

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Pelecanus rufescens in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT:

Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Pelecaniformes
1.3. Familia	Pelecanidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Pelecanus rufescens</u> Gmelin 1789 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Pink-backed Pelican
Spanish:	Pelicano Rosado
French:	Pelican roussatre

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Breeds widely in Africa south of the Sahara from Senegal and Ethiopia to Natal (South Africa) and Botswana, and also in southwestern Arabia. No discrete populations are identifiable.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- Entire population: In the range 100,000-1,000,000; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

Widespread and common to locally abundant, especially in the subsaharan zone. Numbers appear to be more or less stable, with increases reported in some areas and decreases in others. Little information is available on numbers; the species is difficult to census as it tends to be more widely dispersed and less gregarious than other pelicans. The population in West Africa has been roughly estimated at 10,000 birds, that in Southern Africa at 15,000 birds, and that in the Arabian Peninsula at 1,000 birds. The species is rare in South Africa, breeding at only one colony, but there is no evidence that it was ever more numerous there, and it is presently on the increase due to conservation action by local land-owners. The species has, however, disappeared as a breeding species from Madagascar, and has declined markedly in Nigeria in recent years (del Hoyo et al. 1992). During the African Waterfowl Counts of July 1992 and January 1993, the highest national totals were from Gambia (476), Kenya (251), Senegal (178), Uganda (183) and Zambia (199) (Taylor 1993). A total of 587 was recorded in Saudi Arabia during the Asian Waterfowl Census of 1992 (Perennou & Mundkur 1992).

### 2.3. Habitat

Occurs in a wide variety of wetland habitats including both inland and coastal sites, and often found roosting and nesting in tall trees far away from the nearest water. Prefers freshwater lakes, swamps, rivers and seasonal ponds, but also occurs on alkaline lakes and along coasts, especially in sheltered bays, and even in dry country where locusts are plentiful. Breeds in trees, often by rivers or lakes, but also on sandy islands, in mangroves and even in villages. Roosts on trees, cliffs, sand-dunes and sometimes piers or walls in areas where food is abundant (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

### 2.4. Migrations

Normally sedentary or dispersive (especially juveniles), undertaking local movements perhaps related to water conditions. Populations in the subsaharan steppe zone are rains migrants, moving north in the wet season and south in the dry season. There also appears to be an influx of birds into the Arabian peninsula from NE Africa in summer (the wet season).

## 3. **Threat data**

### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

P. rufescens is the most tolerant of the pelicans to humans, frequently nesting in tall trees close to or within villages, and is therefore much less susceptible to disturbance. Furthermore, its habit of solitary fishing may make it seem less of a competitor to fishermen. However, the only breeding colony in Madagascar appears to have been wiped out by local villagers (del Hoyo et al. 1992). The species is classified as a game species in some countries (e.g. several countries in West Africa) and may be hunted, but details are lacking.

### 3.2. Habitat destruction

Wetlands are being drained or degraded in many parts of Africa, and this must be affecting populations of P. rufescens, at least locally. However, the species is able to utilize very small wetlands and has also been able to take advantage of man-made wetlands such as large stock ponds and irrigation ponds.

### 3.3. Indirect threats

None known.

### 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**

Fully protected under national legislation in Angola, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe; partially protected as a game species in Benin, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Niger and Nigeria.

**4.2. International protection status**

None known.

**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.
- Crivelli, A.J., Catsadorakis, G., Jerrentrup, H., Hatzilacos, D. & Michev, T. (1991). Conservation and Management of Pelicans Nesting in the Palearctic. In: Salathe, T. (ed.), Conserving Migratory Birds: 137-152. ICBP Technical Publication No.12. ICBP, Cambridge, U.K.
- del Hoyo, J., Elliott A. & Sargatal, J. (eds). (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Ostrich to Ducks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Perennou, C. & Mundkur, T. (1992). Asian and Australasian Waterfowl Census 1992. 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.

Taxon: <i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	?
Benin	a	?
Botswana	a	?
Burkina Faso	a	?
Burundi	a	?
Cameroon	a	?
Central African Republic	a	?
Chad	a	?
Congo	a	?
Cote d'Ivoire	a	?
Djibouti	a	?
Egypt	a	?
Equatorial Guinea	a	?
Ethiopia	a	?
Gabon	a	?
Gambia	a	?
Ghana	a	?
Guinea	a	?
Guinea-Bissau	a	?
Israel	a	V
Kenya	a	?
Lesotho	a	?
Liberia	a	?
Madagascar	a	V
Malawi	a	?
Mali	a	?
Mauritania	a	?
Mozambique	a	?
Namibia	a	?
Niger	a	?
Nigeria	a	?
Rwanda	a	?
Saudi Arabia	a	Sr

Senegal	a	?
Sierra Leone	a	?
Somalia	a	?
South Africa	a	?
Sudan	a	?
Swaziland	a	?
Tanzania	a	?
Togo	a	?
Uganda	a	?
Yemen	a	S
Zaire	a	?
Zambia	a	?
Zimbabwe	a	?

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