

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

- A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Dromas ardeola in Appendix II.
 B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
 C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1.1. Classis | Aves |
| 1.2. Ordo | Charadriiformes |
| 1.3. Familia | Dromadidae |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Dromas ardeola</u> Paykull 1805
Monotypic |
| 1.5. Common names | |
| English: | Crab Plover |
| Spanish: | Ciguenuela Cangrejera |
| French: | Drome ardeole |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Known to breed only in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and southern Red Sea, but probably also breeds in western India; in Africa, known to breed only on the islets of Zeyla, Saad Din and Aibat off northern Somalia, but may also breed in the Suakim Archipelago, Sudan, and in the Dahlak Archipelago in Ethiopia (Urban et al. 1986). Outside the breeding season, disperses along coasts east in Asia to Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka (less commonly to Bangladesh, Thailand and Malaysia), and south in East Africa to Mozambique and Madagascar (less commonly to South Africa).

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- Southwest Asia/South Asia/East Africa (entire population): 43,000; decreasing in some areas (Rose & Scott 1993).

Reported to be very abundant at its breeding colonies in northern Somalia, and abundant on the coasts of Kenya and Tanzania between September and April; uncommon north to Sudan and south to Natal (Urban et al. 1986). Locally common to abundant on the coasts of the Arabian Peninsula and along the south coast of Iran. In the 1970s, the breeding population in Iran was estimated at 1,500 pairs, very largely on a single islet off the Gulf coast; the wintering population in Iran at that time was estimated at 1,250-1,750 birds (Scott 1992). The population wintering in Southwest Asia and Northeast Africa has been estimated at 33,000 birds (Perennou 1992); a further 10,000 birds winter in southern Asia, mainly in the border area between Pakistan and India. The highest national totals recorded during the Asian Waterfowl Census were 3,690 in Oman (1990), 2,185 in Saudi Arabia (1992), 695 in India (1990), 440 in the United Arab Emirates (1991), 410 in Iran (in

1991) and 235 in Kuwait (1990). Numbers are said to be decreasing in the South Asian parts of the species' range (T. Mundkur, in litt.).

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in marine coastal areas in tropical regions, frequenting mudflats, sandy beaches and coral reefs in the inter-tidal zone along open coasts and in estuaries and coastal lagoons. Nests colonially in burrows underground in coastal sand banks, sand dunes and sandy offshore islets (Cramp & Simmons 1983; Urban et al. 1986).

2.4. Migrations

Some populations are partially migratory, with some birds remaining near the breeding areas throughout the year, but others are entirely migratory. The species appears to migrate in large flocks, flying in tight formations, low and fast over the water; a flock of over 400 birds has been recorded on passage in Aldabra (Urban et al. 1986).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Some exploitation of colonies by man may take place in the Red Sea, but this has not been confirmed (Urban et al. 1986).

3.2. Habitat destruction

Much of the birds' habitat at all seasons of the year is in remote and sparsely populated areas, where coastal reclamation has not been a serious problem. This situation is, however, changing rapidly along the southern shore of the Persian Gulf, where large areas of coastal mudflats have been reclaimed for urban and industrial development in recent years.

3.3. Indirect threats

The most serious threat to the species is the extensive pollution of shorelines with oil and resulting destruction of the birds' food supplies (mainly crabs, other crustaceans, molluscs and marine worms). It seems likely that the species suffered badly as a result of massive oil slicks in the Persian Gulf during the Gulf War in early 1991.

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

In Africa, fully protected under national legislation in Ethiopia,

Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

Dromas ardeola 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 species which is thought to number less than 100,000 individuals and appears to be declining throughout all or a large part of its range. 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 entire population of Dromas ardeola 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). (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.
- Hayman, P., Marchant, J. & Prater, T. (1986). Shorebirds: An identification guide to the waders of the world. Croom Helm, London & Sydney.
- Perennou, C. (1992). African 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.
- Scott, D.A. (1992). Summary of Waterfowl Counts in Iran in the 1970s. Unpublished manuscript on file at IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
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- Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Dromas ardeola</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Bahrain	a	P
Comoros	a	Wp
Egypt	a	V
Ethiopia	a	S
Iran	a	Sr
Kenya	a	Wr
Kuwait	a	Wr
Madagascar	a	Wr
Mozambique	a	Wr
Oman	a	Sr
Qatar	a	P
Saudi Arabia	a	Srp
Seychelles	a	W
Somalia	a	S
South Africa	a	W
Sudan	a	S
Tanzania	a	Wr
United Arab Emirates	a	Spw
Yemen	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	