

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

- A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Mycteria ibis 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>Mycteria ibis</u> (Linnaeus) 1766<br>Monotypic |
| 1.5. Common names             |   |
| English:                      | Yellow-billed Stork                               |
| Spanish:                      | Tantalo Africano                                  |
| French:                       | Tantale ibis                                      |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

The species occurs widely in Africa south of the Sahara. Central and East African populations appear to be sedentary or locally dispersive. Populations in southern Africa and West Africa are at least partially migratory, but the limits of these populations are unknown. The species is a common non-breeding visitor to Madagascar from southern Africa, and has occurred as a vagrant in North Africa (Morocco and Egypt).

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.  
 - Entire population: In the range 25,000-100,000; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

Common to locally abundant throughout its range, and numbers generally stable, except perhaps in South Africa where only an irregular breeder with under 25 pairs. Some high counts in recent years have included 650 birds in the Senegal Basin, 1,070 in the Niger Basin, 500-1,500 in Guinea-Bissau, and 1,621 at Lake Nakuru, Kenya. During the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993 (involving 20 countries), the highest national totals were from Cameroon (487), Kenya (299), Sudan (3,000), Tanzania (501), Zambia (726) and Zimbabwe (248) (Taylor 1993).

2.3. Habitat

Found in a variety of wetland habitats, including margins of lakes and rivers, reservoirs, swamps, waterholes, rice fields, lagoons, alkaline lakes and coastal mud-flats, although generally seems to avoid areas of large-scale flooding. Feeds mainly in relatively shallow water; often roosts on sandbanks or in trees. A colonial tree-nester, often with other species. In West Africa, sometimes nests in towns (del Hoyo et

al. 1992).

#### 2.4. Migrations

Resident over much of its range, with only local movements. However, it occurs as a non-breeding summer migrant to parts of South Africa (October-April), and in West Africa it moves north for the wet season (October/November-March) and spends the dry season in coastal swamps.

### 3. **Threat data**

#### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

Not generally subject to persecution, as shown by its habit of nesting in towns in parts of West Africa.

#### 3.2. Habitat destruction

Wetland loss and degradation are occurring widely in Africa, but there are no indications yet that these are having an adverse effect on numbers of Mycteria ibis. The species has adapted well to man-made wetlands, including rice fields, and will accept a wide variety of nest sites.

#### 3.3. Indirect threats

Excessive application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals, especially in rice-growing areas, is likely to be having an adverse effect on the species, but no incidences of mortality have as yet been reported.

#### 3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

#### 3.5. National and international utilization

There may be some casual hunting of the species in parts of its range, but details are lacking.

### 4. **Protection status and needs**

#### 4.1. National protection status

Fully protected under national legislation in Angola, Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe; partially protected in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

#### 4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

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**

- 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>Mycteria ibis</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	V
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	W
Malawi	a	?
Mali	a	?
Mauritania	a	?
Morocco	a	V
Mozambique	a	?
Namibia	a	?
Niger	a	?
Nigeria	a	?
Rwanda	a	?

Senegal	a	?
Sierra Leone	a	?
Somalia	a	?
South Africa	a	?
Sudan	a	?
Swaziland	a	?
Tanzania	a	?
Togo	a	?
Tunisia	a	V
Uganda	a	?
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	