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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee
22nd meeting

Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2002

Specific File

**Tifnit Tourism Development Project in the Souss Massa
National Park (Morocco) and
conservation of the Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*)**

Report of the on-the-spot appraisal
(19-22 June 2002)

by
Mr Joan MAYOL, Biologist, Majorca, Spain

*Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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The Secretariat of the Bern Convention asked me to visit the Souss Massa National Park, in Morocco, in connection with a tourism development project in Tifnit which has been the subject of a complaint by BirdLife regarding conservation of the Bald ibis. At its 21st meeting (26-30 November 2001), the Standing Committee decided to accept the Moroccan Government's invitation to carry out an on-the-spot visit.

This document summarises my impressions on-the-ground, the objective data on the issue, the factors that I should like to bring to the Standing Committee's attention and my conclusions, which I consider it appropriate to submit to the Committee in the form of recommendations.

The Souss Massa Park and the Bald Ibis

The Park was set up in 1994, and covers some 33,800 hectares and 65km of coastline. It is the only park in Morocco to employ full-time technical staff and wardens. A programme is being developed to reintroduce the large herbivore fauna which had died out, through the reintroduction of animals bred in captivity (Antilope Addax, Oryx, Cuvier's and Mhorr's Gazelles, red-necked ostrich). An outline is given in Appendix 1.

In terms of ecological value, the most important species in the park is the **Bald ibis** (*Geronticus eremita*), one of the world's most threatened bird species; the last remaining wild population¹ of this species spends much of the year in the park, and one of the two breeding colonies is within the protected area (see Appendix 2).

Organisation of the visit

The trip took place between 19 and 22 June 2002. On the afternoon of 19 June and the morning of 20 June, I had meetings with Mr Mohamed Ribí (Director of the National Park), Mr Alí Aghnas (park ornithologist) and Mr Jorge Fernández Orueta (SEO-BirdLife, the Moroccan Government's partner in the IBIS project). The afternoon of 20 June was spent visiting the park, from the Massa estuary to Arwaïs, via Tifnit. On 21 June, we met various officials involved with either the project or the park (*vide infra*), who provided information on these two subjects. Finally, on 22 June, we visited the park again, travelling from north to south.

The presence of Mrs F. Bauer, from the Secretariat, and Dr Guy Jarry (expert appointed by the French delegation to the Standing Committee) meant that the visit was not only extremely productive from a professional perspective, but was also very pleasant. I should like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to these colleagues, and also the above-mentioned the Moroccan and Spanish experts, who provided very detailed explanations, gave us their time and familiarised us with their work.

The list of persons contacted, who gave us very detailed information, is as follows:

Table 1 – Persons contacted	
Mr Kathir Hamza	Director of the SONABA
Mr Adil Rifki	Deputy Tourism Minister
Mr Mohamed Triba	Governor of the Schtouka Aït Baha province
Mr Lahoen Zakri	Chair of the GRIT Committee
Mr Churib Lahlon	Director of GRIT, past Chair of the SONABA
Mr Benn Hammon Biazmouri	Regional Director for Water and Forests

SONABA – *Société nationale pour l'aménagement de la baie d'Agadir* (national company for the development of Agadir bay, public company)

¹ During preparation of this report, a tiny colony, perhaps two or three pairs, was discovered in Syria. This discovery does not fundamentally alter the position as regards conservation of the species, which remains critical.

GRIT – *Groupeement régional d'intérêt touristique* (regional grouping for tourism concerns, brings together public and private organisations).

Although I believe that this report should focus on the signatory's technical conclusions, I should like to note that the impression I received from all the persons contacted was that the project must be subject to environmental guarantees, particularly regarding survival of the Bald ibis; the vast majority expressed scepticism regarding the area chosen for the project and even, in certain cases, regarding the appropriateness of development in this area, since there is too high a risk that the species will die out.

The documents consulted are listed in appendix 3.

The regional context

The Agadir region is the most important destination for tourism Morocco. There are about 25,000 hotel beds, as well as various spa and leisure centres, including several golf courses and similar facilities: accommodation for a further 7000 people is under construction. Unfortunately, the events of 11 September have had a considerable impact on this activity: we were told there had been 30% drop in visitor numbers, and our impression was that the crisis was even worse.

