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9th November, 2014.

IAF Statement on Preventing Poisoning of Birds

International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) supports the action on Preventing Poisoning of Birds.

We call on the Secretariat and Parties to promote a ban on the use of poisons to control rodents, associated with agricultural practice in the Saker Falcon breeding range, as this is in contradiction with efforts to protect and conserve this species.

We call the Secretariat and Parties to strengthen as soon as possible the position on the veterinary use of Diclofenac and to ban its production and use. Similarly we wish to express our serious concern on the widespread use of Neonicotinoid poisons in agriculture and ask the Secretariat and Parties to address this issue.

Diclofenac is known to have destroyed the vulture populations in Asia and, to a lesser extent, in Africa, while there is also data that it is dangerous to eagle species.

Eradication of the veterinary use of Diclofenac should be global, as it can also affect populations of vultures in Europe. Millions of Euros have been invested to save vultures in Europe so it is ironic that diclofenac can be permitted for veterinary use in this region while its deleterious effect is well known.

Neonicotinoides are dangerous in the long term to insectivorous animals, including birds of prey. The role of these toxins in food chains is not clear, but, with our previous experience of DDT and organophosphate poisons, we urge you not to wait on this issue.

We call the Secretariat and Parties to further work with international manufacturers to prevent moving production and use of Diclofenac and Neonicotinoides from one country to another.

We also support a call to minimize the use and, ultimately, phase out lead shot in a medium term, especially in wetlands, but urge the involvement of all stakeholders in this effort. These measures can only succeed if we respect to the rights of all stakeholders and ensure that hunters who use lead shot and bullets are fully involved in this process.

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