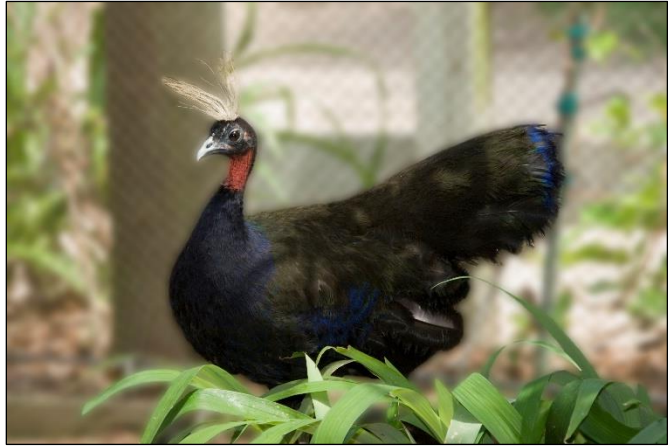


Congo Peafowl

Afropavo congensis

Family: Phasianidae, Genus: *Afropavo*
Recognized Subspecies: 0, Monotypic
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Wild Pop. Trend: Decreasing
CITES Appendix III
USFWS: Not Listed



Range: The Democratic Republic of Congo

Conservation Concern: The Congo Peafowl is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN. Its wild population is estimated at 3,500-15,000. The rarity of sightings of this species and its elusive nature makes population estimates challenging. Increasing conservation concerns include the bush meat trade and habitat destruction for agriculture and conflict, all of which negatively affects the wild population of this and other species endemic to this region.

Photo credit: Houston Zoo

Species account: There are three species of Peafowl. The Congo Peafowl is the only species of African peafowl, with the rest ranging into South-east Asia and Indonesia. This unique species was only discovered by naturalists at the start of the 20th century and little is still understood of its natural history. This strikingly colorful bird is excellent for African aviaries as well as stand-alone exhibits. Birds are typically kept in pairs, but institutions are working to see if housing in same sex groupings in large aviaries is possible.

The original wild caught birds that founded this captive population were acquired by the Antwerp Zoo in 1962. Of the original group, six birds reproduced and are the only founders for this population. Due to the rarity of sightings and the conflict in this region, it is doubtful that new founders will be able to be obtained for this population.

AZA Role: This species is one of a few bird species in AZA that are endemic to the Congo region of Africa. The management goal of this SSP is to provide birds for exhibit and breeding for the regional and international programs. The AZA population has been very active in importing birds to increase the founder representations within the population.

TAG Program Goals: Ownership of all captive Congo Peafowl resides with the Antwerp Zoo. New holders need to be approved by the Antwerp Zoo. If your institution has interest in this species (even if years away), please contact the population manager to start the approval process. More approved holders will facilitate faster placement of birds and their offspring in a timely manner.

Education Emphasis

- Only species of peafowl outside of Asia
- Bush meat trade
- Fragmented populations

AZA Connections: The following table is not a guide of what the Congo Peafowl can be housed with (although many of these are a possibility), but instead it is meant show the range connections between other AZA recommended program species.

Congo Peafowl <i>Afropavo congensis</i> recommended species by other TAGs within species range				
Common name	Scientific name	TAG	Program	Conservation status
Snowy-headed Robin Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	PACCT TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Red-billed Fire-finch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	PACCT TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Lady Ross' Turaco	<i>Musophaga rossae</i>	Turaco and Cuckoo TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>	Turaco and Cuckoo TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
African Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Vulnerable
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>	Charadriiformes TAG	Unmanaged	Least Concern
Black Crackle	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>	Gruiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
African Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
White-faced Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Hartlaub's Duck	<i>Pteronetta hartlaubii</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern

**Disclaimer: this information was collected in 2017. If you have interest in any of these species, contact the perspective TAGs. All range overlap information was determined using the IUCN Red List range maps.

Conservation priority species that share the same range:

- Eastern Gorilla *Gorilla beringei*
- Okapi *Okapia johnstoni*
- Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*

If your institution is supporting a field project with one of these species, see if your conservation partner is observing the Congo Peafowl in their study/or field site. If your Zoo displays one of the following species, the addition of an aviary for Congo Peafowl can illustrate the diversity of this biome at your institution and highlight a vulnerable bird.



Photo credit Shutterstock