

WCC-2016-Res-027-EN

Strengthening the implementation of the Bern Convention for migratory bird species

RECALLING that the responsibility to conserve migratory species necessarily lies in each and every one of the countries that these species cross;

OBSERVING that the conservation of these species requires close collaboration between the different States in which any of the phases of their life cycle takes place;

RECOGNISING and SUPPORTING the great work that is being carried out by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and noting in particular the efforts made to approve conservation plans that encompass the entire migration corridor;

ALSO RECOGNISING the great work carried out by the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU) and the East Asian- Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP);

OBSERVING that all these international instruments involve the will of the member States that have signed them to cooperate in the conservation of migratory species;

NOTING that along a given migration corridor, not all States have the same economic and technical capacity for dealing with the essential challenge involved in conserving nature and, in particular, migratory species;

INDICATING that a great deal of basic information is still required for the conservation of migratory species in countries with limited resources;

CONSIDERING that conservation policies for migratory species in countries with more resources would benefit, and costs may be reduced, if more conservation measures were adopted by the other countries within the species' range;

FURTHER OBSERVING that bird migrations are one of the most remarkable phenomena in nature and that during their migrations birds are particularly vulnerable to changes and disturbances, including climate change;

BEARING IN MIND that over 40% of long-distance migrants in the African-Eurasian flyway have shown signs of decline over the last three decades and that governments therefore need to adopt urgent conservation measures as this situation represents a serious threat to nature conservation and to ecosystem balance, especially in migratory game-bird species;

RECALLING the CMS and the Bern Convention, which aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, placing particular emphasis on endangered and vulnerable migratory species; and

FURTHER RECALLING the EU's responsibility for migratory bird conservation, being a Contracting Party to both the CMS and the Bern Convention, and having adopted the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC);

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. CALLS ON the Director General to:

a. collaborate with Members and Commissions to achieve greater international awareness in order to ensure that those countries with more resources take joint responsibility for the conservation of migratory species in all countries of their flyways; and

b. provide technical and programmatic support for the above-mentioned efforts in order to strengthen existing initiatives and share information on conservation;

2. ASKS the Director General and the Species Survival Commission to enhance the engagement of appropriate IUCN expertise in monitoring the implementation of the Bern Convention and the CMS;
3. URGES all Members to cooperate actively in the conservation of migratory species and to share information that benefits their conservation;
4. URGES State Members to support implementation of the CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan, including through the Bern Convention;
5. CALLS ON State Members with greater capacity to provide economic and technical support, including capacity building, to countries with lesser capacity, for obtaining more knowledge of the abundance, distribution, biology and threats to migratory species, especially in their migration corridors, as well as to adopt conservation measures; and
6. CALLS ON all countries to promote the coordination of policies and actions to guarantee the conservation of migratory bird species, especially migratory game species.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.