

Resolutions



Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

IV WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS

Berlin, Germany, 10-17 May 1992

RESOLUTION 1

- RECOGNISING that many of the conservation problems concerning birds of prey are due to worldwide over-population by human beings
- URGES the United Nations and governments of all countries to make greater efforts to promote family planning and birth control

RESOLUTION 2

- WHEREAS large-scale impacts are often a consequence of Regional Development plans supported by EEC Structural Funds throughout Southern Europe and
- WHEREAS internal and external environmental control mechanisms, namely Environmental Impact Assessments, are largely ineffective in preventing or minimising those impacts,
- URGES the EEC and the national governments of Southern Europe to enforce the control mechanisms upon such plans.

RESOLUTION 3

- WHEREAS the survival of several raptor species depends largely on the conservation of some non-breeding (juvenile or immature) individuals concentrating in certain areas
- RECOMMENDS that such areas of concentration be included among the criteria established for assessment and declaration as Special Important Bird Areas as set out in the EEC Directive on Birds.

RESOLUTION 4

- WHEREAS Fenthion is being sold under various trade names as a contact avicide to control pest species in Africa (primarily *Quelea*) and in North America (primarily House Sparrows, Starlings and Pigeons), and
- WHEREAS field and laboratory research has shown that Fenthion in its present use constitutes a serious secondary poisoning hazard to birds of prey,
- URGES the responsible government agencies in the countries where Fenthion is used to take appropriate and immediate action to halt the further use of Fenthion as a contact avicide until research has been undertaken to find ways and means of its safe application.

RESOLUTION 5

- NOTING that in the Federal Republic of Germany research into the protection of birds of prey is affected in various ways by the right of individual hunters to take raptors into possession, and
- CONSIDERING that these species are of importance as environmental indicators and
- CONSIDERING that attitudes towards utilisation of the environment have changed so that this right is no longer justifiable
- URGES the German Parliament to take the decision to change the law in order that the situation of these species may be improved by deleting all birds of prey without exception from Paragraph 2 of the Federal Hunting Law.

RESOLUTION 6

- CONCERNED** for the effective and long-term protection of breeding places, surface waters and hunting areas for the Sea Eagle and Osprey in all German states with breeding pairs and
- CONSIDERING** the sensitivity of the Sea Eagle and Osprey to human disturbance of various kinds as well as the increasing threat to their habitat and
- NOTING** that a certain increase in the Sea Eagle and Osprey population has been achieved only through intensive protection measures, providing a necessary reserve as regards present and future negative factors
- URGES** the German Section of ICBP and the DDA (umbrella organisation of German avifaunists), as well as other state and social organisations concerned to determine that the Sea Eagle and Osprey should remain on the Red List of the Federal Republic of Germany in the highest category of endangerment, since only further effective protection measures, including research into the species' population dynamics, can secure the population and make possible a re-colonisation of former breeding areas.

RESOLUTION 7

- NOTING** that the Lesser Spotted Eagle, being the rarest and most endangered of all eagle species regularly breeding in Germany, has already disappeared from large areas as a breeding species during the last decades, and
- WHEREAS** the present area of distribution within Brandenburg is confined to a small part of the state in the north-east, which is at the same time the southern and eastern limit of the species' distribution,
- CONGRATULATES** the new Government of this state on having established the largest Biosphere Reserve in Germany, which is also an important breeding area for the species, and
- RECOMMENDS** that the Government of Brandenburg, the appropriate Federal Government bodies and nature conservation organisations support a project soon to be initiated to study and protect the present population of the Lesser Spotted Eagle in this state.

RESOLUTION 8

- NOTING** that the Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* became extinct as a breeding bird in Brandenburg in 1885 and
- CONSIDERING** that, for the first time since that date, a pair of Eagle Owls once again bred successfully in Kreis Zossen in 1991 and also in 1992 and
- CONCERNED** over plans to develop this area as a research centre and golf course
- URGES** the Environment Minister for Brandenburg to preserve the forest in which the Owl breeds and its environs by establishing a protected zone around it, forbidding the use of pesticides and rodenticides, preserving the trees and other vegetation together with the meadows and ponds, in collaboration with local naturalists.

