

1.28 Agreement on the Conservation and Management of the Asiatic Houbara Bustard

RECALLING that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), opened for signature in Bonn on 23 June 1979, encourages international cooperation to conserve migratory species;

RECOGNIZING with concern the unfavourable conservation status of the Asiatic houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata maqueenii*) in parts of its range;

APPRECIATING the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the representative for Asia in the Standing Committee of the CMS towards conserving the Asiatic houbara bustard;

NOTING with appreciation the initiative taken by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in developing a multilateral agreement on the conservation and management of the Asiatic houbara bustard ;

ACKNOWLEDGING the recommendation adopted by the First Meeting of Houbara Bustard Working Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission hosted by the Sultanate of Oman (Muscat, January 1996);

WELCOMING the recent developments taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, interim secretariat for the Asiatic Houbara Bustard Agreement, represented in the official circulation of the Draft Agreement to the houbara bustard range States in Asia;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1966:

1. REQUESTS all Governments of the range States of the Asiatic subspecies of the houbara bustard to cooperate and to take all appropriate action towards reviewing and commenting on the Draft Agreement formally circulated to their respective countries, and forward these comments as soon as possible to the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD), Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
2. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN, to the maximum extent practicable and within available resources, to:
 - a) assist all range States of the Asiatic houbara bustard to undertake in their respective countries, comprehensive surveys of the houbara bustard including, *inter alia*, breeding grounds, wintering grounds, migration flyways and en route resting sites, and to assist in the development of guidelines for management plans and actions needed in the range states for the conservation of that species and its habitat;
 - b) take appropriate steps towards contacting all respective Governments of the range States of the Asiatic houbara bustard to encourage and assist the concerned departments in such countries to take all possible action towards supplying the interim secretariat for the Asiatic Houbara Bustard Agreement, without delay, their comments on the text of the Draft Agreement circulated officially by the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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.