

2.61 Conservation of Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) in North and sub-Saharan Africa

NOTING with much regret that contrary to Recommendation 1.27 *Protection of the Houbara Bustard* adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), the Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) continues to be illegally hunted in all areas in which it occurs in Africa;

CONCERNED that unsustainable and illegal hunting, including the use of sophisticated means, are increasingly endangering Houbara Bustards, as well as other rare species that are on the verge of extinction;

ACKNOWLEDGING that most range countries in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa have made a commitment to protect the Houbara Bustard, namely as Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and

RECOGNIZING that some members of the international community of scientists recognize two distinct species of Houbara Bustard: A North African species (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and an Asian species (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*);

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

1. URGES States in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa to:
 - (a) honour their international commitments and to enforce their national legislation by not allowing hunting of those populations of Houbara Bustard that are threatened with extinction in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa; and
 - (b) implement proper management plans with the aim of developing the sustainable use of these species;
2. REQUESTS that steps be taken by the IUCN Species Survival Commission and BirdLife International for the thorough examination of the status and taxonomy of *Chlamydotis undulata* to ensure its proper listing in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species because of its dramatic decline in numbers in all of the range states in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa;
3. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) respond positively to any requests from the Range States to provide technical assistance, and to help identify financial support for the development and implementation of an action plan, similar to the one recommended for the Asiatic Houbara Bustard (Recommendation 1.28: *Agreement on the conservation and management of the Asiatic Houbara Bustard*), to conserve and manage the North African Houbara Bustard; and

- (b) urgently communicate this Resolution to the States and members of IUCN in the region.

This Resolution 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 Resolution as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).