

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

A. PROPOSAL: Listing of the Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni* (entire population) in **Appendix II** of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

B. PROPONENT: **Republic of South Africa**

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1	Class:	Aves
1.2	Order:	Procellariiformes
1.3	Family:	Procellariidae
1.4	Genus & Species:	<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i> (Gray, 1862)
1.5	Common names:	English: Black Petrel, Parkinson's Petrel French: Puffin de Parkinson German: Schwarzsturmvogel Spanish: Pardela de Parkinson

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

At-sea distribution is mainly within New Zealand waters during breeding and into the sub-tropical Pacific Ocean during the non-breeding season. Breeding is restricted to two neighbouring islands in Hauraki Gulf, off the coast of North Island, New Zealand. Formerly bred (<1960s) on North Island and northern South Island, New Zealand. However, these populations were severely exploited for human consumption during the 19th Century.

2.2 Population

Great Barrier Island supports c. 800 breeding pairs and c. 50 pairs breed on 3083-ha Little Barrier Island. The total population, including pre- and non-breeders, has been estimated at 3000-4000 birds. Numbers are thought to be increasing slowly on Little Barrier Island since the eradication of feral cats *Felis catus* (see below) and may be stable on Great Barrier Island.

2.3 Habitat

Marine, in coastal and pelagic southern waters. Breeds in burrows and cavities among tree roots in virgin forest above 300 m in summer.

2.4 Migrations

The bulk of the population apparently moves to the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean during the non-breeding season, where birds are observed from southern Mexico to northern Peru and at the Galapagos Islands.

Proposal II / 11

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats

The main threats are from incidental mortality from longline fishing activities (see below) and from predation by introduced predators, especially feral cats *Felis catus*, and Pacific Rats or Kiore *Rattus exulans*. Fledglings may be attracted to lights.

The once large population on Little Barrier Island was almost exterminated by cats with 100% loss of chicks in the mid-1970s. However, the recent eradication of cats on the island has allowed the population to increase. Feral cats and rats occur on Great Barrier Island where Black Petrel populations seem to survive with little interference. Birds on Great Barrier Island (which is inhabited) may still be occasionally killed for human consumption.

3.2 Habitat destruction

Nothing known.

3.3 Indirect threats

Entanglement in marine debris and fishing gear and consumption of plastic particles; accumulation of chemical contaminants; fluctuations in numbers of important prey species; oceanographic change.

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

Black Petrels are killed in small numbers by tuna longlines in New Zealand waters. Although the scale of this impact is incompletely known, the foraging habits of this species which include scavenging behind vessels suggest that it may be at high risk from this fishing practice. Its small global population size and relatively localized non-breeding foraging area further increase the vulnerability of the species. Almost 10% of the known species' population has been seen in association with a single mixed group of whales and dolphins in the Pacific Ocean. A banded bird has been caught by a fishing vessel (type unknown) off Peru.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

Little Barrier Island is a nature reserve with control over visits exercised. Feral cats have been extirpated on Little Barrier Island. Fledglings have been transferred from Great to Little Barrier Island to boost its population.

4.2 International protection status

Not listed by CITES. Listed as Vulnerable in *Birds to Watch 2* (1994), and with the same status in current revision of the IUCN Red Data Book for birds being undertaken by BirdLife International.

4.3 Additional protection needs

Inclusion in Appendix II of the Bonn Convention and within a range-state Agreement for Southern Ocean seabirds at risk from longline fisheries. Inclusion within National Plans to be produced by longline fishing range states as part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. Feral cats should be eradicated on Great Barrier Island.

5. Range States^a

Australia (M), Columbia (M), Costa Rica (M), Ecuador (M) Guatemala (M), New Zealand (B), Mexico (M), Panama (M) and Peru (M).

^aB = breeding range, M = occurs solely as a migrant.

6. References

- Anon. 1997. *Managing the incidental capture of seabirds in New Zealand fisheries*. Wellington: Ministry of Fisheries and Department of Conservation.
- Baird, S.J. 1996. *Nonfish Species and Fisheries Interactions Working Group Report – May 1996*. Wellington: Ministry of Fisheries.
- Brothers, N.P., Cooper, J. & S. Løkkeborg. 1998. The incidental catch of seabirds by longline fisheries: world-wide review and technical guidelines for mitigation. *FAO Fisheries Circular* 937: 1-99 (preliminary version).
- Collar, N.J., Crosby, M.J. & A.J. Stattersfield. 1994. *Birds to Watch 2: The World list of threatened birds*. Birdlife Conservation Series 4. Cambridge: Birdlife International.
- FAO 1998. Consultation on the Management of Fishing Capacity, Shark Fisheries and Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. Rome, 26-30 October 1998. International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. FI:CSS/98/4. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- Imber, M.J. 1987. Breeding ecology and conservation of the Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*). *Notornis* 34: 19-39.
- Marchant, S. & P.J. Higgins. 1990. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds. Vol. 1, Part A. Ratites to petrels*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.
- Pitman, R.L. & L. Balance. 1992. Parkinson's Petrel distribution and foraging ecology in the eastern Pacific: aspects of an exclusive feeding relationship with dolphins. *Condor* 94: 825-835.
- Scofield, R.P. 1989. Breeding biology and conservation of the Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) on Great Barrier Island. MSc Thesis. Auckland, University of Auckland.
- Veitch, C.R. 1985. Methods of eradicating feral acts from offshore islands in New Zealand. *International Council for Bird Preservation Technical Publication* 3: 125-141.
- Veitch, C.R. & B.D. Bell. 1990. Eradication of introduced animals from the islands of New Zealand. In: Towns, C.H., Daugherty, C.H. & Atkinson, I.A.E. (Eds). *Ecological restoration of New Zealand islands*. Conservation Science Publication No. 2. Wellington: Department of Conservation.