

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Phalacrocorax pygmaeus in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT:

Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Pelecaniformes
1.3. Familia	Phalacrocoracidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</u> (Pallas) 1773. Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Pygmy Cormorant
Spanish:	Cormoran Pigmeo
French:	Cormoran pygmee

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

The species is confined to the Palearctic west of the Aral Sea, breeding from eastern Europe (Albania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania and Greece) east through the Black Sea and Caspian regions to the Aral Sea and southeastern Kazakhstan. Populations breeding in eastern Europe and the Black Sea winter south to Greece and Turkey; populations breeding in the Caspian region and Aral Sea winter mainly in the southwest Caspian and lower Iraq.

2.2. Population

Two populations are recognized.

- Mediterranean/Black Sea: 25,000; stable or increasing.

- Southwest Asia (Aral Sea/Caspian Sea/Iraq): 5,000; declining (Rose & Scott 1993).

The range has contracted considerably during the present century, notably in Southeast Europe, and a number of breeding colonies have died out. At the Prespa Lakes in Greece, the population fell from 650 pairs in 1971 to only 80 pairs in 1978. The species formerly bred in Algeria in the 19th century, and in Israel until the middle of 20th century. However, numbers now appear to be stable or increasing after a long period of decline. Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe is currently between 7,000 and 11,000 pairs. Large populations still survive in the Danube Delta, Rumania (4,000 pairs), and at Lake Shkodra, Albania (400 pairs). The species recolonized Moldova in 1982, where there were 300-400 pairs by 1990, and recolonized Hungary in 1988, after an absence of over a century. It has also bred in Italy, where it is becoming increasingly regular in winter, and has wintered irregularly in Israel in recent years (del Hoyo et al. 1992). In the Republics of the former U.S.S.R., the

population was estimated at 3,200-6,600 pairs in the early 1980s, with the largest numbers in the North Caspian Region and Azerbaijan. Formerly numerous in the Mesopotamian Marshes in Iraq and still fairly common in the late 1970s, when the population was thought to number at least 500 birds (Scott and Carp 1982), but not known to have nested in Iraq since the 1920s. Some 800-1,000 wintered in the marshes of the South Caspian in Iran in the 1970s (Scott 1992), and 539 were recorded in that area during the Asian Waterfowl Census of January 1992 (Perennou & Mundkur 1992), but the species is not known to have bred in Iran since the 1960s.

2.3. Habitat

Generally found in lowland freshwater wetlands including lakes, slow-flowing rivers, deltas, irrigation ponds and fish ponds; especially in channels and open water areas within extensive reed-beds. Sometimes occurs in brackish or saline wetlands, especially in winter. Requires emergent trees or reed-beds for roosting and nesting, and breeds colonially, usually in association with other species (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Partially migratory; most movements involve only short distances, and the species is largely sedentary over much of its range. Migrations vary from year to year but are most marked in the populations of the Black Sea and north Caspian Sea. The South Caspian region is a major wintering area; smaller numbers winter on the coasts of the Adriatic, Aegean and NE Mediterranean.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population

The species is heavily persecuted by fishermen who perceive it to be a threat to fish stocks (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.2. Habitat destruction

Extensive loss and degradation of wetlands, especially the freshwater lakes and reed-beds in which it breeds. Wetland drainage is thought to have been the principal cause of the contraction in the range of the species this century.

3.3. Indirect threats

Probably at risk from contamination of wetlands with pesticides and other chemicals, but details lacking.

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

Protected under national legislation in all those member states of the EEC in which it occurs.

4.2. International protection status

Phalacrocorax pygmaeus is listed in Appendix II (strictly protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), and is also listed in Annex I of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC). The species is listed in category 'K' (Insufficiently known) in the 1990 edition of the IUCN List of Threatened Animals (IUCN 1990).

4.3. Additional protection needs

Both populations of Phalacrocorax pygmaeus are listed in the category 'Threatened' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because the species is listed as globally threatened in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals. See attached note on additional protection needs for species and populations with an unfavourable conservation status.

5. Range States

See attached table.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

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- Collar, N.J. & Andrew, P. (1988). Birds to Watch. The ICBP World Checklist of Threatened Birds. ICBP Technical Publication No.8. ICBP, Cambridge, U.K.
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- 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.

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- Scott, D.A. and Carp, E. (1982). A Midwinter Survey of Wetlands in Mesopotamia, Iraq: 1979. *Sandgrouse* 4: 60-76.
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- Ticehurst, C.B., Cox, P.Z. and Cheesman, R.E. (1926). Additional notes on the avifauna of Mesopotamia. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 31: 91-119.

Taxon: <i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>		
Population		
(a) Mediterranean/Black Sea		
(b) Aral Sea/Caspian Sea/Iraq		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	W
Austria	a	V
Azerbaijan	b	R
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	Ws
Bulgaria	a	Sw
Croatia	a	Wr
France	a	V
Germany	a	V
Greece	a	Wr
Hungary	a	V
Iran	b	W
Iraq	b	W
Israel	a	W
Italy	a	Ws
Kazakhstan	b	S
Macedonia	a	Wr
Poland	a	V
Romania	a	S
Russian Federation	a	S
"	b	S
Slovenia	a	W
Sweden	a	V
Switzerland	a	V
Tunisia	a	V
Turkey	a	Wr
Ukraine	a	S
Uzbekistan	b	R
Yugoslavia	a	Wr

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	