

**CZECH REPUBLIC /
RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE /
REPÚBLICA CHECA**

**CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS
(CMS)**

**NATIONAL REPORT
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
(update)**

1999 - 2001

March 2002

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

- 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties -
- Bonn, Germany, 18-24 September 2002 -

NATIONAL REPORT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

pursuant to Article VI, para 3, of the Bonn Convention

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Party: **Czech Republic**
Date of report: March 2002
Covered period: 1999-2001
Date of entry: 1 May 1994
Territory: Czech Republic
Reservations: None

Appointment to the Scientific Council:

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II. MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. Concerning Appendix I species

(a) *Species for which the Czech Republic is a Range State*

Altogether 8 species, two of them nearly extinct (*Aythya nyroca*, *Otis tarda*), other two breeding (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila heliaca*), the rest occurring on migration only (*Anser erythropus*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Aquila clanga*, *Acrocephalus paludicola*).

(b) *Population size and trends for the species*

Aythya nyroca: On the verge of extinction - irregularly breeding (probably 0-3 pairs), rarely wintering (1-5 ind.).

Haliaeetus albicilla: Increasing population - regularly breeding (ca 25 breeding pairs in 2000), regularly wintering (40-80 ind.).

Aquila heliaca: Rarely breeding (2 pairs in 2001), regularly migrating.

Otis tarda: On the verge of extinction - irregularly wintering (0-3 ind. in 2001-2002).

Anser erythropus: Rarely and irregularly migrating.

Branta ruficollis: Rarely and irregularly migrating.

Aquila clanga: Rarely and irregularly migrating.

Acrocephalus paludicola: Regularly migrating.

(c) *Measures taken in accordance with Article III (4)*

Aythya nyroca

No direct action. However, the most important sites are designated as wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites) and most of them are protected by national legislation.

Haliaeetus albicilla

No changes.

Aquila heliaca

Direct protection of a breeding site in southern Moravia.

Otis tarda

In 2001, a temporarily protected area was established at the former breeding site in southern Moravia, near the Czech-Austrian border, for the next 10 years. A management plan for the site has been prepared, financial sources are sought to fulfil its recommendations. A person is financially supported who is responsible for regular controls of the site in both breeding and winter seasons. Informal co-operation with Austrian ornithologists aimed at protection of the species has been started (future existence of the Czech population will depend on vitality of the neighbouring population in Austria, numbering 27-30 ind. recently).

(d) Measures taken in accordance with Article III (5)

National hunting legislation has been changed. The new Act No. 449/2001 on hunting was agreed in November 2001 and will come into force on 1 July 2002 (with some exceptions, see below).

It includes several paragraphs concerning the CMS species:

- § 2b) states that “game” means populations of all species listed in §§ 2c and 2d (see below).
- § 2c) lists species that cannot be hunted because of international conventions (e. g. CMS, CITES, EEC Birds Directive No. 79/409, EEC Habitats Directive No. 92/43, EEC Regulation No. 3254/91 prohibiting the use of leghold traps, EEC CITES Regulation No. 338/97) and national legislation on nature conservation (Act No. 114/92). All the CMS Appendix I and II species are included in this paragraph, except for species listed in § 2d (see below).
- § 2d) lists species that can be hunted (including *Anser albifrons*, *Anser fabalis* and *Anser anser*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Fulica atra*, *Aythya fuligula* and *Aythya ferina*). Hunting seasons for these species are given in the Decree No. 134/1996 (see the last national report) which should be, however, updated in 2002.
- § 45, 1a) to 1w) lists prohibited ways of hunting, incl.
 - § 45, 1l) prohibiting the use of semiautomatic or automatic weapons able to hold more than two cartridges (this will come into force at the date of accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union), and
 - § 45, 1w) prohibiting the use of lead shots for hunting of waterfowl (this will come into force on 31 December 2010).

2. Concerning Appendix II species

The Czech Republic has been a party to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats since 1994 (see the national implementation reports to the agreement: 15 December 1999 and 15 February 2001).

