

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

A. **PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of Chlidonias leucopterus (West Eurasian and African population) in Appendix II.

B. **PROPONENT:** Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. **SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

1. **Taxon**

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Charadriiformes
1.3. Familia	Laridae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Chlidonias leucopterus</u> (Temminck) 1815. Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	White-winged Tern (White-winged Black Tern)
Spanish:	Fumarel Aliblanco
French:	Guifette leucoptere

2. **Biological data**

2.1. Distribution

The discrete West Eurasian population breeds from eastern Poland, Hungary and Rumania across Eastern Europe and west-central Asia to about 85°E, and winters at wetlands throughout subsaharan Africa south to South Africa.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- East Europe/West Asia/Subsaharan Africa: 200,000-250,000; declining (Rose & Scott 1993).

Very little information is available on numbers of breeding birds in the main breeding grounds east of the Urals. Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe is between 20,000 and 25,000 pairs. The species is reported to be decreasing in the western parts of its range (e.g. in Poland and Rumania) and possibly throughout. It is known to have nested in the Mesopotamian Marshes in Iraq in the 1920s, but there has been no evidence of breeding in that country since then. It was fairly numerous in Poland in the 19th century, but is now extremely scarce there (Cramp 1985). Perennou (1991) has estimated the wintering population in Africa at 200,000-250,000 birds. During the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993, the highest national totals were from Cameroon (490), Kenya (1,760), Uganda (470) and Zimbabwe (1,200) (Taylor 1993). Only a few birds remain in Southwest Asia throughout the winter; the highest count during the Asian Waterfowl Census was 400 in Saudi Arabia in 1990 (Perennou et al. 1990).

2.3. Habitat

Breeds from boreal through temperate and steppe to Mediterranean zones; largely confined to natural shallow flooded grasslands or swampy standing water, often bordering large rivers or lakes which may be freshwater or alkaline, with open areas bordered by stands of reeds or other aquatic vegetation. More often occupies transitional or fluctuating marginal inundations, small pools and swamps than C. niger, and less linked to deeper, stable lakes or lagoons. Outside the breeding season, also occurs along coasts at lagoons and in mangrove swamps, but mainly along rivers, on floodplains and by lakes; frequently forages for grasshoppers and other insects over grasslands, sometimes far from water (Cramp 1985; Urban et al. 1986).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory. The West Eurasian population winters widely at inland water bodies throughout Africa south of the Sahara. Birds wintering in West Africa (west to Senegal) may travel southwest from the East Mediterranean across the Sahara, as the species is scarce in the West Mediterranean and on the Atlantic coast. Most birds wintering in East, Central and Southern Africa enter the continent via the Nile Valley. The species is particularly numerous in the Rift Valley Lakes of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, especially during spring and autumn passage.

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread loss and degradation of freshwater wetlands are doubtless having a negative impact on breeding populations in many parts of the species' range. The recent declines in Rumania have been attributed to wetland drainage (Cramp 1985).

3.3. Indirect threats

The widespread application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals in and around wetlands may be having a harmful effect on some populations.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

No information.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC. In Africa, fully protected under national legislation in Benin, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Tunisia; partially protected as a game species in Ghana.

4.2. International protection status

Chlidonias leucopterus is listed in Appendix II (strictly protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention).

4.3. Additional protection needs

The West Eurasian and African population of Chlidonias leucopterus is listed in the category 'Potentially vulnerable' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a biogeographical population which, although still with a population size of over 100,000 individuals, has shown a marked decrease in numbers over the whole or a large part of its range in recent decades. See attached note on additional protection needs for species and populations with an unfavourable conservation status.

5. Range States

See attached table.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

- Cramp, S. (ed.). (1985). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.4: Terns to Woodpeckers. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- Harrison, P. (1983). Seabirds: an identification guide. Croom Helm Ltd., Beckenham, U.K.
- Perennou, C. (1991). Les recensements internationaux d'oiseaux d'eau en Afrique tropicale. IWRB Special Publication No.15. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- Perennou, C., Rose, P. & Poole, C. (1990). Asian Waterfowl Census 1990. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- 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.

Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		
Population		
(a) E Europe/W Asia/Africa		
State	Pop.	Status
Algeria	a	P
Angola	a	W
Armenia	a	?
Azerbaijan	a	S
Bahrain	a	P
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	V
Benin	a	W
Botswana	a	W
Burkina Faso	a	W
Burundi	a	W
Cameroon	a	W
Central African Republic	a	W
Chad	a	W
Comoros	a	Wp
Congo	a	W
Cote d'Ivoire	a	W
Faroese	a	V
Djibouti	a	W
Egypt	a	P
Equatorial Guinea	a	W
Ethiopia	a	W
Finland	a	V
Gabon	a	W
Gambia	a	W
Georgia	a	S
Germany	a	V
Ghana	a	W
Guinea	a	W
Guinea-Bissau	a	W
Hungary	a	S
Iceland	a	V
Iran	a	P

Iraq	a	P
Ireland	a	V
Jordan	a	P
Kazakhstan	a	S
Kenya	a	W
Kuwait	a	P
Latvia	a	S
Lebanon	a	V
Liberia	a	W
Libya	a	P
Lithuania	a	S
Madagascar	a	W
Malawi	a	W
Mali	a	W
Moldova	a	S
Morocco	a	P
Mozambique	a	W
Namibia	a	W
Niger	a	W
Nigeria	a	W
Norway	a	V
Poland	a	S
Portugal	a	V
Romania	a	S
Russian Federation	a	S
Rwanda	a	W
Saudi Arabia	a	P
Senegal	a	W
Seychelles	a	Wp
Sierra Leone	a	W
Somalia	a	W
South Africa	a	W
Sudan	a	W
Sweden	a	V
Tanzania	a	W
Togo	a	W
Tunisia	a	P
Turkmenistan	a	S

Uganda	a	W
Ukraine	a	S
United Arab Emirates	a	P
United Kingdom	a	V
Zaire	a	W
Zambia	a	W
Zimbabwe	a	W

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