

2.73 Conservation of Crested Ibis (*Nipponia nippon*)

RECOGNIZING that the Crested Ibis (*Nipponia nippon*) is one of the most seriously endangered bird species in the world today;

NOTING that, historically, it inhabited extensive areas of China, Japan, the Korean peninsula, and far eastern Russia;

NOTING FURTHER that human activities have imposed serious unfavorable impacts on this species and its habitat, resulting in a sharp reduction in areas suitable for the existence of the Crested Ibis and the decline of its populations since the 1920s;

RECALLING that the Crested Ibis was designated as ‘world protected bird’ at the 12th International Conference on Birds which was convened in 1960;

FURTHER RECALLING the welcome discovery of seven wild Crested Ibis in Yang County, Shaanxi Province, China in May 1981, which brought new hopes for saving this endangered and precious species;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the administrative department of the Central Government of China and local government offices adopted a series of measures to protect the species;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that these measures, along with the enthusiastic participation of the public and efforts of concerned scientists and conservationists, have resulted in a constant increase in the population of the Crested Ibis;

NOTING that, at the same time, two *ex-situ* Crested Ibis captive-breeding programmes were established (in Beijing and Yang County, Shaanxi Province) and that by the end of 1999 the total population of wild and captive-bred Crested Ibis had reached approximately 200; and

RECOGNIZING that irrespective of the great achievements that have been made in the recovery and conservation of the Crested Ibis, it remains highly endangered and at risk of extinction;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. CALLS on IUCN’s members to encourage ornithologists worldwide to play an active role in advising and assisting China’s Crested Ibis Conservation Programme to bring about complete success in the recovery and conservation of the Crested Ibis in this new century;
2. REQUESTS those countries formerly inhabited by the Crested Ibis to attach due importance and emphasis to the Crested Ibis recovery programme and to strengthen their cooperation with one another;
3. URGES all international conservation organizations, especially IUCN and WWF, along with interested countries, to give special attention and both financial and technological support to the wild Crested Ibis Conservation Programme in Yang County, Shaanxi Province, China – the only programme of its kind in the world.

This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Recommendation as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).