

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Ardeola rufiventris 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	Ardeidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Ardeola rufiventris</u> (Sundevall) 1851. Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Rufous-bellied Heron
Spanish:	Garcilla Ventriroja
French:	Heron a ventre roux

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Breeds in Central and Southern Africa from southern Angola and Tanzania to South Africa; at least partially migratory over much of its range, but the movements are poorly understood. It has been recorded as a vagrant or rare migrant in Kenya and Nigeria.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- Entire population: In the range 10,000-100,000; poorly known.

Local and generally rather scarce. Strongholds are in the floodplains of western and northern Zaire and the Okavango Delta in Botswana; also fairly common in the coastal lowlands of Mozambique and on the west shore of Lake Malawi. Common in the extensive marshes of the River Kagera between Tanzania and Rwanda. A large roost of herons and egrets on the Usangu Plains in southwest Tanzania held an estimated 1,000 A. rufiventris in January 1993 (R. Lansdown, pers. comm.); this is much the largest concentration of the species hitherto recorded. A colony of 60-80 pairs has been reported at Lake Bangweulu in Zambia. Only 10 pairs are known to breed in South Africa, on the floodplain of the River Nyl in Transvaal (del Hoyo et al. 1992). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in seasonally flooded grassland, marshes and floodplains; also in shallow water along river banks, lake shores, papyrus swamps, reed-beds and rice fields. Nests colonially in small trees or thick marsh vegetation, often in company with other species (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Basically sedentary, with some movements connected with seasonal flooding, but probably also a partial migrant, e.g. regular at Katanga in south-central Zaire from December to July but rare from September to November, and occurs at Lake Bangweulu in Zambia only as a breeding visitor, from December to August (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

None known.

3.2. Habitat destruction

The progressive destruction of suitable wetland habitat throughout much of the species' range is thought to be partly responsible for the scarcity of the species. It seems much less able to adapt to man-made habitats than Ardeola ralloides, although it does occur around rice fields and at small irrigation ponds in Uganda.

3.3. Indirect threats

Possibly at risk from contamination of wetlands with pesticides and other chemicals, but details lacking.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

No information.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1. National protection status

In Africa, protected under national legislation in Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

Ardeola rufiventris 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**

- 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. & Elliott, H. (1978). The Herons of the World. London Editions, London.

Taxon: <i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	?
Botswana	a	?
Burundi	a	?
Kenya	a	?
Lesotho	a	?
Mali	a	?
Mozambique	a	?
Namibia	a	?
Rwanda	a	?
South Africa	a	?
Swaziland	a	?
Tanzania	a	?
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	