





# The WAZA Network

- links *ex situ* with *in situ* conservation

I. Author World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)		
II. Taxon (Species, subspecies, population) <b>Waldrapp ibis (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>)</b>		
III. Range states where this taxon is found At the end of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century from Morocco to Turkey. Today two disjunct populations in Turkey/Syria and Morocco		
IV. Current estimated wild population size (if known) Eastern population: one semi-wild colony in Turkey, 6 wild birds detected in Syria in 2002. Morocco: 250-300 birds.		
V. Species status IUCN RDB: Critically endangered CITES Appendix I (B1+2e, C2b)		
VI. Population trend for the taxon in the wild Western population slightly increasing since 1990.		
<b>VII. Ex situ breeding operation</b>		
a. Name International Studbook (ISB - WAZA), which was discontinued in 1998. Regional cooperative breeding programmes: SSP (AZA), EEP (EAZA) and JAZA		b. Location Western population: SSP: 19 zoos keeping 140 birds coordinated by the Wildlife Conservation Society (Bronx Zoo), EEP: coordinated by Alpenzoo Innsbruck with 49 zoos keeping more than 850 birds participating. JAZA: 12 institutions keeping 106 birds. Eastern population: 4 Turkish zoos keeping about 20 birds
c. Year of establishment EEP: 1988; SSP: 1990, JAZA 1996		d. CITES registration number if applicable none
e. Type of operation non commercial		e. Origin of the founder stock if known Western population: Morocco, Eastern population: Turkey
<b>VIII. Number of individuals successfully bred annually</b>		
EEP: 80-100 birds per year		
<b>IX. Is there an <i>in situ</i> conservation programme for the taxon? In which countries?</b>		
Yes: There is an <i>in situ</i> breeding programme at Birecik, where the birds are kept in aviaries during winter and released during the breeding season. The programme aims at achieving a population size of about 150 birds (in 2003: 73) and then to release some of the birds permanently. There is a conservation programme for the western population since 1993 with several organisations participating, which resulted a.o. in the establishment of the Souss Massa National Park, increased knowledge about the last surviving colonies, and a high degree of familiarity of the species at the local population.		
<b>X. How does the <i>ex situ</i> operation contribute to the <i>in situ</i> conservation of the taxon?</b>		
a. Have individuals been released into the wild? How many? Where? From 1976-86 close to 150 birds bred in an aviary at Birecik were released. 1983: release of 75 birds at Tel Aviv. 1991-94 one project in Almería, Spain. All attempts were unsuccessful. Currently, there are three research projects in Austria and Spain, using semi-wild birds, to explore opportunities for reintroductions in future.		b. Have causes for the decline in the wild been identified? Mitigated? Stopped? Identified: Partly. In the species' former European range climatic change, loss of habitat and hunting for food may have led to the extinction around the year 1700. In the current range: illegal hunting for local consumption, effects of pesticides, loss of feeding grounds, possibly also West Nile virus infection. Mitigated and stopped: partly.
c. Is there an ongoing monitoring programme in place? Yes, of the wild populations. The semi-wild populations are kept under control by locking them in during the migration period.		d. Have the data from the monitoring programme been analysed and peer review published and has success of releases been quantified? Yes: BOEHM (1999), KOTRSCHAL (1999, 2003), BOEHM, BOWDEN and JORDAN (2003), PEGORARO (2003)
e. What financial / other resources have been made available through the <i>ex situ</i> programme and used to support <i>in situ</i> conservation of the taxon? Funding and provision of animals for the ongoing research and awareness programmes mainly by Austrian, Swiss and German zoos.		f. Explain how the <i>ex situ</i> breeding operation has demonstrably affected conservation Creation of public awareness and sympathy for the species in the range states, e.g. by building aviaries and benefiting local people at Ain Tija (Morocco) by Munich Zoo, or at Souss Massa.
g. Other ways in which the <i>ex situ</i> operation contributes to the <i>in situ</i> conservation of the taxon Participation in the development of an action plan and contributing to the work of the International Advisory Group for the Northern Bald ibis. Scientific research carried out by Alpenzoo Innsbruck, Jerez Zoo and other zoos.		Data compiled by Christiane Böhm, Alpenzoo Innsbruck (EAZA / VDZ)