

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis 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>Sterna sandvicensis</u> Latham 1787 ssp. <u>sandvicensis</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Sandwich Tern
Spanish:	Charran Patinegro
French:	Sterne caugek

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Only the nominate subspecies occurs. Three largely discrete populations are present: (i) a population which breeds in Northwest Europe (northwest France, British Isles, North Sea, Baltic Sea) and the northwest Mediterranean (Spain, France, Italy), and winters on the Atlantic coast of Africa from Mauritania (where abundant) to South Africa; (ii) a population which breeds in the Black Sea (Rumania, Ukraine, Russia), and winters in the southern Black Sea and southeast and central Mediterranean, occasionally west to Spain, Portugal and Northwest Africa; and (iii) a population which breeds in the Caspian Sea (Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan), and winters in the Persian Gulf and on the coasts of the Indian Ocean from the Gulf of Aden to Northwest India (with small numbers to East Africa and Sri Lanka).

2.2. Population

Three populations are recognized.

- Northwest Europe/West Mediterranean/West & Southwest Africa: 150,000; increasing (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Black Sea/East & Central Mediterranean: 85,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Caspian Sea/Southwest & South Asia/Northeast Africa: 50,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Northwest Europe and the West Mediterranean is between 50,000 and 55,000 pairs. Numbers probably declined in the 19th century, but since then have increased in many areas, e.g. in the British Isles, Sweden and France. Colonies have become established in the West Mediterranean, where there are now about 1,000 pairs. In the Netherlands, numbers fell from 25,000-40,000 pairs between 1940 and 1957 to only 650 pairs in 1965, apparently due to chlorinated hydrocarbon poisoning (Evans 1984),

but numbers have increased again to over 10,000 pairs. The Black Sea/East Mediterranean population is thought to number about 85,000 birds. These include about 26,000 pairs in the Black Sea and 1,400 pairs in the Sea of Azov (Golovkin 1984). The Southwest Asian population contains at least 50,000 birds. The numbers found wintering in Southwest Asia during the Asian Waterfowl Census have varied widely from as few as 6,000 in 1992, to over 50,000 in 1991, when the great majority of the birds were in Oman. In 1991, there were also over 3,400 in Pakistan and western India (Perennou & Mundkur 1991 & 1992). No information is available on trends in the Black Sea/East Mediterranean and Southwest Asian populations.

2.3. Habitat

Breeds on low-lying coasts of land-locked seas and other mainly saline waters in the Mediterranean steppe and desert zones, and also along sheltered coasts of the northeast Atlantic, infrequently on more exposed ocean coasts and locally on islands in freshwater lakes near the coast. Nests in large colonies, often in association with other terns, on sandy or rocky islets, sand-spits, sand-dunes, shingle beaches and extensive deltas. Outside the breeding season, prefers warm waters, occurring close inshore in marine and estuarine waters along coastlines, including mud-flats fringed by mangroves, sandy beaches and rocky shores (Cramp 1985).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory throughout the Western Palearctic. Birds breeding in Northwest Europe migrate along the Atlantic seaboard to winter on the coast of Africa from Mauritania to the Cape of Good Hope. Birds from the Black Sea winter principally in the eastern Black Sea and central and southeast Mediterranean, but also along the coasts of Spain and Portugal, and occasionally West Africa. Birds breeding in Southwest Asia winter mainly in the Persian Gulf and along the coasts of Arabia, with small numbers reaching Kenya, Tanzania, the west coast of India and Sri Lanka. A few birds overwinter in the South Caspian in Iran. The great majority of one-year-old birds and many two-year-old birds remain in the tropics throughout the summer, but the majority of three-year-old birds return to their breeding grounds.

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Sensitive to disturbance at breeding places, and benefits immediately from effective conservation measures, including provision of artificial breeding sites (Cramp 1985). The decline in numbers at some breeding colonies in the United Kingdom has been attributed to visitor disturbance and predation by foxes (Vermeer & Ranking 1984). Large numbers of birds are trapped for food on the coast of West Africa, especially in Ghana.

3.2. Habitat destruction

No information.

3.3. Indirect threats

A collapse in the breeding population in the Netherlands, from 25,000-40,000 pairs in 1940-1957 to only 650 pairs in 1965, has been attributed to poisoning with chlorinated hydrocarbons (Koeman et al. 1967). The species is possibly at risk from oil pollution, especially in the North Sea and Persian Gulf.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

Trapping of birds for food and recreation in West Africa, especially in Ghana.

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, Mauritania, Morocco, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia; partially protected as a game species in Ghana.

4.2. International protection status

Sterna sandvicensis is listed in Appendix II (strictly protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), and is also listed in Annex I of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

4.3. Additional protection needs

Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis is listed in the category 'Localized' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a subspecies the populations of which, although numerically stable or increasing, are restricted to only a few key sites during a part or the whole of their annual cycles. 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**

The Southwest Asian population of Sterna sandvicensis is also included in the Bonn Convention Draft Agreement on the Conservation of Asian-Australasian Migratory Waterbirds, as a substantial proportion of the

population spends a part of its annual cycle in the Asian-Australasian Region.

8. References

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Taxon: <i>Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis</i>		
Population		
(a) NW Europe/W Mediterranean/W & SW Africa		
(b) Black Sea/E & Central Mediterranean		
(c) Caspian/SW & S Asia/NE Africa		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	b	W
Algeria	b	W
Angola	a	W
Bahrain	c	P?
Benin	a	W
Bulgaria	b	W
Cameroon	a	W
Congo	a	W
Cote d'Ivoire	a	W
Denmark	a	S
Djibouti	c	W
Egypt	b	W
Equatorial Guinea	a	W
Estonia	a	S
France	a	S
Gabon	a	W
Gambia	a	W
Georgia	b	W
Germany	a	S
Ghana	a	W
Greece	b	W
Guinea	a	W
Guinea-Bissau	a	W
Iran	c	W
Ireland	a	S
Israel	b	Pw
Italy	a	S
"	b	W
Kazakhstan	c	S
Kenya	c	W
Kuwait	c	W

Liberia	a	W
Libya	b	W
Madagascar	c	W
Malta	b	P
Mauritania	a	W
"	b	W
Monaco	a	P
Morocco	a	P
"	b	W
Mozambique	c	W
Namibia	a	W
Netherlands	a	S
Nigeria	a	W
Oman	c	W
Portugal	a	P
"	b	W
Qatar	c	P?
Romania	b	S
Russian Federation	b	S
"	c	S
Saudi Arabia	c	W
Senegal	a	W
Seychelles	c	V
Sierra Leone	a	W
Somalia	c	W
South Africa	a	W
Spain	a	S
Sudan	c	W
Sweden	a	S
Tanzania	c	W
Togo	a	W
Tunisia	b	W
Turkey	b	W
Turkmenistan	c	S
Ukraine	b	S
United Arab Emirates	c	W
United Kingdom	a	S
Gibraltar	a	P

Gibraltar	b	P
Yemen	c	W
Yugoslavia	b	W
Zaire	a	W

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	