

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

- A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Fulica cristata (Southern African population) 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 Fulica cristata Gmelin 1789
Monotypic
- 1.5. Common names
 - English: Red-knobbed Coot (Crested Coot)
 - Spanish: Focha Cornuda
 - French: Foulque a crete

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Widely, but somewhat patchily, distributed in eastern and southern Africa from Ethiopia, Kenya and eastern Zaire south to South Africa, Namibia and southern Angola; also in Madagascar. The small population in southern Spain and northwest Africa (now perhaps confined to Morocco) appears to be mainly sedentary.

2.2. Population

Only one migratory group is recognized.
- Southern Africa: Probably in the range 100,000-1,000,000; apparently stable.

Locally abundant in South Africa; over 25,000 have been recorded at Barberspan, and over 30,000 at De Hoop Vlei, Bredasdorp. Common in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana in suitable habitat. Uncommon in Angola, and mainly confined to the coastal plain of Mossamedes and Benguela. Very local and uncommon in Mozambique, where possibly only a non-breeding visitor. Irregularly distributed in Zambia, usually in small parties, but up to 1,200 have been recorded at Kafue Flats (Urban et al. 1986). During the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993, 7,300 were recorded in Zimbabwe, and 1,450 in Namibia (Taylor 1993). Numbers are thought to be relatively stable (Urban et al. 1986).

2.3. Habitat

Frequents open sheets of fresh water such as ponds, lakes, lagoons, dams and sewage ponds, occasionally also on flooded plains and large, slow-flowing rivers. During the breeding season, usually in the vicinity of reed-beds, but at other seasons may occur on waters with

little or no emergent vegetation (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

2.4. Migrations

Nomadic and perhaps also migratory. Most populations are mainly sedentary, but show a strong tendency to nomadism, occupying temporarily flooded dams, vleis and floodplains, but disappearing again as these dry out. Birds breeding in Southern Africa (Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa) appear to be at least partly migratory, with movements of over 1,000 km having been recorded. Birds are present in Lochinvar National Park, Zambia, only from February to October, with peak numbers occurring in March-June. Birds ringed at Barberspan in South Africa have been recovered in Namibia, Botswana, southern Mozambique and near Cape Town (1,072 km) (Urban et al. 1986).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Natural predators, notably the African Fish Eagle Haliaeetus vocifer, are reported to take a high toll of chicks (Urban et al. 1986).

3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread loss and degradation of wetlands in many parts of subsaharan Africa may have had a negative impact on some populations, but the species adapts well to man-made wetlands such as reservoirs and irrigation dams and, because of its nomadic tendencies, is rapidly able to colonize new sites as they become available.

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 South Africa (except Natal) and Swaziland.

4.2. International protection status

Fulica cristata 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 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**

- Ripley, S.D. (1977). Rails of the World. Godine, Boston, U.S.A.
Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge,
U.K.
Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume
II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Fulica cristata</i>		
Population		
(a) Southern Africa		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	?
Botswana	a	?
Lesotho	a	?
Mozambique	a	?
Namibia	a	?
South Africa	a	?
Swaziland	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		