

RECOMMENDATION 5.4

PROGRESS ON THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HOUBARA BUSTARD (*Chlamydotis undulata*)

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Fifth Meeting (Geneva, 10-16 April 1997)

Considering the unfavourable conservation status of the Houbara bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*, over major parts of its range;

Noting with appreciation the activities exerted by the Government of Saudi Arabia towards the development of the Houbara bustard Agreement;

Noting the report of the Seventh meeting of the Scientific Council and the appreciation expressed by the Council in regard to the progress made in the development of the Houbara bustard Agreement; and

Further noting the contribution to the session of the Committee of the Whole on its meeting on 11 April 1997, the Secretariat and the Saudi Arabian delegation on reporting on the development of the Agreement;

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

Requests Parties and non-Parties to the Convention that are Range States for the Asiatic subspecies of the Houbara bustard to:

- a. Complete the formal internal consideration of the draft Agreement text officially circulated to those States by the Government of Saudi Arabia and supply their comments expeditiously to the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of Saudi Arabia;
- b. Monitor Houbara bustard populations in breeding, staging and wintering areas that lay within their jurisdiction; and
- c. Take an active part in the further development of the Agreement and the Action Plan.