There are considerable agricultural and fishing resources (270,000 hectares under irrigation and extensive greenhouse cultivation) and represent a key economic and employment sector at national level, although the large demographic surge (1,500,000 residents in the Greater Agadir region) poses very serious socio-economic problems.

The development project

According to the documents consulted, the project² consists in a proposal by Club Méditerranée (France) to construct two holiday villages, with about 1200 and 1800 places (or a total of 3000), to the north of Timouride (in the middle of the National Park) during the initial phase, then to search for other partners to build additional tourist facilities that will house 5000 or 6000 beds, i.e. the minimum needed to recuperate the investment in the required infrastructure (there is currently no running water or electricity). Activity areas for tourists (sports, entertainment, leisure) are also envisaged.

This development is planned for an area of about 260 hectares, in a dunal coastal area of remarkable quality; it lies on an intact section of the National Park's coast (alas, this is not true for the entire coast) classed as a "conservation zone" and owned by the Water and Forestry structure (80%) and SONABA (20%). It should be noted that this plot of land has been transferred to SONABA, but was previously part of the State Forest Area. An agreement was signed between Club-Med and eight ministries on 26 January 2001, stating that the Club was to submit the final project within 9 months; to our knowledge, this has not been done.

We were surprised to learn that the project contravenes Decree 2-93-277 of 28.1.1998 (articles 3, 5, 13, 14, 15), although this Decree does allow for derogations. This would not be the only derogation envisaged: in Morocco, State Forestry properties (Water and Forests) are inalienable (as they are in Spain, for example). Consequently, exemptions must be issued for plots of land before they can be sold. This procedure would appear to have been used for the SONABA plot envisaged for the Club-Med development.

A road runs near this area. It was built as far as the edge of the plot of land in order to attract investors, but reaches neither Tifnit nor the area envisaged for the Club Med development. According to the reports consulted, the plot of land is an important feeding range for the ibis during the nesting season. Two preliminary impact studies (one by the Water and Forestry Ministry, the other by Club Med) refer to this major risk, and specifications have been prepared. A detailed impact study is acknowledged to be necessary if a decision is taken to pursue the project. In any case, the documents recognise that, unless numerous restrictive measures are introduced, the project will be harmful.

To sum up: a plot of 200 hectares was earmarked for traditional tourism development before the park was set up; the park's creation has not yet led to an alteration of this planning designation, which

² I should say "project currently subject to non-technical approval", since, so far as I am aware, the exact location, capacity, possible expansion and construction details have not yet been defined.

is being used as an pretext for a new development project, overlapping the plot but largely outside it (30 hectares in this area, 230 hectares outside it, or 260 hectares in total). Some comments suggest that the project will receive finance from the World Bank or from development aid funds.

The writer is fully aware that the context may be decisive and that comparisons are always dangerous, but the very idea of such a project, affecting an extremely protected area inside a national park and largely within an inalienable public forestry area, has been totally inconceivable in Europe for many years. It is therefore difficult to understand that a European company would put forward such a project.

Risks for the Ibis

The arrival of several thousand people on this site would inevitably have substantial consequences. The following aspects could affect the Ibis:

- risk of ecological change in the biotopes;
- risk of collision with electrical cables;
- general disruption caused by light and noise;
- landscaping, spread of exotic species, use of pesticides, etc;

and consequently

- disruption and abandonment of the feeding area.

Such a project must be classed as extremely invasive, since not only will it change the area being used, it will also have an inevitable impact on the access road (which crosses the bird's feeding biotope), and presupposes a change in local conditions: it is hard to imagine that 3000-6000 tourists will remain in an enclosure: the number of vehicles will increase, the coastal road will be more frequented – posing a threat to the resting sites; it will be impossible to recover the former nesting areas, and other risks or threats to the environment are likely: electric and telephone lines (although the specifications state that these are to be placed underground, this is unlikely to occur immediately or fully), light, water and used water, etc. The park's total population is currently about 2000, with very low density; most people do not live on the coast: the project would increase their numbers, since the development's staff must be included in the calculations together with tourists. Thus, a total of about 5500-9000 people must be allowed for, which presupposes an inevitable environmental impact. Elsewhere, the disappearance of Bald ibis populations has been linked to loss of biotopes, disturbance and the use of pesticides against mosquitoes. The likelihood of preserving the ibis population is low; it must be emphasised that it is not conservation of the Ibis that is necessary, but its restoration, since the current number of pairs is completely inadequate to ensure the species' survival.

