Pelecanus onocrotalus -- Linnaeus, 1758

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PELECANIFORMES -- PELECANIDAE

Common names: Great White Pelican; Pélican blanc; White Pelican

### European Red List Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Red List Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Assessment Information

| Year published: | 2015 |
| Date assessed:  | 2015-03-31 |
| Assessor(s):    | BirdLife International |
| Reviewer(s):    | Symes, A. |
| Compiler(s):    | Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Tarzia, M., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L. |

#### Assessment Rationale

**European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**

**EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**

At both European and EU27 scales this species has a very large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be increasing, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations).

For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern within both Europe and the EU27.

#### Occurrence

**Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

**Native:**
- Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Georgia; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Turkey; Ukraine

**Vagrant:**
- Austria; Belarus; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; France; Latvia; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland

#### Population

The European population is estimated at 4,900-5,600 pairs, which equates to 9,700-11,100 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 4,400-4,800 pairs, which equates to 8,800-9,700 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

#### Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

#### Habitats and Ecology

Its regular habitat includes fresh or brackish water of lakes, deltas, lagoons and marshes, often requiring extensive reed beds for breeding. Within Europe the populations are fully migratory (Elliott et al. 2014) and travel via important stop-over sites (Nelson 2005). The species is entirely piscivorous, and in Europe it prefers carp (Cyprinus carpio) (Elliott et al. 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitats &amp; Altitude</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Intertidal - Mud Flats and Salt Flats</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The species is threatened by habitat destruction through drainage (Crivelli et al. 1991, Johnsgard 1993, Nelson 2005, Elliott et al. 2014), the divergence of rivers for irrigation (Johnsgard 1993), agriculture development and industry (Elliott et al. 2014). It is also subject to climatic fluctuations that have a strong influence over water-levels in wetlands: floods leading to the inundation of nesting sites (Elliott et al. 2014) and lowering water-levels leading to the death of fish due to increased water salinity (Crivelli 1994). The species is threatened by persecution (Johnsgard 1993, Elliott et al. 2014) and hunting for sport because of its (minimal) depredation of fish from fish-farms (Crivelli et al. 1991, Kostadinova et al. 2007). It also suffers mortality due to collisions with electric powerlines during migration, dispersal or on its wintering grounds and is often found drowned in fishing nets (Crivelli et al. 1991). Disturbance (Elliott et al. 2014), (e.g., from tourism) threatens breeding colonies (Crivelli et al. 1991), and pesticides, heavy metal contamination and disease could have devastating effects on large colonies in the future (Crivelli et al. 1991, Elliott et al. 2014).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat (level 1)</th>
<th>Threat (level 2)</th>
<th>Impact and Stresses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollution</td>
<td>Industrial &amp; military effluents (type unknown/unrecorded)</td>
<td>Timing: Ongoing, Scope: Majority (50-90%), Severity: Unknown, Impact: Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conservation Actions Underway**

The species is listed under Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species; Appendix II of the Bern Convention; Annex I of the Birds Directive. It occurs within 43 Important Bird Areas. Within the EU it is listed within 108 Special Protection Areas.

**Conservation Actions Proposed**

Monitoring and review of water management practices in key habitats. Protection of breeding and feeding sites. Enforcement and monitoring of persecution, including educational programmes to reduce this threat. Monitoring of heavy metal and pesticide levels, and improved management of water bodies to reduce contaminant loads.

**Bibliography**


Pelecanus onocrotalus

Range

- **Brown**: Extant (breeding)
- **Yellow**: Extant (resident)

Citation:

BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds

Map created 05/13/2015