

## Resolution of the 7<sup>th</sup> ECC, Oct. 14 – 17 2010 Stralsund

### **An International Statement on the Protection of Migrating Cranes over the Adriatic Sea**

Cranes are an integral part of our natural heritage and have enormous economic, ecological and cultural value. The Eurasian crane population (*Grus grus*) has increased in recent decades along the Atlantic Flyway, and the conservation of the species is an excellent example of successful nature conservation and cooperation.

In contrast, the population along the Baltic-Hungarian Flyway has remained at the same level in recent years, with a tendency for more and more birds to use the Atlantic Flyway to avoid the more dangerous migratory route to Africa over the Western Balkans and the Adriatic Sea.

The following Resolution was adopted by the 130 participants at the 7<sup>th</sup> EC Conference, hosted by Kranichschutz Deutschland in Stralsund, Germany, from 14-17 October 2010. The participants represent crane conservation experts and organizations from more than 20 countries and four continents.

Those present at this international conference:

RECOGNISE the importance of the Baltic-Hungarian Flyway for cranes which migrate from North and Central Europe to North Africa,

ARE CONCERNED about the lack of safe staging areas along the Adriatic Coast in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro,

RECOGNISE the past, present and potential future deterioration and loss of crane roosting and feeding areas, including crucial stopover sites that are critical for successful spring and autumn flyway movement.

ARE AWARE that because of new crane wintering patterns in Central Europe and the likely effects of climate change, cranes are increasingly likely to need safe refuge areas during cold spells further south in areas such as the Adriatic Coast,

ARE AWARE of the importance of sustainable hunting practices, including the establishment and acceptance of hunting ban areas such as the "reserve de chasse" in France and other protected areas,

ARE CONCERNED for the future of migrating cranes along the Baltic-Hungarian Flyway where there is extensive poaching even in protected nature conservation areas in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro,

ARE ALARMED by the illegal killing of cranes reported from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro,

RECOMMEND THAT national governments and hunting organizations along the East Adriatic coast and its hinterland, work together to

1. provide and enforce safe stop over sites for migrating cranes before and after the Adriatic Sea crossing,
2. secure hunting ban areas as well as strictly protected refuges (eg in national parks) and to work to ensure that these areas are recognized and accepted by hunters,
3. ensure that illegal hunting and particularly the killing of protected birds is significantly reduced and that poachers are identified and prosecuted,
4. recognized that migrating cranes have an important role to play in the development of ecotourism in Europe and Africa.

Adopted by the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> ECC , October 17, 2010, Stralsund, Germany