BirdLife's official position is to reject the project unless an impact study shows that it is compatible with preservation of the Ibis. Admittedly, it will be difficult to obtain a document stating such a thing, but not impossible, since there are many consultancy firms on the market. In our opinion, such a view would be impossible, since no population of this species has survived in a densely populated area (and there are plenty of instances where it has become extinct), and therefore the likelihood that these colonies will die out, and with them the species in the wild at global level, is too high. The principle of prudence applies.

Risks for the natural biotopes and the park

As stated in the appendix, the park is far from being untouched. Although the "hinterland" is under pasture and used for a variety of activities (traditional agriculture, previous attempts at afforestation, beach erosion control, even military activities), much of the coastline is deteriorating due to the conversion of coastal "caves" into fully-fledged holiday homes. However, to the north of Tifnit, where there are no roads, the coastline is relatively low and practically untouched. It is in this prestigious area of coastline, classified with the highest protection level, that the tourism development is planned. While the dunes are not an essential habitat for the Ibis (although they lie less than two kilometres from the steppe), it is a natural biotope of extremely high value. These dunes are the site of the Arwaïs Animal Reserve, where a magnificent Oryx population, and other herbivores, have been

introduced in recent years, following great efforts by the Park and by the zoos which provided the first animals, which are now reproducing in the wild. Observation of the Oryx, against a background of dunes and ocean, is one of the most moving natural spectacles that Morocco currently offers visiting nature-lovers, even non-specialists. Holiday villages in this spot would ruin this setting definitively, and would be a real catastrophe for the development of nature tourism, which could have a glowing future in this area. We would emphasise that holiday villages exist throughout the world, but an animal reserve like this one is extremely rare, even unique.

In addition, as noted in one of the impact studies we consulted, the project is likely to be viewed as a form of discrimination by the local populations, since it will allow a foreign company to do something that is not authorised for Moroccans. The park's moral status would consequently be considerably eroded, which would be a harmful precedent not only for the Park itself, but for the credibility of Morocco's entire network of protected regions.

Other problems faced by the bald ibis

We have already mentioned the problem of the caves in the coastal cliffs, which have become full-blown apartments. We observed that the "owners" of these homes generally drive expensive 4x4s with foreign number-plates, which leads to the suspicion that locals have handed the caves over to foreigners. The ibis' only resting site, where almost the entire global population converges, is surrounded by illegal constructions! This is a major problem that must be resolved urgently, especially since all the authorities contacted are fully aware of the illegal and unauthorised situation with regard to these "caves".

Military activities, uncontrolled use of the park's coastal edge by tourist groups, activities that are potentially very harmful for the birds (such as paragliding) and an intensive chicken farm (currently empty) are threats that the park cannot deal with unless it is given full powers.

The alternative of nature tourism based on local initiatives

It is well-known that tourism developed through local initiatives opens up more possibilities and brings more income into the local economy than international package tours. We were given one example: a small hotel owned by the Rbat municipal council is being restored. This establishment's size (about 20 rooms) corresponds well to the Park's needs. The same possibility exists in other villages in and around the park, and could thus attract visitors to the animal reserves, for observation of the ibis and other species, and to the local steppe landscape. A gradual project should be drawn up, on an acceptable scale. The Park could provide development opportunities, so long as the structures set up are not cumbersome and are situated around the Park rather than inside it. Rather than travelling directly along the coastline itself, visitors should travel in and out to selected spots.

The park could also confer considerable prestige on the entire Agadir region, but the activities currently on offer must change (excursions in 4x4s, desert bikes, etc were advertised at our hotel!). The facilities and activities on offer must clearly be evaluated and classified.