RESOLUTION 9

- RECOGNISING** that the nature reserve "Nonnenhof mit Lieps" near Neubrandenburg is one of the most important areas in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern for endangered raptors like the White-tailed Eagle and the Osprey and other species and
- CONSIDERING** that the International Council for Bird Preservation has included this area in the list of Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Europe and
- NOTING** that close to this nature reserve, in the landscape reserve (Landschaftsschutzgebiet) "Tollensebecken", a big holiday park, golf course and riding place is planned and already authorised by the Minister of Economy of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and

- WHEREAS these plans are an infringement of the EC directives concerning nature conservation
- URGES the European Parliament and the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to prevent development of the project at this ecologically sensitive place and to ensure that the Important Bird Area with its surroundings is effectively protected.

RESOLUTION 10

- NOTING that a research project regarding protection of the Lesser Spotted Eagle has been in progress for some time in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, where 80% of the German population occurs,
- URGES the government of the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to implement the project recommendations regarding habitat protection by the leaders of this project, e.g. that the breeding areas must be prevented from development by road-building and tourism and conserved in the long term through contracts with the relevant land-owners whereby exploitation of the territory shall be diminished, and
- RECOMMENDS that the government of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the Federal Ministry of the Environment, the German Research Council and any other appropriate body support this project.

RESOLUTION 11

- NOTING that the recent political developments in the former USSR have resulted in the formation of independent states which now lack adequate legal control over the conservation of raptors and owls and
- CONCERNED over increasing illegal trapping and exporting of rare and endangered species, particularly falcons
- URGES the governments of the independent states and administrations of autonomous regions and districts within the territory of the former USSR to establish wildlife conservation legislation, to protect all raptor species (*Falconiformes* and *Strigiformes*) and to become signatories to CITES

RESOLUTION 12

- WHEREAS birds of prey and owls are an important part of biodiversity, particularly in the territory of the former USSR,
- URGES political leaders of the new independent states within the former USSR who are attending the forthcoming "Earth Summit" in Brazil to seek support from other governmental representatives and international organisations to strengthen the environmental policy and legislative control of conservation within these states.

RESOLUTION 13

- RECOGNISING that the United States of America's Endangered Species Act of 1972 has served as a model piece of legislation for the provision of legal status for endangered and threatened species of birds of prey and numerous other species of fauna and flora in various parts of the world and
- WHEREAS the current authorisation of this Endangered Species Act is due to expire on 30 September 1992
- URGES the US Government to effect the passage of re-authorisation of this legislation so that there may be continuity of protection of those species of wildlife presently considered to be endangered or threatened.

RESOLUTION 14

- CONCERNED at the lack of enforcement of the bird protection laws in Malta, which results

CONSIDERING the shooting of thousands of migrating raptors each year and
 NOTING the efforts being made throughout Europe to protect these birds and
 URGES that Malta has applied for membership in the European Community
 the Maltese Government to take immediate action to bring legislation up to the
 standard required by the European Community and to properly enforce it.

