

RECOMMENDATION 5.3

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE GREAT CORMORANT IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION

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

Recalling that the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Nairobi, 1994) adopted a recommendation on the conservation of the Great Cormorant in the African-Eurasian region;

Noting that Denmark and the Netherlands declared that they were willing to take the initiative for the preparation of an action plan for the Great Cormorant;

Considering that the aim is to draw up such an action plan on the basis of the most recent scientific and other findings, incorporating measures to minimise the conflict between fisheries interests and cormorant populations, and at the same time maintaining a favourable status for the Great Cormorant as required under the Convention;

Considering also the results of the international workshop of experts in Lelystad, Netherlands, on 3 and 4 October 1996, where

- a report with the most recent scientific information on the Great Cormorant was discussed;
- the continuing increase of the breeding population of the subspecies *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* in some areas and its expanding geographical range were stated; and
- management options and their effectiveness were studied; and

Considering further that this problem should be examined and appropriate action coordinated at the international level;

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

1. *Recommends* that Denmark and the Netherlands to finalize their work on an action plan for the Great Cormorant, focussing initially on the subspecies *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* before the end of 1997;
2. *Proposes* that the action plan shall include management guidelines *inter alia* to deal with possible serious damage caused by *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* in the fisheries sector while maintaining a favourable conservation status of the species;
3. *Invites* Denmark and the Netherlands to take the necessary steps, involving all interested Range States, to bring together an international group of experts from the nature conservation and fisheries sectors, to complete the action plan mentioned in no. 1, taking into account the relevant national and international legislation, having regard to the activities of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Wetlands International working groups;
4. *Proposes* that the completed action plan be communicated to the Scientific Council of the Convention and be distributed to the Range States;
5. *Recommends* that for the purpose of advising on the implementation of the action plan and to facilitate coordination at the international level, an advisory committee of experts be established as a

subgroup reporting to the Scientific Council of the Convention;

6. *Recommends* that the advisory committee shall include experts from the nature conservation and fisheries sectors. Every interested Range State shall be entitled to be represented by at least two such persons;

7. *Proposes* that the advisory committee, based on the framework of the action plan, which may include a range of management techniques including control, and on the reports of its implementation, shall advise *inter alia* on measures to prevent serious damage to fisheries; and

8. *Proposes* that each interested Range State covers the full costs of its national delegation. To ensure maximum participation in the work of the advisory committee, individual Range States may offer financial support to other national delegations.