

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of *Chettusia gregaria* in Appendix I

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Republic of Hungary

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1 Classis	Aves
1.2 Ordo	Charadriiformes
1.3 Familia	Charadriidae
1.4 Genus/Species/Subspecies	<i>Chettusia gregaria</i> (Pallas) 1771, Monotypic
1.5 Common (English) name	Sociable Plover

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

The species has a very limited distribution in the steppe areas of Russia and Kazakstan. It winters mostly in Northeast-Africa and South Asia (India), with a smaller population in the Middle East.

2.2 Population

There has been a rapid decline in numbers since the 1930's, with the global population estimated at less than 10,000 individuals (Collar et al. 1994).

2.3 Habitat

Breeding habitat lies mainly in the transition zones between Stipa and Artemisia steppes with bare saline patches and near water bodies.

2.4 Migration

Total population is migratory. During migration it occurs in Central Asia and the Middle East. Direction of migration is Souther/Southwestern.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats to the population

Not known.

3.2 Habitat destruction

The chief cause of the species' decline has been habitat loss and degradation in its breeding range, due to conversion of steppes to intensive agricultural land and intensified grazing (Collar et al. 1994).

3.3 Indirect threats

Not known

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

Habitat loss (e.g the drainage of large wetlands) of important stopover and wintering sites in the Middle East, Asia and Africa may cause a further decline in the populations of this vulnerable species.

3.5 National and international utilisation

Not known, probably not relevant.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

Legal protection of species in range states is not known.

4.2 International protection status

Only listed in Appendix III of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).

Global Conservation Status: Vulnerable (IUCN criteria A1a,b; C1; C2a).

4.3 Additional protection needs

Urgent measures include the provision of full enforced legal protection to the species in all range states and protection of remaining breeding areas and key migratory stopover and wintering sites.

5. Range States (parties and signatories to the Convention in bold)

The species breeds in Russian Federation and Kazakstan. During migration and winter it disperses thorough **Egypt**, Eritrea, **India**, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, **Israel**, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

Collar, N.J., Crosby, M.J. and Stattersfield, A.J. (1994) Birds to Watch 2: the world list of threatened birds. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.