

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Aenigmatolimnas marginalis 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>Aenigmatolimnas marginalis</u> Hartlaub 1857. Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Striped Crake
Spanish:	Polluela Culirroja
French:	Marouette rayee

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Widely but patchily distributed throughout Africa south of the Sahara from Ghana, Togo and Nigeria through Cameroon and Gabon to Zaire and Kenya, south to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized, pending further study.
- Entire population: Unknown; probably decreasing.

No information is available on numbers. The species is widely distributed, but is uncommon to rare throughout its range, with apparent gaps in distribution and few breeding records (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986). It appears to be decreasing in some parts of its range because of habitat destruction.

2.3. Habitat

Inhabits seasonally inundated, often tussocky, grasslands which dry out and are often burnt over during the dry season; also occurs at the edge of marshes, and in rice fields, shallow temporary pans, short-grass dambos, gravel pits and banks of drainage ditches. Prefers areas with muddy patches, shallow pools and finer grasses up to one metre in height, and generally avoids large, permanent marshes and heavier growths of sedges and reeds (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

2.4. Migrations

An intra-African rains migrant, apparently with two largely discrete populations: one mainly north of the equator in West-central Africa (Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon), and the other mainly

south of the equator from eastern Zaire, Uganda and Kenya south to Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique. Both populations migrate towards equatorial regions during the dry season. Vagrants have reached Aldabra, Algeria, Libya and extreme southern Africa (Urban et al. 1986). A nocturnal migrant.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

3.2. Habitat destruction

The species breeds in seasonally inundated, often tussocky, grasslands, a habitat type which is widely under threat from overgrazing.

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, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania; partially protected as a game species in Benin and the Central African Republic; partially protected in Rwanda.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

Aenigmatolimnas marginalis is listed in the category 'Vulnerable' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a species for which no numerical data are available but which appears to be scarce throughout its range and which is dependent on a habitat type which is widely under threat. 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**

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>Aenigmatolimnas marginalis</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Algeria	a	V
Angola	a	S
Botswana	a	S
Burundi	a	Wr
Cameroon	a	Wrs
Equatorial Guinea	a	Wr
Gabon	a	Wr
Ghana	a	Wr
Kenya	a	Wr
Libya	a	V
Malawi	a	Srw
Mozambique	a	Sr
Namibia	a	S
Nigeria	a	Swr
Rwanda	a	Wr
South Africa	a	V
Tanzania	a	Wr
Togo	a	Wr
Uganda	a	Wr
Zaire	a	Wrs
Zambia	a	Srw
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	