

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Porphyrio alleni in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Gruiformes
1.3. Familia	Rallidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Porphyrio alleni</u> Thomson 1842 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Allen's Gallinule
Spanish:	Calamon de Allen
French:	Taleve d'Allen

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Widely distributed in Africa south of the Sahara from Senegal to Ethiopia and southwestern Somalia, south to Namibia, northern Botswana and eastern South Africa to Port Elizabeth. Absent from most of Somalia, northern Kenya, and the dry interior of South Africa (Urban et al. 1986).

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized, pending further study.
- Entire population: Unknown (over 100,000).

No information is available on numbers or population trends. Widespread and locally common in most countries in subsaharan Africa, from the coasts to about 1,900 m. In general, common and widespread in the rainy season, less common and localized in the dry season (Urban et al. 1986).

2.3. Habitat

Frequents marshes, reed-beds, papyrus swamps, inundated grassland, rice fields and rank vegetation besides lakes, ponds and rivers; particularly favours ponds with water lilies and other floating aquatic plants (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

2.4. Migrations

Resident, and intra-African rains migrant north and south of the equator. A few birds remain resident in equatorial regions, but with the onset of the rains, most birds in the northern tropics migrate northwards (Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad), while most in the southern

tropics migrate southwards. Mainly resident in Zaire. Seasonal influxes occur in East Africa, e.g. at Mombasa (non-breeding visitor) and in southwest Tanzania (breeding visitor). In July/August 1977, thousands appeared at Lake Baringo in dry central Kenya. A resident in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe, but much more widespread during the rains (December to April). A wet season visitor to northeastern Botswana and northern Transvaal, although resident on permanent waters in northern Botswana and northeastern Namibia (Urban *et al.* 1986). Vagrants have reached Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and possibly also Algeria.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread loss and degradation of freshwater wetlands, especially shallow wetlands with tall emergent vegetation, are doubtless having a negative impact on populations in many parts of the species' range, but details are lacking.

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

None known.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

Fully protected under national legislation in Benin, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania; partially protected as a game species in Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic and Cote d'Ivoire; partially protected in Rwanda.

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**

Ripley, S.D. (1977). Rails of the World. Godine, Boston, U.S.A.
Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume
II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Porphyrio alleni</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire Population		
State	Pop.	Status
Algeria	a	V
Angola	a	Sr
Benin	a	Srw
Botswana	a	S
Burkina Faso	a	S
Burundi	a	Wr
Cameroon	a	Wrs
Central African Republic	a	Wrs
Chad	a	Srw
Comoros	a	V
Congo	a	Rw
Cote d'Ivoire	a	Srw
Cyprus	a	V
Denmark	a	V
Egypt	a	V
Equatorial Guinea	a	Rw
Ethiopia	a	Wsr
France	a	V
Gabon	a	Rw
Gambia	a	S
Germany	a	V
Ghana	a	Srw
Guinea	a	S
Guinea-Bissau	a	S
Italy	a	V
Kenya	a	Wr
Lesotho	a	V
Liberia	a	Rw
Malawi	a	S
Mali	a	S
Morocco	a	V
Mozambique	a	S
Namibia	a	S

Niger	a	S
Nigeria	a	Swr
Rwanda	a	Wr
Sao Tome & Principe	a	V
Senegal	a	S
Sierra Leone	a	Sr
Somalia	a	Wr
South Africa	a	S
Spain	a	V
Sudan	a	Wrs
Swaziland	a	S
Tanzania	a	Srw
Togo	a	Srw
Tunisia	a	V
Uganda	a	Wr
United Kingdom	a	V
Zaire	a	Wrs
Zambia	a	S
Zimbabwe	a	S

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	