The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) is still in a process of negotiations between relevant ministries (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture).

The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard is also in a process of negotiations.

For changes in legislation (hunting) see Section II-1d of this report.

3. Actions taken to implement other resolutions of the Conference of the Parties

Resolution 6.1

Concerted action species in the Czech Republic: *Otis tarda* (see Section II-1c for details), *Anser erythropus* (change in legislation: the lesser white-fronted goose has been taken out of the list of species that can be hunted – see Section II-1d), *Aythya nyroca* (legislative protection of potential breeding sites).

Recommendation 6.4

Representatives of the Czech Republic have been appointed for the working group on the great bustard, however, the group has not begun to work so far.

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III. OTHER CHANGES WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

1. Changes regarding national legislation and competent authorities

No changes regarding national legislation on nature and landscape conservation (the Act No. 114/1992).

Updated information on landscape protection (December 2000): 4 national parks (1190 km²), 24 protected landscape areas (10,345 km²) and 1997 small-scale protected areas (895 km²). In total, protected areas cover 15.2 % of the country.

Two new acts were agreed that are connected with the Bonn Convention or species widely discussed in CMS meetings:

- the Act No. 123/1998 on Right to Information on the Environment includes, among others, right to information on international conventions and on fulfilling their obligations by the Czech Republic,
- the Act No. 115/2000 on Compensation for Damages Caused by Selected Particularly Protected Animal Species, includes *Phalacrocorax carbo* among the species listed.

2. Concerning Appendix I species

For measures see Sections II-1c and II-1d of this report.

3. Concerning Appendix II Species

For agreements see Section II-2 of this report.

4. Any further new actions

Pre-accession activities of the Czech Republic to fulfil criteria of the European Union include implementation of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). A programme has been prepared for 2001-2003 to obtain up-to-date information on distribution and abundance of habitat types and species listed in both directives. The data will be used to prepare a proposal of Natura 2000 sites (Special Protection Areas for birds,

Special Areas of Conservation for the listed habitat types, plant species and animal species other than birds). The first draft of proposed SPAs in the country was presented in early 2002, including all important sites of migratory birds (CMS Appendix I and II species). Important Bird Areas mentioned in the last national report were used as core areas in this process.

The Czech Republic proposed two bird species to be added in the Appendix I of the Birds Directive – *Falco cherrug* and *Falco vespertinus* (both in the CMS Appendix II).

IV. UPDATED LIST OF NATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO MIGRATORY SPECIES

(a) Surveys

(b) Monitoring

(c) Research

Activities relating to CMS species (birds, bats) are covered by scientific and educational programmes of the Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO) and the Czech Bat Conservation Trust (CBCT).

Updated and new activities:

- atlas/grid mapping of breeding birds in the Czech Republic was prepared for 2001 -2003 that will provide up-to-date data on distribution, population numbers and trends of bird species (already the third bird atlas in the country after the 1973-77 and 1985-89 ones),
- national agro-environment scheme, prepared by the CSO, using *Crex crex* as a flagship species to suggest and implement “nature-friendly” management of wet and montane meadows,
- long-term scientific and educational project on telemetry of *Ciconia nigra* has been continuing (see <http://capi.internet.cz> for the African Odyssey), two more species have been included (*Ciconia ciconia*, *Grus grus*),
- national programme “Free Wings”, prepared by the CSO (in frame of the Eurogroup against Bird Crime), concentrates on all illegal human activities negatively influencing bird populations (e. g. birds of prey: hunting, robberies on nests, trade etc.).

Inventories, monitoring and research activities mentioned in the first national report (1994-1996) have been continuing.

Research and monitoring projects dealing with bats are summarised in national implementation reports to EUROBATS (15 December 1999 and 15 February 2001).

V. ANY OTHER COMMENTS

A working group on international biodiversity conventions has been established under the Ministry of Environment, consisting of people responsible for individual conventions and agreements (CBD, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, Bern). A home-page providing information on international conventions in nature conservation has been prepared (www.env.cz/env.nsf/pages/umluvy.op).