

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Platalea alba (excluding Madagascan population) 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	Threskiornithidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Platalea alba</u> Scopoli 1786 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	African Spoonbill
Spanish:	Espatula Africana
French:	Spatule d'Afrique

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

The species occurs widely in Africa south of the Sahara, from Senegal east to Ethiopia, western Somalia and Madagascar, and south to southern South Africa, avoiding the dense forests of the Congo Basin and the Namibian and Kalahari Deserts. Most populations (including Madagascar) appear to be mainly sedentary or to move with seasonal rainfall, but the movements are poorly understood. The population breeding in southern Africa is migratory.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- Entire population (excluding Madagascar): Probably under 25,000.

Generally uncommon and patchily distributed, but locally common, especially in the Rift Valley Lakes of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Flocks of up to 1,000 have been recorded. In 1987, 300-400 pairs bred in a colony at Lake Fitri, Chad, and 300-350 pairs at two colonies in the Inner Delta of the Niger, Mali. During the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993, the highest national totals were from Botswana (428), Cameroon (564), Kenya (357), Zambia (461) and Zimbabwe (323) (Taylor 1993). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in a variety of inland freshwater habitats including lakes, marshes, reservoirs, floodplains and rice-fields; less often in coastal lagoons, salt-pans, estuaries and tidal creeks. A colonial nester in trees, bushes or reed-beds or on the ground, often in association with other species (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Movements poorly understood; apparently nomadic throughout much of its range, but probably also migratory, at least in Southern Africa, where it wanders over large distances. Ringing recoveries have demonstrated movements of several hundred kilometres from Transvaal to Zambia, and vagrants have been recorded in the Arabian Peninsula (Oman and Yemen).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

None known.

3.2. Habitat destruction

Wetland loss and degradation are occurring widely in Africa, but there are no indications yet that these are having an adverse effect on numbers of Platalea alba. The species has shown some ability to adapt to man-made wetlands, occurring in rice fields and at reservoirs and irrigation ponds.

3.3. Indirect threats

Excessive application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals, especially in rice-growing areas, is likely to be having an adverse effect on the species, but no incidences of mortality have as yet been reported.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

There may be some casual hunting of the species in parts of its range, but details are lacking.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1. National protection status

Fully protected under national legislation in Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania; partially protected as a game species in Central African Republic, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Sudan.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

The African mainland population of Platalea alba is listed in the category 'Vulnerable' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on

the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a biogeographical population which is thought to number less than 25,000 individuals and is dependent on a habitat type which is widely under threat. 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

- 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.
- Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.

Taxon: <i>Platalea alba</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population (excluding Madagascar)		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	?
Benin	a	?
Botswana	a	?
Burkina Faso	a	?
Burundi	a	?
Cameroon	a	?
Central African Republic	a	?
Chad	a	?
Congo	a	?
Cote d'Ivoire	a	?
Djibouti	a	?
Equatorial Guinea	a	?
Ethiopia	a	?
Gabon	a	?
Gambia	a	?
Ghana	a	?
Guinea	a	?
Guinea-Bissau	a	?
Kenya	a	?
Lesotho	a	?
Liberia	a	?
Malawi	a	?
Mali	a	?
Mauritania	a	?
Mozambique	a	?
Namibia	a	?
Niger	a	?
Nigeria	a	?
Rwanda	a	?
Senegal	a	?
Sierra Leone	a	?
South Africa	a	?
Sudan	a	?

Swaziland	a	?
Tanzania	a	?
Togo	a	?
Uganda	a	?
Zaire	a	?
Zambia	a	?
Zimbabwe	a	?

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	