



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Twelfth Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council

Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, 31 March-3 April 2004

CMS/ScC12/Doc.14

Resolutions adopted by the VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls (Budapest, 18-23 May 2003) relevant to the establishment of CMs Agreements

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls, held in Budapest, Hungary, from 18 to 23 May 2003, adopted at the close 15 resolutions, two of which make reference to the possible establishment of CMS Agreements on raptors. Specifically, Resolution 3 invites the CMS Secretariat and other bodies of CMS, notably the Scientific Council, to consider the establishment of a multilateral agreement on the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory raptors. Resolution 9 urges the Secretariat and other relevant bodies of CMS to consider the possibility of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding, or other appropriate CMS instrument, on the conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle.
2. The full text of the two resolutions is reproduced in this document, for the consideration of the Council in its work on the possible development of future Agreements.
3. The Council is requested to express its views on the desirability and feasibility of the proposed initiatives, and suggest what further action should be undertaken. The Council may wish to take into consideration the draft CMS Strategic Plan (2006-2011) (ScC12/Doc.4), and the Scientific Council draft Implementation Plan to the revised CMS Strategic Plan (ScC12/Doc.3) under agenda items 3.2 and 3.1, respectively.

VI WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS

Budapest, Hungary, 18-23 May 2003

RESOLUTION 3

RECALLING that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979 (CMS) encourages international cooperative action to conserve migratory species;

CONSIDERING that migratory raptors constitute an important part of the global biological diversity which, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 and Agenda 21, should be conserved for the benefit of present and future generations;

AWARE of the environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic values of raptors in general;

CONSCIOUS that migratory raptors are particularly vulnerable because they migrate over long distances, with many species being reliant upon land-bridges and/or networks of fragile habitats that are declining in extent and becoming degraded through unsustainable human activities;

RECOGNISING the need to take immediate action to halt the decline of migratory raptor populations and their habitats in the geographic area of the African-Eurasian raptor migration systems;

CONVINCED that a multilateral agreement and its implementation through coordinated and concerted action would contribute significantly to the conservation of migratory raptors and their habitats in the most effective manner, and would deliver ancillary benefits for many other species of animal and plant;

URGES the CMS Secretariat and other bodies of CMS, notably the Scientific Council, urgently to consider establishing a multilateral agreement on the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory raptors;

ACKNOWLEDGES that effective implementation of such an agreement would require assistance to be provided to some range states for research, training and monitoring of migratory raptor species and their habitats, for the management of those habitats as well as for the establishment or improvement of scientific and administrative institutions for the implementation of such an agreement; and

FURTHER URGES all range states within the African-Eurasian geographic area actively to embrace this proposal and to work together to establish, ratify and implement such an agreement as a matter of urgency.

VI WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS

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RESOLUTION 9

CONCERNED about the strong decline of the Lesser Spotted Eagle at least in some countries at the western edge of its range (e.g. Germany, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Greece);

RECOGNISING that the Lesser Spotted Eagle has the longest migration route of all European eagle species, ranging from breeding areas in Central and Eastern Europe to wintering grounds in southern Africa;

CONCERNED that hunting, particularly in the Middle East and Turkey, is thought to have been responsible to a large extent for the decline in numbers of Lesser Spotted Eagles;

CONSCIOUS that concerted, coordinated action must be taken immediately to prevent any further decline of the remnant populations in the countries in question, and convinced that the conclusion of some form of multilateral agreement and its implementation would contribute significantly to the conservation of this species;

NOTING that the Lesser Spotted Eagle is listed on Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);

URGES the Secretariat and other relevant bodies of CMS to consider without delay the possibility of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding, or other appropriate CMS instrument, on the conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle.