

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of the family Pelecanidae in Appendix II

B. PROPONENT

Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT1. Taxonomy

1.1 Aves

1.2 Pelecaniformes

1.3 Pelecanidae

1.4 *Pelecanus* spp.

- a. *Pelecanus occidentalis* Linné, 1766
- b. *P. conspicillatus* Temm. 1824
- c. *P. philippensis* Gmel., 1789
- d. *P. rufescens* Gmel., 1789
- e. *P. crispus* Bruch, 1832
- f. *P. onocrotalus* Linné, 1758
- g. *P. crythrorhynchos* Gmel. 1789

(The form of *P. thagus*, which is sometimes listed as a separate species, is treated as a sub-species of *P. occidentalis*.)

1.5 Common names for the family Pelecanidae:

Pelicans (English)
 Pelikane (German)
 Pélâcanidês (French)
 Pelicanos (Spanish)

- for single species:

- a. Brown Pelican (English)
 Braunpelikan (German)
 Pélâcan brun (French)
- b. Australian Pelican (English)
 Brillenpelikan (German)
 Pélâcan à lunettes (French)
- c. Grey Pelican (English)
 Graupelikan (German)
 Pélâcan à bec fâcheté (French)
- d. Pink-backed Pelican (English)
 Rôtelpelikan (German)
 Pélâcan roussâtre (French)
- e. Damlatian Pelican (English)
 Krauskopfpelikan (German)
 Pélâcan frisê (French)

- f. White Pelican (English)
Rosapelikan (German)
Pêlican blanc (French)
Pelicano vulgar (Spanish)
- g. American White Pelican (English)
Nashornpelikan (German)
Pêlican à bac rouge (French)

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution: Pelicans occur in tropical and warm zones of all six continents. The individual species are distributed over the following areas:

- a. Coasts of the southern part of North America, Antilles, coasts of Central America, of Venezuela and Columbia as far as Chile;
- b. Coastal areas of Australia, incl. Tasmania and New Guinea;
- c. Indian sub-continent as far as S China, Philippines and Java;
- d. Africa south of the Sahara;
- e. South east Europe, to the east as far as Mongolia, China (?) and the Iran;
- f. South east Europe, to the east as far as the Iraq and Turkestan as well as the south of Vietnam (disjunctly) and the southern and eastern parts of Ethiopia (locally);
- g. West of North America.

2.2 Population: Population sizes of all species have been declining over the last 100 years; in certain parts of their former range, the birds have become extinct. The data available from South America, Africa and Asia are only insufficient. Here are the most important data on two species, whose populations are known somewhat better:

- e. (*P. crispus*): There is a residual population in the Balkans of 200 pairs at a maximum; in the USSR the breeding population has already decreased to less than 1,000 breeding pairs.
- f. (*P. onocrotalus*): A residual population of about 500 pairs breeds in the Balkans; the population in the USSR comprises some 2,000 pairs; some larger colonies lie in Mongolia ("Millions" and "thousands" of these birds are said to have lived in Romania as late as 1873 and 1896 respectively).

2.3 Habitat: Breeding colonies of all pelican species lie in or border on wetlands and swamps, only seldom on bare islands and naked rocks, but always near extended waters, where the birds look for food (fish). Their wintering habitats comprise coastal waters or lakes and rivers which are rich in fish.

2.4 Migrations:

- a. Birds from the colonies situated in the north of the range migrate along the coast to the south; the others range over large distances in the Caribbean area as well as on the west coast of South America (only the pelicans breeding on Galapagos seem to be resident).
- b. Migrations between Indonesia, Papua-New Guinea and the northern part of Australia are likely (more detailed data are not available).
- c. Migrates along the coasts of SE Asia after breeding period (more detailed data are not available).
- d. Only part of the population is resident; most of the birds range over the entire Ethiopian region.
- e. Mostly long migrations to the wintering places in the eastern part of the Mediterranean area (as far as Egypt) and in South Asia. Only breeding birds from Asia Minor and South Asia range over short distances.
- f. The European and Asian breeding birds go on long migrations to the wintering areas in NE Africa (Nile valley) and in South Asia; the African birds range over long distances.
- g. The overall breeding population migrates to the wintering areas in the Caribbean, in Florida and to the Pacific coast of Central America.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threat to the population: Formerly the species was everywhere rigorously persecuted by fishermen; today persecution is presumably confined to some parts of the wintering areas.

3.2 Habitat destruction: Drainage, economic use of wetlands (mowing of reeds) and building up of shores lead to a strong decimation of biotopes.

- 3.3 Indirect threat: Decline in fish stocks as well as disturbances by machines and tourists.
- 3.4 Threat especially connected with migration: Insufficiently known; the birds are, however, likely to suffer great losses in some winter quarters from drying-up wetlands (e.g. Sahel zone) or as a result of direct persecution by the local population.

4. Protection status and needs

- 4.1 National protection status: In Europe, the USSR, Turkey, the USA and Canada, pelicans are protected by law, partly also in the other countries of occurrence (details, however, are not known). Some breeding colonies (e.g. in the Balkans and in the USSR) have been declared nature reserves.
- 4.2 International protection status: *Pelecanus crispus* was included in Appendix I of the Washington Convention.
- 4.3 Additional protection needs: To protect the breeding colonies effectively, to safeguard the ecological living conditions in the winter quarters.

5. Range states

- a. Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Surinam, United States, Venezuela.
- b. Australia, Indonesia, Papua-New Guinea.
- c. Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Kampuchea, Laos, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
- d. (not complete) Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mocambique, Namibia, Niger, Simbabwe, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia.
- e. Albania, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania, Turkey, USSR, Vietnam, Yugoslavia.
- f. (not complete) Albania, Bangladesh, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Pakistan, Romania, South Africa, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Upper Volta, USSR, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Zaire.
- g. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, United States.

6. Comments from range states

None

7. Additional remarks

Pelecanus crispus is listed in the "IUCN Red Data Book", *P. crispus* and *P. onocrotalus* in the "List of Endangered European Species" and in the "Red Data Book of the USSR". It is necessary to make inventories in the breeding areas as well as a survey of the wintering areas and to carry out better research into migratory routes.

8. References

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