

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

A. PROPOSAL: Listing the entire population of *Sterna bernsteini* on Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Philippines.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1	Classis:	Aves
1.2	Ordo:	Charadriiformes
1.3	Familia:	Laridae
1.4	Species:	<i>Sterna bernsteini</i>
1.5	Common name:	Chinese Crested-Tern

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

Only known to breed off the eastern coast of China. Outside the breeding season in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

2.2 Population

In summer 2000, six adults and six young birds were found in a colony of other tern species. No more is known for sure, but the population must be tiny.

2.3 Habitat

Appears to be exclusively coastal and pelagic in distribution. Offshore islets and tidal mudflats.

2.4 Migrations

The entire population is believed to be migratory, and the bird might occur at any suitable habitat along the coasts of China and south-east Asia. Some known sites in China and Thailand are formally protected.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats

Interference with and disturbance at breeding colonies. Loss of tidal flats.

3.2 Habitat destruction

The loss of tidal flats to reclamation and development affects this species as it does many others.

3.3 Indirect threats

None known.

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

As in 3.1 and 3.2, compounded by lack of information.

3.5 National and international utilisation

None (though the exploitation of other seabirds for food might, with ill-luck deal the final blow to the species).

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

Protected in some of its Range States, but not all. Several actual or potential breeding sites are protected, as is one historic wintering site.

4.2 International protection status

The species is listed as Critical. It does not appear on any convention appendices.

4.3 Additional protection needs

Full legal protection in all Range States. Strengthened protection of a number of sites. Survey. Immediate conservation measures for any site found.

5. Range States

China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines (CMS Party) and Thailand.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

BirdLife International (2000) *Threatened Birds of the World*. Barcelona and Cambridge, UK: Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International.