

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of *Aythya nyroca* in Appendix I

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Republic of Hungary

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1.1 Classis | Aves |
| 1.2 Ordo | Anseriformes |
| 1.3 Familia | Anatidae |
| 1.4 Genus/Species/Subspecies | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Güld.) 1770, Monotypic |
| 1.5 Common (English) name | Ferruginous Duck |

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

The species has a very extensive breeding range covering most of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia (up to China and India). Its wintering range extends from West and Central Africa to South Asia.

2.2 Population

In Europe the total breeding population is estimated at 11,000 - 25,000 pairs (Tucker and Heath 1994). In Europe major declines were observed in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Spain and Slovenia and declines occurred in most other countries as well. Total global population has undergone massive decline in last 20 years and is now put at 75,000 birds (Collar et al. 1994).

2.3 Habitat

Main breeding habitats are river deltas, fresh and brackish lakes, characterised by a mosaic of emergent vegetation, submerged plants and rich fauna. Water-bodies fringed with dense reedbeds are preferred.

2.4 Migrations

Larger part of the population is migratory, spending the winter in Africa South of the Sahara, in the Middle East and in South Asia.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats

Hunting is an important threat, especially during migration and in winter. A large number of birds may be shot accidentally even in countries where it is formally protected due to similarity to quarry species (Callaghan, in prep.).

3.2 Habitat destruction

Main threat is widespread wetland destruction throughout its breeding range, following drainage of river floodplains and shallow wetlands. In Central and Eastern European countries majority of population breeds

on man-made fish-ponds, which are now threatened by changes in ownership and management. In wintering areas in Africa drought induced wetland loss and increasing human pressure can be important (Callaghan in prep.).

3.3 Indirect threats

Not known.

3.4 Threats connected especially with migration

Hunting as a threat mostly affect the population during moult, passage and on the wintering grounds.

3.5 National and international utilisation

Although no definitive records are available but the species is probably unprotected in most, if not all, of the countries in its wintering range and hunting is therefore not prohibited there.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

The species is protected in Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine; not protected in Romania. From other Range States no information is available.

4.2 International protection status

The species is listed in Annex I of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and in Appendix III of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).

Global Conservation Status: Vulnerable (IUCN criteria A1a,b,c).

4.3 Additional protection needs

An international action plan for the species is under preparation by BirdLife International in association with Wetlands International, supported by the EU Life funds (Callaghan in prep.). Some of the key breeding sites of the species (e.g. the Danube Delta in Romania) receive various level of protection.

Most important conservation requirements include the full legal protection of species and its key sites in all range states, restoration of key wetland areas, preventing hunting and disturbance, improved research and monitoring and increased awareness (especially among hunters).

5. Range States (parties and signatories to the Convention in bold)

Extensive breeding range include Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, **Czech Republic**, Germany, Georgia, **Hungary**, **India**, Islamic Republic of Iran, **Israel**, **Italy**, Kazakstan, Latvia, Lithuania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, **Morocco**, **Poland**, Romania, Russian Federation, **Saudi Arabia**, **Slovakia**, Slovenia, **Spain**, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.

During migration and winter it also occurs in Algeria, Bangladesh, **Belgium**, Bhutan, **Cameroon**, **Central African Republic**, **Chad**, Cyprus, **Egypt**, Ethiopia, **France**, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, **Mali**, Malta, Myanmar, **Netherlands**, Nepal, **Niger**, **Nigeria**, **Pakistan**, **Senegal**, Sudan, **Switzerland**, Thailand, **Tunisia**, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam and Yemen.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

Callaghan, D. (compiler) in prep. European Action Plan for Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*).

Collar, N.J., Crosby, M.J. and Stattersfield, A.J. (1994) *Birds to Watch 2: the world list of threatened birds*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.

Tucker, G.M. and Heath, M.F. (1994) *Birds in Europe: their conservation status*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.