

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Mesophoyx intermedia brachyrhyncha 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                  | Ardeidae   |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Mesophoyx intermedia</u> (Wagler) 1829<br>ssp. <u>brachyrhyncha</u> |
| 1.5. Common names             |  |
| English:                      | Intermediate Egret   |
| Spanish:                      | Garceta Intermedia   |
| French:                       | Aigrette intermediaire   |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

The subspecies brachyrhyncha breeds widely in Africa south of the Sahara, and undertakes local movements and possibly regular migrations in many parts of its range.

2.2. Population

Only one population can be identified.

- Africa (entire population): Unknown (minimum 25,000).

Widespread and locally common, especially in Eastern Africa, e.g. there were an estimated 2,000 pairs at the Tana River in Kenya in 1983, and colonies of up to 1,000 pairs have been reported in Ethiopia. The species is also common in some parts of Southern Africa. It is relatively scarce in West Africa, but common on the Inner Delta of the Niger in Mali (800-875 pairs) and also in parts of northern Nigeria (del Hoyo et al. 1992). During the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993, the highest national totals were from Cameroon (537), Nigeria (317) and Zambia (1,279) (Taylor 1993). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in a wide variety of wetland habitats, mainly inland habitats with abundant emergent aquatic vegetation, including freshwater swamps, floodplains, rice fields, rivers and margins of freshwater, brackish and saline lakes; less often in coastal habitats such as mangroves, mud-flats and tidal estuaries. Also occurs in dry grassland near water or among cattle in pastures. Nests in trees or bushes, often in large colonies with other species; also sometimes nests in reed-beds (del

Hoyo et al. 1992).

#### 2.4. Migrations

Mainly sedentary or nomadic, but with some evidence of long-distance migrations, e.g. a bird ringed in South Africa was recovered in Zambia, and the species is a seasonal visitor to Sierra Leone and southern Nigeria (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

### 3. **Threat data**

#### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

Reported to be more shy and sensitive to disturbance than other egrets.

#### 3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread loss and degradation of wetlands in parts of Africa have undoubtedly resulted in a decline in numbers in some areas, but details are lacking.

#### 3.3. Indirect threats

Possibly 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

The species is protected under national legislation in Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia; partially protected as a game species in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Sudan and Togo.

#### 4.2. International protection status

None known.

#### 4.3. Additional protection needs

The population in question is considered to have a favourable conservation status, and is not in need of any additional special protection measures at the present time.

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. & Elliott, H. (1978). The Herons of the World. London Editions, London.
- Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.

Taxon: <i>Mesophox intermedia brachyrhyncha</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire African population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	?
Benin	a	?
Botswana	a	?
Burkina Faso	a	?
Burundi	a	?
Cameroon	a	?
Central African Republic	a	?
Chad	a	?
Cote d'Ivoire	a	?
Djibouti	a	?
Ethiopia	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	?
Somalia	a	?
South Africa	a	?
Sudan	a	?
Swaziland	a	?
Tanzania	a	?

Togo	a	?
Uganda	a	?
Zaire	a	?
Zambia	a	?
Zimbabwe	a	?

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	