

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

A. PROPOSAL: To add the whole population of *Aythya baeri* to Appendix I

B. PROPONENT: Government of Mongolia

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1	Classis	Aves
1.2	Ordo	Anseriformes
1.3	Familia	Anatidae
1.4	Species	<i>Aythya baeri</i>
1.5	Common name(s)	Baer's Pochard, Fuligule de Baer, Porrón de Baer

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

This species, the whole population of which is migratory, breeds in the Amur and Ussuri basins in Russia and north-eastern China. It winters mainly in eastern and southern mainland China (c. 850 individuals), India, Bangladesh (1,000 - 2,000 individuals) and Myanmar (1,000 - 1,500 individuals) with smaller numbers in Japan, North Korea, South Korea (very few records in the latter three countries in recent years), Taiwan and Hong Kong (China), Nepal (now a very rare visitor and absent in some years), Bhutan, Thailand (still regular in small numbers, Lao PDR (only one confirmed record), and Vietnam (very rare in recent years) and is a rare migrant to Mongolia. It has declined rapidly in recent years, for instance at Bung Boraphet, Thailand, up to 426 were recorded in 1988 whilst now there are more usually four or five individuals. It is now absent or occurs in greatly reduced numbers over much of its former wintering grounds and is common nowhere.

2.2 Population

The total population is now likely to be less than 5,000 individuals. Owing to an apparent acceleration in the rate of its decline (as measured by numbers on the wintering grounds), the species has been uplisted to Endangered by IUCN.

2.3 Habitat

The typical breeding habitat is around lakes, in rich aquatic vegetation, such as dense grass or flooded tussock/shrubby meadows. It also breeds in coastal wetlands with dense vegetation, or on rivers and ponds surrounded by forest. The nest is built on a tussock or under shrubs, sometimes floating, and occasionally amongst branches. In winter, it occurs mainly on freshwater lakes and reservoirs.

2.4 Migrations

The species migrates after moulting on its breeding grounds. Full information is not available on the routes taken, but the species is congregatory, and it may be that there are no sites holding significant numbers of individuals that remain to be identified, either along the migration flyway, or on the wintering grounds.

3. **Threat data**

3.1 Direct threat

These require more research. However, the species is rather similar in appearance to other, commoner, species of waterfowl, particularly in the genus *Aythya*, and these are widely and commonly taken for food all along the flyway of the species. This similarity poses particular challenges for national and local authorities, and for the hunting community, in conserving this endangered bird.

3.2 Habitat destruction

It is thought that wetland degradation and destruction (including for rice-production) is likely to be a key threat. More investigation is needed.

3.3 Indirect threat

None known.

3.4 Threat connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5 National and international utilisation

Wild ducks, including in the genus *Aythya*, are commonly taken for food in most or all of the Range States of this species. It is certain to be regularly taken with them.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1 National protection status

It is legally protected in Russia, Mongolia and Hong Kong (China) and in some provinces in China. Some of its breeding and wintering sites are within protected areas, including Daursky, Lake Khanka and Lake Bolon' (Russia), Sanjiang and Xianghai (China), Mai Po (Hong Kong), Koshi Barrage (Nepal), and Thale Noi (Thailand).

4.2 International protection status

The species is listed on CMS Appendix II.

4.3 Additional protection needs

The species is in need of full legal protection throughout its range. Efforts are needed, particularly among hunters and by hunting authorities, to ensure that the bird is not killed whilst among look-alike species. All of its regular wintering sites need to be given formal protection.

5. **Range States**¹

BANGLADESH, Bhutan, China, INDIA, Japan, Lao PDR, MONGOLIA, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Russian Federation, South Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam.

6. **Comments from Range States**

7. **Additional remarks**

8. **References**

del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. eds (1992) *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

BirdLife International (2008) Species factsheet: *Aythya baeri*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/6/2008.

¹CMS Parties in capitals

