

**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 Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* (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 conspicillata</i> (Falla, 1946)
1.5	Common names:	English: Westland Petrel, Westland Black Petrel French: Puffin de westland German: Westlandsturmvoegel Spanish: Pardela de Westland

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

Breeding is restricted to the mainland between Barrytown and Punakaiki, on the west coast of South Island, New Zealand in winter.

2.2 Population

The species' total population size is estimated as *c.* 2000 breeding pairs and less than 20 000 birds including pre- and non-breeders, although an intensive ground search in 1974 yielded only 818 occupied burrows. An increase in numbers may have been due to an increase in fishery waste within its breeding range, although the population may now be declining.

2.3 Habitat

Marine, mainly in New Zealand coastal waters. Breeds in burrows in densely forested foothills near the coast in an area of *c.* 3.6 km<sup>2</sup>.

2.4 Migrations

During the breeding season (March to December) birds are concentrated over the shelf slope off the east and west coast of New Zealand. A rare visitor to Australian coastal waters during the non-breeding season. Non-breeding birds venture into the central Pacific Ocean outside New Zealand waters and as far as the Pacific coast of South America, where two banded sub-adults have been recovered in Chile.

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## 3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats

Predation of eggs and chicks by feral cats *Felis catus*, domestic dogs, mustelids and the natural predator, the Weka *Gallirallus australis* are significant threats. Birds are occasionally killed by flying into power pylons and are attracted to lights and noisy machinery at dawn and dusk.

3.2 Habitat destruction

Modification of breeding habitat by the timber industry. Burrows are trampled by cattle, goats and humans.

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

The species is a prolific scavenger of waste from fishing vessels, with more than half its diet being made up of fisheries waste during the Hoki *Macruronus novaezelandiae* fishing season. This behavioural trait places it at risk of incidental mortality by longline fisheries within its at-sea range. Tuna longline vessels operating in New Zealand waters have recorded females as incidental mortality.

## 4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

The breeding site falls within the Paparoa National Park.

4.2 International protection status

Not listed by CITES. Listed as Vulnerable in *Birds to Watch 2* (1994), and with the same 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. Continued control of introduced predators, especially feral cats, is essential for the species' well being. Government approval is required to designate the breeding colonies as the Westland Petrel Special Area, which would restrict public access.

5. Range States<sup>a</sup>

Australia (M), Chile (M), New Zealand (B).

<sup>a</sup>B = breeding range, M = occurs solely as a migrant.

## 6. Additional remarks

Satellite-tracking of juveniles and post-breeding birds is required to ascertain details of the species' full at-sea range.

## 7. References

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