



# Declaration

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The following declaration, hereafter to be referred to as "Čigoć Declaration", was adopted by the representatives of 11 European Stork Villages and 50 participants of the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Stork Villages, taking place in Čigoć, Municipality of Sisak, Croatia, from 25-27 June 2015.

The 'European Stork Villages Network' – ESVN – is the union of Municipalities for having and maintaining their white stork colonies and being active in the stork habitat protection. The representatives of the European Stork Villages believe that conservation of the white stork will be successful only through sustainable management of its habitat, sustainable rural development and with awareness rising. The European Stork Villages are convinced that the conservation of the white stork will improve life conditions for their rural communities.

The participants of the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Stork Villages are:

COMMITTED to the principles of the Agreement of Cooperation signed during the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Stork Villages;

CONCERNED about the currently existing threats to white stork populations and their habitats, in particular the decline of wet meadows and pastures;

CONCERNED that collision with and electrocution at electricity transmission lines are still among the most important mortality factors for the white stork;

CONCERNED in particular about a known death trap for white storks and many other bird species along the Eastern Flyway, located at the sewage ponds of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt;

CONCERNED in particular about the planned airport enlargement in Grenchen, Switzerland, which would affect heavily the white stork population of the European Stork Village Altreu, Switzerland.

The participants of the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Stork Villages:

RECOMMEND strongly to protect and promote existing wet meadows and pastures and to restore this threatened habitat type;

RECOMMEND strongly to implement the existing regulations and guidelines for the safe construction of electricity transmission lines;

RECOMMEND strongly to solve the problem of the death trap for white storks and other bird species in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt;

RECOMMEND strongly to withdraw the plans to enlarge the airport Grenchen, Switzerland.

This declaration was adopted by the participants of the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Stork Villages in Čigoć, Municipality of Sisak, Croatia, on 26 June 2015.