

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Podiceps grisegena grisegena in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1.1. Classis                  | Aves   |
| 1.2. Ordo                     | Podicipediformes   |
| 1.3. Familia                  | Podicipedidae  |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Podiceps grisegena</u> (Boddaert) 1783<br>ssp. <u>grisegena</u> |
| 1.5. Common names             |  |
| English:                      | Red-necked Grebe   |
| Spanish:                      | Somormujo Cuellirrojo  |
| French:                       | Grebe jougris  |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Only the nominate subspecies occurs with any frequency in the Western Palearctic, although the subspecies P. g. holboellii of North America and East Asia has been recorded as a vagrant in Greenland, Iceland and on the coast of Western Europe. P. g. grisegena breeds from Denmark and Germany east through north and central Europe to west-central Asia, and winters from Norway and Britain south to the Bay of Biscay (vagrant to NW Africa), with smaller numbers wintering in the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and East Mediterranean.

2.2. Population

Three main wintering groups are recognized.

- Northwest Europe: In the range 25,000-100,000; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Black Sea/East Mediterranean: In the range 25,000-100,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Southwest Asia/South Asia (Caspian Region to NW India): In the range 10,000-25,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

Very little information is available on population size and trends, but throughout its range P. grisegena is apparently one of the least common of the grebes. Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Northwest Europe is currently between 9,000 and 13,000 pairs. The species is thought to have increased and expanded towards the west in Europe during the second half of the 19th century, and is currently increasing in several areas, e.g. Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, with 248 pairs in 1969 and 703 pairs in 1990. However, it is declining in other areas, especially at the limits of its range, and no longer breeds in Austria or Greece. Estimates of breeding populations include 350-400 pairs in Denmark, 600 pairs in Sweden, 2,000 pairs in

Finland and 540-1,000 pairs in Poland (del Hoyo et al. 1992). During the Western Palearctic Waterfowl Census of 1992, 90 were recorded wintering on lakes in Central Europe (Rose 1992). During the Asian Waterfowl Census of 1992, 77 were recorded in Iran and Kazakhstan (Perennou & Mundkur 1992). No information is available on population trends in the Black Sea/Mediterranean and Southwest Asian populations.

### 2.3. Habitat

Breeds mainly on inland water bodies, typically fairly small (under 3 ha) and shallow (less than 2 m deep), with a fair amount of emergent vegetation, but some stretches of open water; also breeds in backwaters of large rivers or estuaries and in pools cut off from the sea. Generally prefers waters surrounded by forest, but in the north also occupies areas of shrub tundra. Outside the breeding season, largely marine, occurring on open estuaries and other coastal waters with an abundant supply of fish, but also occasionally on large inland lakes (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

### 2.4. Migrations

Migratory and dispersive. Winters along coasts, including inland seas, e.g. Black, Caspian and Aral Seas. Most European breeders are believed to winter in Northwest Europe; birds wintering in the Caspian are believed to originate from the Volga Basin and West Siberia. The small number of birds wintering in the Black Sea and East Mediterranean presumably come from the breeding areas in Turkey, Bulgaria, Rumania and Ukraine. On migration and in winter, usually occurs alone or in small flocks, but may occur in large concentrations at major staging areas.

## 3. **Threat data**

### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

In North America, there have been reports of sterility of eggs and egg-shell thinning caused by PCBs and other pesticides, but it is not known if this is occurring in the Western Palearctic. The species is occasionally affected by oil spills, but as birds are generally widely scattered along the coast in winter, losses in any one spill tend to be small (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

### 3.2. Habitat destruction

Wetland drainage and other forms of wetland modification have resulted in a loss of suitable breeding habitat in many parts of the species' range, and acidification of lakes is increasingly posing a threat in Western Europe.

### 3.3. Indirect threats

Increased human disturbance, especially that caused by water sports, has made some lakes unsuitable for breeding.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting probably occurs, but the numbers taken are likely to be very small.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1. National protection status

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC.

4.2. International protection status

Podiceps grisegena is listed in Appendix II (strictly protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention).

4.3. Additional protection needs

The population of Podiceps grisegena wintering in the Black Sea/East Mediterranean region 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**

The population of Podiceps grisegena breeding in Western Siberia and wintering in Southwest Asia and South Asia (east to northern India) is also included in the Bonn Convention Draft Agreement on the Conservation of Asian-Australasian Migratory Waterbirds, as a substantial proportion of the population spends a part of its annual cycle in the Asian-Australasian Region.

8. **References**

Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L. (eds). (1977). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.1: Ostrich to Ducks. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and 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.
- Perennou, C. & Mundkur, T. (1992). Asian and Australasian Waterfowl Census 1992. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- Rose, P.M. (1992). Western Palearctic Waterfowl Census 1992. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- 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.

Taxon: <i>Podiceps grisegena grisegena</i>		
Population		
(a) N & NW Europe		
(b) Black Sea/E Mediterranean		
(c) W Siberia/Caspian (to N India)		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	V
Algeria	a	V
Azerbaijan	c	Swr
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	W
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	W
Bulgaria	b	Ws
Croatia	a	Ws
Denmark	a	Ws
Egypt	b	V
Estonia	a	S
Finland	a	S
France	a	W
Georgia	b	Ws
Germany	a	Ws
Greece	b	W
Hungary	a	S
Iceland	a	V
Iran	c	W
Italy	a	W
Kazakhstan	c	S
Latvia	a	S
Lebanon	b	V
Lithuania	a	S
Macedonia	b	S
Netherlands	a	W
Norway	a	W
Poland	a	S
Romania	b	Sw
Russian Federation	a	S
"	b	S

Russian Federation	c	S
Slovenia	a	W
Spain	a	V
Sweden	a	W <sub>s</sub>
Switzerland	a	W
Tunisia	a	V
Turkey	b	Swr
Ukraine	a	S
"	b	Sw
United Kingdom	a	W
Uzbekistan	c	S
Yugoslavia	a	Sw

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	