

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

A. **PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of Rallus caerulescens (populations in Eastern and Southern Africa) in Appendix II.

B. **PROPONENT:** Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. **SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

1. **Taxon**

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Gruiformes
1.3. Familia	Rallidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Rallus caerulescens</u> Gmelin 1789 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	African Rail (Kaffir Rail)
Spanish:	-
French:	Rale bleuatre

2. **Biological data**

2.1. Distribution

Occurs mainly from eastern Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, northwest Uganda and west-central Kenya south through Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and much of eastern South Africa to the Cape; and east to the interior highlands of Angola and through northern Botswana to northern Namibia (Urban *et al.* 1986). There is an isolated population in the highlands of Ethiopia.

2.2. Population

Only one population is relevant.

- Eastern and Southern Africa: Unknown (over 25,000).

Rather scarce over parts of its wide range, but locally common. Said to be common along the lower Ruzizi River in Burundi, widespread in Zambia, probably common below 1,500 m in Malawi, and widespread and locally common in southern Mozambique, especially along the coast (Urban *et al.* 1986). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

Frequents dense reed-beds and swamps, including papyrus swamps, and also rank emergent vegetation along the edges of rivers and lakes; in Cameroon also reported in rice fields. During the rains in Zambia, moves out from permanent reed-beds to adjacent seasonally inundated dense tall grass (Ripley 1977; Urban *et al.* 1986).

2.4. Migrations

Mainly sedentary, although there is some evidence of regular movements in Eastern and Southern Africa. In East Africa, it is both a resident and a wanderer; in Transvaal, there is a considerable influx of presumed migrants in April and May (Urban et al. 1986).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Fires in reed-beds are known to kill birds (Urban et al. 1986).

3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread loss and degradation of freshwater wetlands, especially shallow wetlands with tall emergent vegetation, are doubtless having a negative impact on populations in many parts of the species' range, but details are lacking.

3.3. Indirect threats

The widespread application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals in and around wetlands may be having a harmful effect on some populations.

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

Fully protected under national legislation in Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania; partially protected in Rwanda.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

The species 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**

- Ripley, S.D. (1977). Rails of the World. Godine, Boston, U.S.A.
Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume
II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Rallus caerulescens</i>		
Population		
(a) Eastern & Southern Africa		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	?
Botswana	a	?
Burundi	a	?
Kenya	a	?
Lesotho	a	?
Malawi	a	?
Mozambique	a	?
Namibia	a	?
Rwanda	a	?
South Africa	a	?
Swaziland	a	?
Tanzania	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	