Conclusions

Given the major risks that the Club Méditerranée project inevitably poses for the conservation of the Bald ibis, the natural biotopes and the Souss Massa park;

Given that this type of development represents a violation of the provisions of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, to which the Kingdom of Morocco is a Contracting Party (articles 1.2, 2, 3.2, 4.2, 6.b and c);

Given that the Bald ibis belongs to the *Threskiornithidae* family, all the species of which are listed in Appendix II of the Convention, and is also one of the most threatened bird species in the world, and that the only viable population in the wild is dependent on this region's good condition,

The under-signed expert proposes that the Standing Committee:

1. indicate to Morocco the need to seek an alternative site for the Club Méditerranée project, somewhere on the country's coastline where this development would not cause harm to such significant natural resources, and outside the national park;

2. strongly advise that the SONABA plot of land be returned to its former owner, namely the Department of Water and Forestry, and designated for nature conservation and preservation of the bald ibis. If economic arrangements are essential for such a move, resources must be found, in the Kingdom or elsewhere, so that this project is implemented as quickly as possible;
3. encourage the Moroccan government and all the Contracting Parties to the Convention to give the highest possible priority to reintroduction of the bald ibis, using all possible measures to increase the number of wild populations of this species, which is currently on the point of disappearing;
4. indicate that the Ibis, and the rest of the local or re-introduced fauna, could play an enormous role in attracting nature tourism, and should be considered as an opportunity rather than a restriction. A project to enhance the park's surroundings rather than its interior would be a good compromise between economic and conservation needs;
5. request the park authorities and the Agadir region to do their utmost to end illegal occupation of the coast through cave conversions, and to evacuate and demolish any illegal buildings, since these currently represent an unjustifiable occupation of the coastal area, threatening sites that are vital for the ibis and preventing the possibility of this species' expansion;
6. indicate that the resources (whether legal, economic or human) devoted to the park's conservation are inadequate, and must be improved in order for this unique site's potential for conservation and sustainable development to be realised, as a site in which nature tourism has its place and could bring in considerable revenue to the local population.

APPENDIX 1 - THE SOUSS MASSA PARK

The Souss Massa National Park is situated to the south of Agadir, along about 65km of coastline; it is 5-6km deep. The climate and geomorphology result in a steppe biotope, largely alternating with argan tree growth, a factor which explains the intensity of grazing. The characteristic vegetation includes several interesting endemic species, such as the *Lotus pseudocreticus*, *Senecio hesperidum*, *Traganum mokini* or *Boubonium imbricatum*. There are also yellow dunes, fixed dunes and coastal cliffs on friable and sedimentary rock. As well as the Bald ibis, the fauna includes the Greek turtle and an allegedly rare jerboa (*Gerbillus hoogstraali*). A marine fringe is also protected, but for the moment only on a theoretical level, since no special regulations are applied in the area. 12,350 hectares are classified as a protection zone, and the rest (21,450) is classed as an area for traditional use.

There are also two important wet areas: the estuaries of the Souss and Massa rivers, which, given their location and its unique place in the Atlantic migratory route, are very important for waterfowl.

The park was set up in 1994 with the specific intention of protecting the Bald ibis, an endangered species: the world's only population in the wild is found in this region. In 1998, a management plan was drawn up, but has not yet been definitively implemented.

The fact that the park covers the entire maritime border of a new province (Chtouka-Aït-Baha) makes it the subject of a certain degree of local political pressure concerning the development of economic activities that are barely compatible with its current status. It should be noted that about 2000 people live in the park (7 *douars*) and 4500 people use it for grazing activities or traditional agriculture.

From a conservation perspective, the Park's most important project (apart from the ibis) is the reintroduction of large Saharan herbivores which had died out in Morocco, such as Mhorr's gazelles and Dorcas gazelles, Oryx antelopes, addax antelopes and the ostrich. Animal enclosures have been created in the park's forestry areas, where herds from various zoos have been re-introduced with remarkable success. Large numbers of young have been born in the wild, and two activities are planned: the transfer of animals to other protected areas in the Kingdom (unfortunately, this is difficult to organise due to lack of resources) and the opening of this reserve in Souss Massa for animal tourism.

The park is experiencing major problems: the first concerns conservation of an area designated for traditional tourism development (the "SONABA" plot) which is at the origin of the conflict giving rise to this report; another problem is the absence of authority on the coastline, where about 1200 buildings have been erected along the shoreline in total impunity. These constructions are based on "converted" caves: the houses are built in front of them. The cliff coastline is affected, i.e. the nesting areas or the Ibis resting sites. The situation is very similar to that in the Doñana National Park in Spain in the 1970s, where hundreds of shacks were erected illegally along the coast; this situation changed only when the government demolished the shacks in a show of authority that was very unpopular with the users, but much appreciated by public opinion. It will be impossible for the park to pursue its main objective - restoration of this emblematic species - if these two problems are not resolved.

