

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Leptoptilos crumeniferus in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Ciconiiformes
1.3. Familia	Ciconiidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</u> (Lesson) 1831. Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Marabou Stork
Spanish:	Marabu Africano
French:	Marabout d'Afrique

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

The species occurs widely in Africa south of the Sahara from Senegal west to Ethiopia and Somalia and south to northern South Africa. Mainly sedentary in equatorial regions of Central and East Africa; a rains migrant in the northern and southern parts of its range.

2.2. Population

Only one population can be identified.

- Entire population: 100,000; increasing (Rose & Scott 1993).

Widespread and fairly common to locally abundant throughout its range; probably increasing because of its ability to exploit ever-increasing amounts of rubbish dumped by humans. However, only about 10 pairs breed in South Africa, where the principal colony (in Swaziland) was destroyed in the 1960s to make way for a sugar cane plantation. Estimates of populations in the 1980s included 5,000 birds in Uganda (with 2,000 in Queen Elizabeth National Park) and 1,000-2,000 in Kenya (with up to 800 at Lake Nakuru). Recent high counts have included 600 birds in the Chad Basin and 280 birds in the Niger Basin. During the African Waterfowl Censuses of July 1992 and January 1993, the highest national totals were from Cameroon (751), Ethiopia (184), Kenya (158), Tanzania (100) and Zambia (288) (Taylor 1993).

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in open dry savanna, grassland, swamps, river banks, lake shores, and receding pools; rarely in forested areas or desert. Commonly occurs in and around fishing villages; also frequents slaughterhouses and rubbish dumps, and may even be common in city centres (e.g. in Kampala, Uganda). In East and South Africa, commonly

found around carcasses in association with other scavengers. A colonial nester, usually in trees but also on cliffs and occasionally in towns, and often in association with other species (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

#### 2.4. Migrations

Many populations are sedentary, especially those in urban areas, while others are locally nomadic. However, populations breeding in the extreme north and extreme south are migratory, generally moving towards the equator after breeding. In West Africa, there is some movement of birds, probably mostly non-breeders, southwards during the dry season into wetter savanna near the coast.

### 3. **Threat data**

#### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

Apparently seldom molested. The bird's ugly appearance and habits may have made it less attractive to hunters than other large waterbirds, while it is sometimes appreciated for services rendered in cleaning up carcasses and rubbish, thus helping to control disease. The species may also be protected by local superstitions. In parts of Africa (e.g. Uganda), very much a bird of cities and towns, and remarkably unafraid of man.

#### 3.2. Habitat destruction

Less of a wetland species than most storks, and apparently unaffected by the widespread loss and degradation of wetlands which have occurred in Africa.

#### 3.3. Indirect threats

None known.

#### 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 Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe; partially protected in Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Sudan and Togo.

4.2. International protection status

Leptoptilos crumeniferus is listed in Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for Ghana.

4.3. Additional protection needs

The species 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**

- Brown, L.H., Urban, E.K. & Newman, K. (1982). The Birds of Africa. Volume I. Academic Press, London & New York.
- del Hoyo, J., Elliott A. & Sargatal, J. (eds). (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Ostrich to Ducks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Hancock, J.A., Kushlan, J.A. & Kahl, M.P. (1992). Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World. Academic Press, London.
- Luthin, C.S. (1987). Status of and Conservation Priorities for the World's Stork Species. Colonial Waterbirds 10(2): 181-202.
- 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.
- Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.

Taxon: <i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	S
Benin	a	Srw
Botswana	a	S
Burkina Faso	a	S
Burundi	a	Wr
Cameroon	a	Srw
Central African Republic	a	Srw
Chad	a	S
Cote d'Ivoire	a	Srw
Ethiopia	a	Srw
Gambia	a	S
Ghana	a	Srw
Guinea	a	S
Kenya	a	Wr
Lesotho	a	S
Liberia	a	Srw
Mali	a	S
Mozambique	a	S
Namibia	a	S
Niger	a	S
Nigeria	a	Srw
Rwanda	a	Wr
Senegal	a	S
Sierra Leone	a	Srw
Somalia	a	Sr
South Africa	a	S
Sudan	a	Srw
Swaziland	a	S
Tanzania	a	Wrs
Togo	a	Srw
Uganda	a	Wr
Zaire	a	Wrs
Zambia	a	S

Zimbabwe	a	S
<b>Key to Status</b>		
<b>S/s</b> Breeding summer visitor	<b>R/r</b> Resident	
<b>W/w</b> Winter visitor	<b>V</b> Vagrant	
<b>P/p</b> Passage migrant	<b>?</b> Status uncertain	
<b>Upper case = primary status   Lower case = secondary status</b>		