

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Larus armenicus in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1.1. Classis                  | Aves  |
| 1.2. Ordo                     | Charadriiformes                                   |
| 1.3. Familia                  | Laridae   |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Larus armenicus</u> Buturlin 1934<br>Monotypic |
| 1.5. Common names             |   |
| English:                      | Armenian Gull                                     |
| Spanish:                      | -   |
| French:                       | -   |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Only recently recognized as a distinct species, and still considered by many authors to be a subspecies of the Larus cachinnans group (e.g. Cramp & Simmons 1983). Confined as a breeding species to lakes in Armenia, eastern Turkey and northwestern Iran. In winter, reaches the East Mediterranean (southeastern Turkey to Israel) and Persian Gulf.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.  
- Entire population: 30,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

The breeding population has been estimated at 8,000-10,000 pairs. Some 4,000-5,000 pairs were breeding at Lake Uromiyeh in northwestern Iran in the 1970s (Scott 1992). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

In the breeding season, occurs at freshwater, brackish and saline lakes in the mountains and high plateaux of Armenia, eastern Turkey and northwestern Iran; in Iran, nests mainly of small, low-lying rocky and grassy islets. Outside the breeding season, occurs in similar habitats but also in coastal habitats in the Persian Gulf (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

2.4. Migrations

Largely migratory, wintering in the East Mediterranean (southeastern Turkey to Israel) and Persian Gulf, although a few birds remain at some of the breeding sites throughout the winter. A bird ringed as a chick

at Lake Uromiyeh in northwestern Iran was recovered in Mesopotamia, Iraq, in winter (Butti, 1978).

**3. Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

3.2. Habitat destruction

No information.

3.3. Indirect threats

No information.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

No information.

3.5. National and international utilization

No information.

**4. Protection status and needs**

4.1. National protection status

No information.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

Larus armenicus is listed in the category 'Localized' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a species which, although numerically stable or increasing, is restricted to only a few key sites during a part or the whole of its annual cycle. 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

- Butti, S.G. (1978). Recoveries of Bird Rings from Iraq. Bull. Nat. Hist. Res. Centre 7 (2): 27-28.
- Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L. (eds). (1983). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.3: Waders to Gulls. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- Harrison, P. (1983). Seabirds: an identification guide. Croom Helm Ltd., Beckenham, 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.
- Scott, D.A. (1992). Summary of Waterfowl Counts in Iran in the 1970s. Unpublished manuscript on file at IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.

| Taxon: <i>Larus armenicus</i>                             |                    |        |
|---|--------------------|--------|
| Population  |                    |        |
| (a) Entire population                                     |                    |        |
| State   | Pop.               | Status |
| Armenia   | a                  | Sr     |
| Bahrain   | a                  | W      |
| Cyprus  | a                  | W      |
| Iran  | a                  | Swr    |
| Israel  | a                  | W      |
| Kuwait  | a                  | W      |
| Lebanon   | a                  | W      |
| Qatar   | a                  | W      |
| Saudi Arabia  | a                  | W      |
| Syria   | a                  | W      |
| Turkey  | a                  | Swr    |
| United Arab Emirates                                      | a                  | W      |
| 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 |                    |        |