Other activities in the park are in principle incompatible with its status: a major military installation, where manoeuvres with real ammunition are regularly carried out; an intensive chicken farm (currently not in use) is a few hundred metres from the Ibis' only resting site (the risk of avian disease cannot be ruled out if the farm resumes its activity). An *ad hoc* coastal route follows the coastline for a large section of the park, with excursions in 4x4s and other tourist vehicles on offer in local hotels. We witnessed direct efforts by the park staff to control the situation: a paraglider was surprised near the Ibis resting site by the director, who confiscated his equipment; there is a clear need for registered wardens! Coastal fishing should also be monitored, since the fishermen sometimes take up position almost directly beneath the breeding colony and the nets pass in front of the nests, seriously disturbing the birds.

APPENDIX 2 - The Bald ibis, *Geronticus eremita*

This internationally endangered species has fallen drastically in numbers over the centuries: in the 17th century, its colonies extended as far as the Alps, and were everywhere in the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Middle East. During the 19th century, the Ibis disappeared from several countries, and the 20th century saw its disappearance from the other North African countries and Turkey. Currently, only Morocco still has natural populations. A combination of factors undoubtedly lie behind this process: climatic changes, alteration in biocenosis, direct pressure, disruption, pesticides, etc. The anti-grasshopper campaign was probably the final blow. There were 38 colonies in Morocco at the beginning of the 20th century, compared with two today. During the 1930s, about a thousand pairs were recorded.

There are now only two areas where the species breeds in the wild: the first is about 100 kilometres to the north of Agadir, and the second is in the Souss Massa Park; both are on the coast, on relatively low cliffs. Almost all members of the two colonies come together (up to 300 birds) during the postnuptial period on a cliff in the park, in a single resting site. It is during this period that the Souss-Massa coastal steppe is so vital, since it is the birds' feeding biotope, where they catch invertebrates and small vertebrates. In the 1960s, a third colony (near Tifnit) disappeared following deterioration of this coastal area.

Demographic changes in recent years have been as follows:

Year	Number of pairs	Young birds leaving the nest
1994	55	67
1995	74	73
1996	77	58
1997	59	50
1998	62	78
1999	60	83
2000	75	106
2001	67	42

Restoration of this population requires the introduction of new nesting areas. The maritime cliffs of the Souss Massa park are an ideal spot for such a project, provided that the adverse factors affecting them are brought under control (especially through removal of second homes in the caves).

Other projects are underway elsewhere to reintroduce the species: reintroduction attempts in Austria, a semi-captive colony in Turkey, project to introduce the bird in the wild in Barbate (Spain). These initiatives should be encouraged, but under no circumstances should the work in Morocco be reduced, since this is the only genuinely wild and natural population. It is always easier and less costly to restore a natural population than to bring about successful reintroduction.

APPENDIX 3 - Documents consulted

- Bowden, C.(ed)2001. Newsletter 1. International Advisory Group for Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*
- Birdlife International's comments on "*Etude d'Evaluation Environnementale et du Cahier des Charges*" prepared by a consultant for the GTZ. 2001 (2 pgs)
- Birdlife International's comments on "*Projets du Club Méditerranée dans la région de Tifnit*" CAREX. Sept. 2001 (2 pgs)
- Quarterly information bulletins from the Souss Massa National Park, N°s 4 and 5.
- Framework Convention of 26.01.01 between the Government of Morocco and *Club Méditerranée*. 12 pgs.
- Decree n° 2-91-518 of 26 Moharrem 1412 (8 August 1991) setting up the Souss Massa National Park.
- Decree n° 2-93-277 of 29 Ramadan 1418 (28 January 1998) setting out the general regulations governing the Souss Massa National Park and providing for its development and management.
- Environmental Evaluation Study and Specifications (for) the Investment Programme for the Development of an Integrated Tourism Centre in the Bay of Tifnit. Wisinger and Aloui, Consultants (2001) German Co-operation in Development. GTZ
- Letter of 3.10.01 from Mr B. Julien-Laferrrière (Director of Club Med) to Mr E. Fernández-Galiano (Secretary of the Bern Convention). 2 pgs.
- Morancy, R., Cuzin, F. and Porcher, M.: Club Méditerranée project in the Tifnit region. Analysis of the environmental constraints and recommendations. July 2001. 46 pg.
- Possible new file. Tifnit Tourism Development Project. Report by the NGO. Government Report. Secretariat Report. Bern Convention. October 2001 (10 pgs)
- Draft Environmental Specifications concerning tourism development on the Tifnit site. (19 articles).
- Report of the 21st meeting of the Standing Committee for the Bern Convention.

