solely as a migrant.

6. Additional remarks

The species' at-sea distribution requires study, preferably by satellite-tracking breeding birds.

7. References

- Bartle, J.A. 1990. Sexual segregation of foraging zones in procellariiform birds: implications of accidental capture on commercial fishery longlines of Grey Petrels (*Procellaria cinerea*). *Notornis* 37: 146-150.
- Bloomer, J.P. & M.N. Bester. 1992. Control of feral cats on sub-Antarctic Marion Island. *Biological Conservation* 60: 211-219.
- Brothers, N.P., Cooper, J. & S. Løkkeborg. 1998. The incidental catch of seabirds by longline fisheries: world-wide review and technical guidelines for mitigation. *FAO Fisheries Circular* 937: 1-99 (preliminary version).
- Collar, N.J., Crosby, M.J. & A.J. Stattersfield. 1994. *Birds to Watch 2: The World list of threatened birds*. Birdlife Conservation Series 4. Cambridge: Birdlife International.
- Dingwall P.R. (Ed). *Progress in conservation of the Subantarctic islands*. Gland and Cambridge: IUCN.
- FAO 1998. Consultation on the Management of Fishing Capacity, Shark Fisheries and Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. Rome, 26-30 October 1998. International Plan of Action for reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. FI:CSS/98/4. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- Jones, E. 1980. A survey of burrow-nesting petrels at Macquarie Island based upon remains left by predators. *Australian Wildlife Research* 4: 249-262.
- Marchant, S. & P.J. Higgins. 1990. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds. Vol. 1, Part A. Ratites to petrels*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.
- Murray, T.E., Bartle, J.A., Kalish, S.R. & P.R. Taylor. 1993. Incidental capture of seabirds by Japanese Southern Bluefin Tuna longline vessels in New Zealand waters. *Bird Conservation International* 3: 181-210.
- Newton, I.P. & S.R. Fugler. 1989. Notes on the winter-breeding Greatwinged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* and Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea* at Marion Island. *Cormorant* 17: 27-34.
- Richardson, M.E. 1984. Aspects of the ornithology of the Tristan da Cunha Group and Gough Island, 1972-1974. *Cormorant* 12: 122-201.
- Roux, J.-P. & J. Martinez. 1987. Rare, vagrant and introduced birds at Amsterdam and Saint Paul Islands, southern Indian Ocean. *Cormorant* 14: 3-19.
- Van Rensburg, P.J.J. & M.N. Bester. 1988. The effect of cat *Felis catus* predation on three breeding Procellariidae species on Marion Island. *South African Journal of Zoology* 23: 301-305.