

## 1.27 Protection of the Houbara Bustard

HAVING NOTED with much regret that contrary to Recommendation 18.44 of the 18th Session of the IUCN General Assembly which calls for a total ban on all forms of hunting of houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*), this species is still being extensively hunted in certain States of Asia and North Africa;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that the houbara bustard is under great stress due to this continued hunting;

AWARE that the houbara bustard is trapped for illegal export due to demand in certain countries, further depleting its population;

ASTONISHED to note that despite the great pressure of wide-scale hunting and trapping in most of the range States of West and Central Asia and North Africa, the houbara bustard has been removed by BirdLife International from the IUCN Red List of threatened species without consultation with experts and institutions in the range States and the SSC Houbara Bustard Working Group;

CONCERNED that hunting of houbara bustard is going on in breeding and nesting areas in Central Asia and North Africa;

NOTING that countries in Asia, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, where the hunting is going on, have made a commitment to protect the houbara bustard, notably as signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and in most cases the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);

APPRECIATING the fact that the countries concerned have several times made a decision to ban hunting of the houbara bustard;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. URGES the Governments of countries in Central Asia, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa to honour their decisions and commitments, to stop issuing hunting permits until such time as the population is no longer in danger;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to:
  - a) commission a study on the status of the houbara bustard where it still exists as either a migratory or sedentary species;
  - b) assist all range States in developing a plan for the conservation of the houbara bustard.

*Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting.*