Appendix 4



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Draft Recommendation n° ... (2002) by the Standing Committee, adopted on ... December 2002, concerning the conservation of the Bald ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) and the tourism development project in Tifnit (Souss Massa, Morocco)

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

Having regard to the aims of the Convention, which are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to species which are endangered and vulnerable, including migratory species;

Referring to the other provisions of the Convention on the protection of habitats and the conservation of species;

Given that the bald ibis belongs to the family of threskiornithidae, all the species of which are included in Appendix II of the Convention and that it is also one of the most endangered bird species in the world, and that its only viable population in the wild is dependent on the healthy ecological state of this region;

Recalling its own recommendations on the conservation of birds, particularly Recommendation n° 60 (1997) of the Standing Committee;

Taking into account the report by Mr Joan Mayol, drawn up after his on-site visit [document T-PVS/Files (2002) 6] ;

Referring to the work carried out in the context of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity in the area of tourism and, more specifically, to Committee of Ministers Recommendation n° R (95) 10 on a sustainable tourist development policy in protected areas;

Recognising that the Souss Massa National Park and the Tamri region are home to the last sanctuary of the world's only population of the bald ibis;

Noting, in addition, that the park represents a migratory stopping-off point of international importance for thousands of waterfowl;

Emphasising Morocco's international responsibility in the task of conserving this species, but also that of other States involved in development projects on the Moroccan territory;

Noting the exemplary role played by BirdLife International in terms of advice and assistance, a true example of partnership between a non-governmental organisation and a public institution;

Given the major risks that the Club Méditerranée or any similar project inevitably poses for the conservation of the bald ibis, the natural biotopes and the Souss Massa National Park;

Considering that such a project is in contradiction with the provisions of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, to which the Kingdom of Morocco is a Contracting Party (articles 1.2, 2, 3.2, 4.2, 6.b and 6.c);

Conscious of the concerns for local development, but nevertheless considering that any tourism development, however legitimate, will only harm the local natural heritage;

Desirous to avoid further depletion of biological diversity through urgent action to save an endangered species,

Recommends that the Government of Morocco:

1. oppose any project of touristic establishment that would be likely to threaten territories that are vital to the bald ibis and to authorise only development that is adapted to the park's environmental constraints and conservation objectives;
2. take steps to ensure that the SONABA plot of land is restored to its former owner, namely the Department of Water and Forestry, and designated for conservation of nature and of the bald ibis. If an economic arrangement proves essential for this purpose, the resources must be found to implement this project as rapidly as possible inside the country, or through international fundings ;
3. accord the highest priority to re-establishment of the Bald ibis, using all possible measures to increase the wild populations of this species, which is in an extremely critical situation, and to pursue research into the species with the assistance of the other Contracting Parties concerned;
4. consider the ibis – and the remainder of the local or reintroduced fauna – and the argan forest as an opportunity rather than a constraint, which could play an enormous role as an attraction for nature tourism. A development project based around the park, and not inside it, would be a good compromise between economic factors and conservation;
5. end the illegal occupation of the coast through cave conversions, and evacuate and demolish all illegal constructions, since they represent an unjustifiable occupation of the coastal zone, threatening areas that are vital for the ibis and preventing the possibility of the species' expansion; put an end to other activities that are incompatible with the national park's objective and that have - or are likely to have - an impact on the bald ibis (military shooting range, circulation of cars along the cliff, paragliding, intensive chicken farm);
6. increase the resources, whether legal, economic and human, designated for the conservation, management and monitoring of the park, which are inadequate if this unique site is to fulfil its potential for conservation and sustainable development; develop nature tourism and exploration of the rural heritage which can be a source of income for the local population;
7. extend protection to the Tamri area, situated outside the park, which houses a nesting site for the bald ibis;
8. conduct awareness campaigns aimed at the local population, tourists, tour operators and investors, so as to inform them of the value of the local natural heritage;

Recommends other Contracting Parties to provide their financial and technical support to the implementation of the measures proposed in the recommendation;

Invites the international financial bodies to participate in the funding of some of the actions proposed.