



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



## RESOLUTION 7.4\*

### ELECTROCUTION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Seventh Meeting (Bonn, 18-24 September 2002)

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*Recognising* that, under Article II of the Convention, Range States agree to take action for the conservation of migratory species whenever possible and appropriate, paying special attention to migratory species the conservation status of which is unfavourable, and taking individually or in cooperation appropriate and necessary steps to conserve such species and their habitats;

*Recognising* that Article II of the Convention requires all Parties to take action to avoid any migratory species becoming endangered and, in particular, to endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species listed in Appendix I to the Convention;

*Recognising* that Article III (4) (b) of the Convention requires Parties to endeavour *inter alia* to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimise, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of migratory species;

*Concerned* by the information presented in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.7.21 to the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the worldwide and increasing impact of electricity transmission lines, conductors and towers in causing injury and death by electrocution to species of large birds, including migratory species;

*Noting* that a significant number of migratory bird species that are significantly exposed to electrocution danger are listed in the Appendices to the Convention;

*Concerned* that such species are increasingly threatened by continuing construction of medium-voltage overhead transmission lines;

*Concerned particularly* that, without action to reduce or mitigate threats of electrocution, many populations and potentially species, including *Aquila adalberti* and *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, may be severely affected;

*Recognising* that, especially in arid zones, electrocution of birds on transmission lines can cause disastrous forest fires affecting both wildlife and people;

*Desiring* to raise awareness among the public, developers and decision-makers of the serious, widespread electrocution risk posed to birds;

*Aware* that technical solutions are available to eliminate or minimise transmission line electrocution risk posed to birds;

*Recognising* that power lines that are considered safer for birds also correspond to a better energy supply and therefore are an advantage to supplying companies;

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\* The original draft of this resolution, considered by the Conference of the Parties, was numbered 7.12.

*Bearing in mind* that collision with power lines is also a problem for birds, and that preventive measures should also be applied to mitigate its effects; and

*Bearing in mind* that electrocution on electricity transmission lines of railway infrastructure may also be a problem, and preventive measures should be envisaged;

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Calls* on all Parties and non-Parties to curb the increasing electrocution risk from medium-voltage transmission lines to migratory birds and to minimise this risk in the long term;
2. *Calls* on all Parties and non-Parties to include appropriate measures in legislation and other provisions for planning and consenting medium-voltage electricity transmission lines and associated towers, to secure safe constructions and thus minimise electrocution impacts on birds;
3. *Encourages* constructors and operators of new medium-voltage transmission lines and associated towers to incorporate appropriate measures aimed at protecting migrating birds against electrocution;
4. *Calls* on Parties and non-Parties to appropriately neutralise existing towers and parts of medium-voltage transmission lines to ensure that migratory birds are protected against electrocution;
5. *Invites* all concerned to apply as far as possible the catalogue of measures contained in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.7.21, which are based on the principle that birds should not be allowed to sit on parts that are dangerously close to the transmission parts under voltage;
6. *Encourages* constructors and operators to cooperate with ornithologists, conservation organizations, competent authorities and appropriate financial bodies in order to reduce the electrocution risk posed to birds from transmission lines; and
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to collect more information with respect to collisions and electrocutions on electricity transmission lines of railway infrastructure and other related issues.

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