

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats



Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 93 (2002) on the further implementation of Action Plans for Globally threatened birds and on other issues of interest for bird conservation in the Convention's range

(adopted by the Standing Committee on 5 December 2002)

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Recalling its recommendations:

No. 48 (1996) on the conservation of globally threatened birds in Europe,

No. 60 (1997) on the implementation of the action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe,

No. 61 (1997) on the conservation of the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*),

No. 62 (1997) on the conservation of regionally threatened birds in the Macaronesian and the Mediterranean regions,

No. 75 (1999) on the implementation of new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe,

No. 88 (2001) on the implementation of five new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe;

Desirous to void further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Aware that the design and implementation of Recovery Plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation of European globally threatened birds;

Welcoming collaboration with the European Commission, with UNEP/CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement, with the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention, with the Ramsar Convention and other appropriate biodiversity related treaties and programmes, in the implementation of the actions plans, and recognising equally the positive co-operation established with BirdLife International and its partners and Wetlands International

Referring to the Action Plans on European globally threatened birds presented by BirdLife and Wetlands International;

Desirous to continue positive conservation action for most threatened birds in the Convention's area;

Recommends that Contracting Parties to the Convention or States invited to accede thereto or to attend sessions of the Standing Committee as observers:

General

To all concerned states

1. promote a better co-ordination of actions taken under the action plan by the different administrative bodies at the local, regional and national level;

Albania

2. improve regulation and control to prevent illegal hunting, particularly in coastal wetlands, as poaching is a risk to some globally threatened bird species mentioned in the recommendations above;
3. improve law implementation, so as to bring under control illegal trade of animals, including stuffed animals, particularly birds;

Bulgaria

4. assess the potential impact of mining activities and infrastructure projects on species referred to in recommendation 48;
5. strictly control the trade of raptors, both alive and stuffed;

Croatia, Czech Republic, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia

6. establish an effective system of preparation, approval, implementation, monitoring and review of species recovery programmes (or action plans), especially for the bird species covered by the international Action Plans endorsed by both the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and the European Community, establishing appropriate priorities and allocating sufficient resources; take note in this context of the proposal in Recommendation No. 59 (1997) of the Standing Committee on the drafting and implementation of action plans for wild fauna species;
Poland;

7. regarding the Via Baltica motorway, fully evaluate, according to Polish law, alternatives to the route proposed Via Bialystock to ensure that there is no risk of damage to the Biebrza Marshes supporting large populations of globally threatened species: Aquatic Warbler, Greater Spotted Eagle and Corncrake;

8. regarding the problem of the existing dilapidated dam on the Vistula River, to which a new Nieszawa dam is one proposed solution, in accordance with national law, undertake environmental assessments of all reasonable alternatives, including taking full account of the best solution for species listed on Appendix II of the Convention;

*Corncrake (*Crex crex*)*

Bulgaria, Moldova

9. prevent as far as possible the loss of natural grasslands through their transformation into arable land or due to development activities;

*Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*)*

To all concerned states

10. promote research on the species outside breeding areas, so as to better understand the reasons of its decline;

Albania

11. strictly control hunting activities in areas where the species is present, in particular during migration;
12. ensure strict conservation of the protected areas where the species breeds, in particular in Velipoja and Kune-Vaini reserves;

Albania, Moldova

13. prepare and implement national Action Plans for the species as a matter of urgency;

Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia,

14. promote an environmentally friendly management of fishponds that would favour survival of the species; assure, in particular that commercial fishing with nets does not interfere with the ecological requirements of the species

Croatia

15. promote maintenance and an environmentally friendly management of fishponds that would favour survival of the species;

Slovakia

16. assure survival of the last pairs of the species at the sites Hrhovske rybniky and Senne rybniky by stopping habitat deterioration;

Aquatic warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola)

Lithuania

17. manage meadows near Dreverna settlement and Zuvtates Lake in a way that prevents encroachment by reeds and bushes;

Poland

18. assure the implementation of the national action plan for the species;

Dalmatian Pelican (Pelicanus crispus)

Albania

19. control hunting activities in the Karavesta and Narta lagoons,

20. ensure permanent guarding of the nesting colony in Karavesta lagoon;

Albania, Moldova, Romania

21. prepare and implement national Action Plans for the species;

White-headed duck (Oxyura leucocephala)

Bulgaria

22. ensure that commercial fisheries does not interfere with the conservation of the species, particularly in its main wintering grounds and stop-over sites in Burgas a Mandra lakes;

Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey

23. promote a regional Mediterranean co-ordination so as to assess the spread of Ruddy ducks and hybrids in the Mediterranean Basin and take appropriate preventive measures; promote exchange of know-how in the region on the eradication techniques and expertise;

Spain

24. maintain present control of Ruddy ducks and hybrids;

United Kingdom and other relevant states

25. implement national control programmes for ruddy ducks and hybrids, with the aim of eradicating the ruddy ducks and hybrids from all the Western Palearctic;

Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*)

Albania

26. control hunting activities in Lake Scadar Velipoje Reserve, Kune-Vaini Reserve and Patoku lagoon;

27. give appropriate protection to former nesting sites (Lake Scadar, Velipoje Reserve and Kune-Vaini Reserve);

Albania, Moldova, Romania

28. prepare and implement national Action Plans for the species as a matter of urgency;

Imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

Bulgaria

29. ensure that logging activities avoid having a negative impact on the species;

Red breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*)

Romania

30. prepare and implement a national action plan for the species;

Cantrabrian capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus cantabricus*)

Spain

31. draft and implement, as a matter of urgency, a recovery plan for the subspecies declaring it “endangered” and informing regularly the Standing Committee on progress;

32. strictly control poaching of the subspecies as a matter of urgency;

33. modify forest management in the range of the species so as to improve the suitability of existing forests for the subspecies and enlarge favourable habitats;

Andalusian hemipode (*Turnix sylvatica sylvatica*)

Spain and Morocco

34. promote the elaboration and implementation of an action plan for this critically endangered subspecies the distribution of which is limited to a few populations in these two states;*

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

To all concerned states

35. pay particular attention to the decline of this species and promote co-ordination with other States to improve its conservation status.