

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 clanga* 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	Acciipitridae
1.4 Genus/Species/Subspecies	<i>Aquila clanga</i> (Pallas) 1811, Monotypic
1.5 Common (English) name	Greater Spotted Eagle

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

The species' distribution extends over a vast but fragmented range from Eastern Europe through Central Asia to China. The wintering range is similarly extensive from sub-Saharan Africa to South Asia (East to Vietnam and Cambodia).

2.2 Population

Total world population is not known, European population estimated at 860 - 1,100 pairs (Tucker and Heath 1994). It occurs in extremely low densities and declined strongly at least in the Western part of its range.

2.3 Habitat

Species prefers to breed in wet forests bordering humid meadows, bogs, marshes and other wetlands mostly in lowlands, occasionally up to 1,000 m.

2.4 Migrations

Species is strongly migratory, the main direction of migration being mostly North - South. The species occurs in considerable number at some of the important "bottleneck" sites for migratory raptors, such as the Bosphorus and Borcka-pass in Turkey, Israel and the Sinai in Egypt.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats to the population

The species is fairly sensitive to disturbance especially near the nesting sites. Nest destruction and shooting also occurs in parts of the range, latter especially important in the Middle East.

3.2 Habitat destruction

A major threat to the species' populations is intensified forest management and drainage of wetlands at the breeding areas. These are likely to increase in the future with the changes in land-use and ownership in Eastern Europe (Collar et al. 1994).

### 3.3 Indirect threats

Not known.

### 3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

Shooting is more of a threat during passage. Infrastructural development of passage sites might be a problem in the future.

### 3.5 National and international utilisation

Not relevant.

## **4. Protection status and needs**

### 4.1 National protection status

No information available.

### 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

An international action plan for the species is under development by BirdLife International, supported by the EU LIFE funds. Very few breeding and wintering sites receive current protection within its vast range.

Necessary conservation measures may include full enforced legal protection over its full range, preventing disturbance and shooting in all range states and protection of key breeding, wintering and stopover sites and wide-scale habitat conservation measures to prevent habitat degradation (especially wet forests).

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

The species has a highly fragmented breeding range including Belarus, China, **Finland, India**, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakstan, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia, **Pakistan, Poland**, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine.

On passage or during winter it occurs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cambodia, **Czech Republic**, Ethiopia, **France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, United Kingdom** (Hong Kong), Iraq, **Israel, Italy**, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, **Morocco**, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, **Saudi Arabia**, Singapore, **Slovakia, Sweden**, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen.

## **6. Comments from Range States**

## **7. Additional remarks**

## **8. References**

Collar, N.J., Crosby, M.J. and Stattersfield, A.J. (1994) Birds to Watch 2: the world list of threatened birds. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.

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