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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

36th meeting
Strasbourg, 15-18 November 2016

RECOMMENDATION
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PLAN
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY OF THE
OSPREY (*PANDION HALIAETUS*) IN EUROPE AND THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION IN PARTICULAR

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Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 186 (2016) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 18 November 2016, on the implementation of a Plan for the conservation and recovery of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Europe and the Mediterranean region in particular

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the convention,

Having regard to the aims of the convention, which are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that the convention gives particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling its Recommendations No. 48 (1996) on the conservation of European globally threatened birds; No. 60 (1997) on the implementation of the actions plans for globally threatened birds in Europe; No. 62 (1997) on the conservation of regionally threatened birds in the Macaronesian and Mediterranean regions; No. 75 (1999) on the implementation of new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe; No. 88 (2001) on the implementation of five new Action Plans for globally threatened birds in Europe; No. 92 (2002) on sixteen new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area; and No. 103 (2003) on five new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area; No. 121 (2006) of the Standing Committee on the implementation of six new action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area; No. 156 (2011) on the implementation of an Action Plan for the conservation of the white-tailed sea eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) along the Danube; No. 165 (2013) on the implementation of twenty-one new or revised action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area;

Stressing that the osprey is one of Europe's most iconic species, and that the distribution of its breeding population on the continent has been greatly influenced by humans as it was presented, resulting in its extinction in no less than fifteen Contracting Parties;

Aware that the species is classified as Least Concern (LC) by the IUCN, although this relates to the state of the populations in the northern countries;

Referring to the Plan for the conservation and recovery of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Europe and the Mediterranean Region presented in document T-PVS/Inf (2016) 12;

Noting that range recovery would be highly beneficial to European ospreys as a larger and more widespread population would reduce the species' vulnerability to future changes in weather, climate, contamination and variations in food supply;

Aware of the need to address the absence or low numbers of breeding ospreys in the central southern half of Europe and to investigate the decline of the species to reverse it where it happens,

Recommends Contracting Parties and invites observer States to the Convention:

1. Draw-up and implement national action plans or other relevant measures, as appropriate, on the osprey, taking into account the plan mentioned above;
2. Promote the natural recolonisation of osprey by conserving and managing good habitat and dealing with threats that affect the species, such as habitat degradation and loss, unfavourable forest practice, accumulation of damaging chemicals, collision with technical installations, electrocution and other mortality factors;
3. Consider reinforcement of populations or re-introduction, as appropriate, in areas where breeding population of osprey are small or the species went extinct;
4. Keep the Standing Committee informed of the implementation of the present Recommendation.