

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Gallinula angulata 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>Gallinula angulata</u> Sundevall 1851 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Lesser Moorhen
Spanish:	-
French:	Gallinule africaine

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Widely distributed in Africa south of the Sahara from Senegal, Sudan and Ethiopia south to northeastern Namibia, central Botswana and eastern South Africa (Urban et al. 1986).

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized, pending further study.  
- Entire population: Unknown, but probably in the range 100,000-1,000,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

Very little information is available on numbers. Widespread and locally common. In Cote d'Ivoire, G. angulata outnumbers G. chloropus in some areas. Reported to be frequent in Nigeria (except in the southeast), numerous in southern Cameroon, uncommon in Chad, widespread but not generally common in Zaire, except in the east and southeast, and scarce and local in Uganda. Locally abundant in Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe during the rains; over 1,000 have been recorded at Kafue Flats in Zambia towards the end of the rains (Urban et al. 1986). The only substantial numbers recorded during the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993 were 103 in Zambia (Taylor 1993). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

Generally found in swamps of low-growing vegetation in shallow water, and apparently avoids coarse sedges and tall stands of reeds; also occurs on seasonally inundated grassland, rice fields, flooded farmland and sewage ponds, and in rank vegetation along forest streams. More secretive and less often on open sheets of water than C. chloropus (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

## 2.4. Migrations

Resident in equatorial regions; an intra-African rains migrant north and south of the equator. In West Africa, some birds are resident in wet southern latitudes, but in dry northern areas, numbers increase during the rains (when it breeds). In Chad, the species is resident except in the dry Sahel zone, where it is purely a rains migrant. There are also indications of migration in Cameroon, Gabon and Zaire. It occurs in Kenya and northeastern Tanzania in most months, but is commonest from April to July when there may be an influx of birds from breeding areas in southern Africa. Migrants have been captured at night at Ngulia in Kenya. In Southern Africa, it is largely a visitor during the rainy season (December to April). In Zimbabwe and Botswana, it breeds in semi-arid areas where pans and other temporary waters disappear during the dry season. In Zambia, peak numbers occur at the end of the rains, and the species is largely absent from July to November, although birds have been recorded in all months except September.

## 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 Mali; 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.  
Rose, P.M. & Scott, D.A. (1993). Waterfowl Population Estimates. Draft report presented at the Fifth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, 9-16 June 1993, Kushiro, Japan. IWRB, Slimbridge.  
Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.  
Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Gallinula angulata</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	Sr
Benin	a	Wrs
Botswana	a	Sr
Burkina Faso	a	Sr
Burundi	a	Rw
Cameroon	a	Rws
Central African Republic	a	Rw
Chad	a	Srw
Congo	a	Rw
Cote d'Ivoire	a	Wrs
Equatorial Guinea	a	Rw
Ethiopia	a	Rsw
Gabon	a	Rw
Gambia	a	Sr
Ghana	a	Wrs
Guinea	a	Srw
Guinea-Bissau	a	Sr
Kenya	a	Rw
Liberia	a	Rw
Malawi	a	Sr
Mali	a	Sr
Mozambique	a	Sr
Namibia	a	Sr
Niger	a	Sr
Nigeria	a	Rsw
Rwanda	a	Rw
Senegal	a	Sr
Sierra Leone	a	Rw
South Africa	a	Sr
Sudan	a	Rsw
Swaziland	a	Sr
Tanzania	a	Rws
Togo	a	Wrs

Uganda	a	Wr
Zaire	a	Wrs
Zambia	a	Sr
Zimbabwe	a	Sr

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	