

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Pelecanus onocrotalus* in Annex I

B. PROPONENT

European Economic Community

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Aves

1.2 Order: Pelicaniformes

1.3 Family: Pelicanidae

1.4 Genus: *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

1.5 Common names: White Pelican (English)
Pêlican blanc (French)

2. Biological Data

2.1 Distribution: the White Pelican nests in colonies scattered throughout south-east Europe (Albania?, Greece, Romania, USSR), south-east and central Asia (India, Vietnam), tropical and southern Africa: Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa. Formerly also in Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Iraq, Kuwait, Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon. It winters in south Asia and Africa.

2.2 Population: the world population is probably about 60,000-75000 pairs. Africa: possibly 50,000-60,000 (Mauritania, Mali and Senegal: 4,500; Ethiopia: 6,000-8,000; Namibia: 3,000; South Africa: 1,700-2,500). Europe excluding USSR: 1,400 (Romania, 1971: 1,200; Greece, 1984: 210). Asia, USSR: about 10,000-15,000 (USSR: 5,000-10,000, Turkey: 800-1,000). These populations declined substantially in the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, at least in the west palearctic region and in southern Africa; they stabilized or increased in certain areas after the establishment of reserves (in particular Greece, South Africa), but the decline in populations has continued elsewhere, even in reserves. Colonies have disappeared recently in central Africa (Lake Chad basin) and in the USSR (Volga delta); populations were still estimated at 4,000 pairs in 1961 in Romania, 2,500 in 1969 in Turkey.

- 2.3 Habitat: warm, fresh or salt (sea), shallow waters which are rich in fish; nesting far from sources of disturbance on islands, rocks or in reeds.
- 2.4 Migrations: the northern Eurasian populations are completely migratory and winter in north-east Africa and in southern Asia. Some tropical populations scatter at varying distances around breeding sites or undertake real migrations, which is the case in West Africa (Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso). Daily flights across frontiers are probable from the colonies of the Senegal delta (Senegal-Mauritania), south-western Africa (South Africa-Mozambique), southern Asia (India-Pakistan, Kampuchea-Vietnam), south-eastern Europe (Albania-Yugoslavia-Greece, Romania-USSR)

3. Threat Data

- 3.1 Direct threat: the species is very vulnerable to taking. In south-western Africa it has been persecuted to protect other guano-producing species. Moreover, it is persecuted locally by fishermen and hunters. Adults are shot, eggs and young birds are taken or destroyed.
- 3.2 Habitat and food supplies: favourable sites have been lost through drainage; pollution and over-fishing can reduce food supplies locally.
- 3.3 Contamination: influence of pesticides is possible but not proven. It has been seen in a related species (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).
- 3.4 Disturbance: the White Pelican is very sensitive to disturbance, especially at the start of breeding. The sources of disturbance can be tourists (especially in the west of the distribution range), fishermen (everywhere) and the war at the Iran-Iraq frontiers.
- 3.5 Threats related to migration: the species is vulnerable everywhere to the above threats; as a result, migration of the species outside the protected areas always entails a threat to its conservation.

4. Protection status and needs

- 4.1 In the range States: numerous colonies are protected by a status of nature reserve and hunting is often prohibited. In the European Economic Community (Greece), the species is the subject of special conservation measures (Annex I of Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds).
- 4.2 International protection.
- 4.3 Additional protection needs: more complete protection of the frequented areas, prohibition of persecution and disturbance, a more rigorous application of existing protection laws are necessary, particularly in north-east Africa (Egypt) and south-west Asia. Additional research must clarify the causes of diminution in the

/...

Black Sea basin. The dynamics of the species and its movements must be studied (in particular, the exact places of wintering and feeding of nesting birds in south-east Europe and the places of origin of the concentrations observed in eastern Zaire must be investigated). Contamination by pesticides should be monitored. Development of sites might facilitate breeding.

5. Range States

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Arabia, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, European Economic Community (Greece), Gambia, Hungary (extinct), India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kampuchea, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, USSR, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

6. Comments from range States

None

7. Additional remarks

This species is listed in the Red Data Book of Endangered Species of the USSR.

8. References:

- Berry, H.H., H.P. Stark & A.S. van Vuwen. 1973. White Pelican, *Pelecanus onocrotalus* breeding on the Etosha Pans, South West Africa, during 1971. Madoqua, Ser. 1, No: 17-31.
- Brooke, R.K. 1984. South African Red Data Book - Birds. South African National Scientific Programmes Report No. 77.
- Brown, L.H., E.K. Urban and K. Newman. 1982. The Birds of Africa. Volume 1. Academic Press, London.
- Cramp, S. (ed.). 1977. The birds of the Western Palearctic. Vol. 1 Ostrich to Ducks. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Crivelli, A.J. 1983. European Pelican Populations and their conservation in Shorebirds and large waterbirds conservation. CEC.
- Crivelli, A.J. & R.W. Schreiber. 1984. Status of the Pelecanidae. Biol. conserv. 30: 147-156.
- Etchecopar, R.D. et F. Hua. 1978. Les oiseaux de Chine, de Mongolie et de la Corée, non passereaux. Ed. du Pacifique, Papeete.
- Lamarche, B. (in prep.). Statut du Pelican blanc dans l'ouest africain.
- Urban, E.K. 1985. Time of nesting and numbers of nesting Great White Pelican at Lake Shala, Ethiopia, and elsewhere in Africa. Proc. v. Afr. Orn. Congr.
- USSR Ministry of Agriculture. 1978. Red Data book of USSR. Moscow.