



DECLARATION

For The Conservation and Responsible Hunting of Birds & The full protection from hunting of Migratory Soaring Birds (MSBs) in the Rift Valley / Red Sea Flyway By RESPONSIBLE HUNTERS IN THE REGION

REALISING that the Rift Valley/Red Sea flyway is the second most important flyway for migratory birds in the world and the most important route of the Africa-Eurasia flyway system and of particular importance for Migratory Soaring Birds (MSBs);

REALISING that Migratory Soaring Birds (MSBs) are at their most vulnerable state during their migration along the Rift Valley/Red Sea flyway not only from the physiological stress imposed by the effort of migration, but also from the fact that entire global population of some species become densely congregated at “bottleneck sites”

NOTING that populations of many migratory birds including globally threatened species as well as many game and non-game birds are threatened by a range of man-made dangers, including indiscriminate hunting during their seasonal migrations along the Rift Valley/Red Sea flyway, and that this could have severe impacts on their global populations;

AWARE that hunting is considered part of the traditional activities of countries in the region and that hunters have a vital role to play in ensuring that hunting is legal and sustainable;

CONSIDERING that hunting activities should always abide by national laws that manage hunting of game and non-game birds; and that national hunting laws are in line with the code of practice towards sustainable hunting of game and non-game birds;

CONSIDERING that conservation work along the flyway implemented to date has mainly concentrated on some bottleneck sites, but areas beyond these have received little or no attention, yet illegal and unsustainable hunting activities are still widely practiced at the wider flyway;

REALISING that the conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds (MSBs) in any country depends on prevailing conditions and interventions in other countries and engagement of all relevant stakeholders (governmental, non-governmental and private sector) along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway;

AWARE that Migratory Soaring Birds (MSBs) play a vital role in the environment in particular through their control of agricultural pests such as rodents and locusts, and that because of this vital ecological function there is a long-standing practice of full legal protection for these species in the region;

CONSIDERING that countries in the region share mutual concern, interest and responsibility for Migratory Soaring Birds that have an important place in the religions, cultures, and their natural heritage;

AWARE that collaboration and joint participation is fundamental among all nations sharing migratory species and forming an integral part of the flyway;



THEREFORE, THE RESPONSIBLE HUNTERS IN THE REGION AND IN RESPONSE TO THE NEED TO CONSERVE THE MIGRATORY SOARING BIRDS ALONG THE RIFT VALLEY/ RED SEA FLYWAY AND IN LINE WITH THE CODE OF BEST PRACTICES FOR RESPONSIBLE HUNTING ARE:

WILLING to work towards the revival of our tradition heritage in hunting and to improve their role in hunting control and management systems, and promote the concept of responsible hunting principles and MSB protection within their surroundings and contacts within their territories along the Rift Valley / Red Sea Flyway;

RESOLVING to enhance local and regional coordination and collaboration and to increase protection of Migratory Soaring Birds on their migration route along the Rift Valley/ Red Sea Flyway from threats arising from hunting;

WILLING to take necessary actions toward strict abstaining from Migratory Soaring Birds hunting (trapping, shooting, active taking and persecution) within their territories along the Rift Valley / Red Sea Flyway, most importantly at bottleneck sites during peak migration seasons;

ACCEPTING the adoption of the Code of Best Practices regarding responsible hunting of game species and protection of MSBs, and encouraging other fellow hunters in their clubs and associations to adopt it through dialogue and to join this declaration;

ACCEPTING to be a MSB envoy and role model to be followed by other fellow hunters in the area in order to pass the message to the broader community of hunters, including those who are not aware of the MSBs plight, considering themselves as leaders of change;

ENCOURAGING other parties concerned with MSBs to reduce threats induced by hunting and increase their efforts to the protection of MSBs along the flyway;

WILLING to catalyse the formation of responsible hunting groups that will adopt the Code of Best Practices.