RESOLUTION 15

RECOGNISING that many species of birds of prey are endangered worldwide and that, in
 addition to conservation of their breeding and wintering areas, protection of
 their migration routes is one of the most important tasks for the international
 community and
 CONSIDERING that the Republic of Syria is an area of vital importance for migration and
 NOTING wintering of a number of Palearctic species, some of which are endangered
 that the increasing number of tourists includes numbers of conservationists
 who are shocked to witness the mass killing of birds of prey and their
 commercial exploitation, both alive and stuffed, as typified by the hunting and
 taxidermists' shops in Damascus and other towns, regularly supplied from
 collecting centres in Qariatyn, Palmyra and other desert localities, as well as the
 falcon-trading village of Ruhaybe and
 CONSIDERING that thousands of birds of prey are shot annually and live Saker Falcons trapped
 or imported for sale from neighbouring countries and
 WHEREAS the breeding populations of these species are protected in other countries at
 considerable expense and
 CONSIDERING that as a result of persecution several native Syrian species have been greatly
 reduced or extirpated
 URGES the President of the Syrian Republic to exercise his full authority to protect all
 birds of prey breeding in or migrating through his country and to promote the
 concept amongst the people of his country that birds of prey should not be killed
 but should be regarded as a valuable cultural asset, the safe migration of which
 through Syria must in future be ensured.

RESOLUTION 16

CONSIDERING the poor state of the Philippine Eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, with 14 eagles
 in captivity and only 23 known in the wild, and its risk of extinction
 SUPPORTS the Philippine Eagle Conservation Program Inc. in its efforts to preserve the
 Philippine Eagle and its environment and
 URGES the Government of the Philippines and all national and international
 organisations to lend their full support to this endeavour.

RESOLUTION 17

RECOGNISING the continuing efforts to conserve the Mauritius Kestrel *Falco punctatus*,
 CONGRATULATES the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on the success of its multi-
 disciplinary project which has resulted in an increase of the number of Kestrels
 from four known wild birds in 1974 to a free-living population of about 170
 birds to-day, and
 URGES the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to continue its efforts to restore
 the Kestrel population and to ratify the Black River Gorges National Park,
 including the forests around Bassin Blanc, which will provide secure habitat
 for the Kestrel and for the other endangered wild land birds of the island.

RESOLUTION 18

CONSIDERING that the international sectors of the Douro/Duero and Tejo/Tajo rivers represent
 important areas for cliff-nesting raptors at an international level,

URGES the governments of Spain and Portugal to co-ordinate efforts to create protected areas in these regions.

RESOLUTION 19

RECOGNISING that with regard to the reintroduction of the Bearded Vulture a certain number of rules have been laid down and
NOTING with pleasure that in Spain steps are being taken to re-establish the Bearded Vulture in areas outside the Pyrenees, and
CONCERNED that this project be internationally recognised and accepted
URGES that the rules governing such a project should be adhered to and that intentions to remove eggs from the wild population should in no case be implemented.

RESOLUTION 20

NOTING that in Austria there formerly occurred 34 breeding species of birds of prey and owls, of which to-day only 23 remain, 19 of which are in the Red List,
URGES the Austrian authorities to bring their legislation up to the level required by CITES and the Bern Convention.

RESOLUTION 21

AWARE that human activities have reduced many populations of birds of prey to dangerously low numbers and, in some areas to extinction
RECOMMENDS reintroductions to Mt. Carmel in Israel

RESOLUTION 22

CONCERNED about the possible impact on migrating birds of prey and other species of the Voice of America relay station projected for construction in the Aravah Valley in Israel and
FEARING that this may have the following effects on these migrating birds: collisions with high towers, net antennas and mazes of cables, and the possible influence of micro-wave radiation on approaching and roosting birds and on the orientation, navigation and behaviour of migrating birds,
URGES the governments of Israel and the United States of America to cancel this project.

RESOLUTION 23

APPRECIATING the generosity of the Berlin Senate and the German Research Council in sponsoring the IV World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls, its participants would like to express their profound gratitude for their support and express the hope that, in order to complete the success and significance of this Conference, sympathetic consideration will be given towards similarly supporting publication of the Proceedings.

RESOLUTION 24

THANKS the staff of the Conference Centre at Gosen for their great efforts under difficult conditions and for contributing so much towards the success of this conference and
URGES the Governments of Berlin and Brandenburg and all those concerned to keep this Centre open for future scientific and cultural meetings, for which it is so admirably suited.

