

**PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS**

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of *Aquila heliaca* in Appendix I

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Republic of Hungary

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1 Classis	Aves
1.2 Ordo	Falconiformes
1.3 Familia	Accipitridae
1.4 Genus/Species/Subspecies	<i>Aquila heliaca</i> (Savigny) 1809, Monotypic
1.5 Common (English) name	Imperial Eagle

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

The species has an extensive range from Central Europe through Central Asia to China. Its wintering range mainly includes South Europe, the Middle East and South Asia.

2.2 Population

Total global population has undergone marked decline, especially in Europe, since 1950s, and is now estimated at 2,300 - 2,900 pairs (del Hoyo et al. 1994). The European breeding population is estimated at 320-570 pairs (Tucker and Heath 1994).

2.3 Habitat

Breeding habitat is lowland, hill and mountain deciduous forest and forest steppe, feeding mostly on grasslands and agricultural areas.

2.4 Migrations

Adults of the species are partly migratory, with some birds moving South/South-East. The young are fully migratory. Migrates singly.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats to the population

In its breeding range the main factors negatively affecting the species are nest robbing and disturbance at the nests. During migration and at the wintering areas shooting is an important threat. To some extent poisoning and electrocution also affects the survival of populations (Heredia et al. 1996).

3.2 Habitat destruction

This is especially important in its breeding range. The species' habitat is largely affected by forest management operations and land-use changes on the feeding habitats (open grasslands) (Heredia et al. 1996).

3.3 Indirect threats

Not known.

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

As described above, shooting and presecution is largely a threat during migration and at the wintering grounds.

3.5 National and international utilisation

Not relevant

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

Species is legally protected in Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). No information from other range states.

4.2 International protection status

The species is listed in Annex I of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and on Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).

Global Conservation Status: Vulnerable (IUCN criterion C2a)

4.3 Additional protection needs

There is an international Action Plan prepared by BirdLife International with support from the European Union LIFE funds and Council of Europe (Heredia et al. 1996). There are several protected areas established in key breeding sites for the species e.g. in Hungary, Slovakia and Yugoslavia (Serbia). There are ongoing conservation projects involving non-governmental organisations and relevant governments in Hungary and Slovakia.

Urgently required are habitat conservation measures in all range states where the species breeds, legal protection of species and its key sites, preventing nest-robbing and illegal trade, reduction of mortality and international cooperation.

5. Range States (parties and signatories to the Convention in bold)

The species occupies a massive but highly fragmented range extending through Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, **Greece, Hungary**, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakstan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Romania, **Slovakia**, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia.

During passage and winter the species occurs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Djibouti, **Egypt**, Ethiopia, **United Kingdom** (Hong Kong), **India**, Iraq, **Israel**, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Oman, **Pakistan, Saudi Arabia**, Sudan, Syria, Vietnam, Yemen.

6. Comment from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

Heredia,B., Rose,L. and Painter,M. eds. (1996) Globally threatened birds in Europe: Action plans. Strasbourg: Council of Europe.

del Hoyo,J., Elliott,A. and Sargatal,J. eds. (1994) Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 2. Barcelona: Lynx Editions.

Tucker,G.M. and Heath,M.F. (1994) Birds in Europe: their conservation status. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.