

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 saundersi 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 saundersi</u> Hume 1877
Monotypic |
| 1.5. Common names | |
| English: | Saunders's Tern |
| Spanish: | - |
| French: | Sterne de Saunders |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Breeds on the coasts of Northeast Africa (southeastern Somalia, Sudan and Socotra), the Red Sea and Persian Gulf east to Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and winters south to Tanzania, Madagascar and Southeast Asia, straggling to Australia.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.
- Entire population: 30,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

The total population has recently been estimated at about 10,000 breeding pairs or 30,000 birds, but very little information is available on the numbers of breeding pairs at specific sites, and no information is available on trends. A total of 340 was recorded in Madagascar during the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993 (Taylor 1993). In Southwest Asia, the highest mid-winter counts in recent years have come from Oman (390 in 1991) and Saudi Arabia (660 in 1992) (Perennou & Mundkur 1991, 1992).

2.3. Habitat

Strictly marine, frequenting inshore shallow waters of creeks, harbours and lagoons, but regularly joining feeding flocks of other terns up to 15 km offshore. Semi-colonial, nesting in loose groups of 5-30 pairs on rocky or sandy islets, sandy or shingle beaches, and hard sand flats, sometimes up to two km inland (Urban et al. 1986).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory in parts of its range, but probably only dispersive in others; the extent and regularity of the movements is uncertain because of confusion with the very similar S. albifrons. Outside the breeding season, occurs south along the eastern seaboard of Africa to Tanzania (Dar-es Salaam, Kilwa), north in the Red Sea to the Egypt-Sudan border, and east along the Indian Ocean coast to Southeast Asia and occasionally Australia. Few, if any, remain in the Persian Gulf throughout the winter. Non-breeders are present throughout the year in northern Somalia and Kenya (Urban *et al.* 1986).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

3.2. Habitat destruction

Habitat destruction, generally associated with beach development for tourism, may pose a threat to the species in parts of its range.

3.3. Indirect threats

Marine pollution, especially from oil spills.

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, fully protected under national legislation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

Insufficient information is available to determine whether or not the species has a favourable conservation status. 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 entire population of Sterna saundersi 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

- Gallagher, M.D., Scott, D.A., Ormond, R.F.G., Connor, R.J. & Jennings, M.C. (1984). The Distribution and Conservation of Seabirds Breeding on the Coasts and Islands of Iran and Arabia. In Croxall, P.J., Evans, P.G.H. & Schreiber, R.W. (eds), Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds: 421-456. ICBP Technical Publication No.2. ICBP, Cambridge, U.K.
- Harrison, P. (1983). Seabirds: an identification guide. Croom Helm Ltd., Beckenham, U.K.
- Perennou, C. & Mundkur, T. (1991). Asian Waterfowl Census 1991. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- Perennou, C. & Mundkur, T. (1992). Asian and Australasian Waterfowl Census 1992. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- 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>Sterna saundersi</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Bahrain	a	Sw
Comoros	a	P
Egypt	a	W
Iran	a	Sw
Kenya	a	W
Kuwait	a	Sw
Madagascar	a	W
Oman	a	Sw
Qatar	a	Sw
Saudi Arabia	a	Sw
Seychelles	a	P
Somalia	a	Sw
Sudan	a	Sw
Tanzania	a	W
United Arab Emirates	a	Sw
Yemen	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	