

## The Twelfth Pan-African Ornithological Congress

### Resolution on the protection of Lake Natron, the world's most important breeding site for Lesser Flamingos

*Noting that*

1. Lake Natron in northern Tanzania is the world's most significant breeding site for the Lesser Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus minor*, listed as near-threatened on the IUCN Red List
2. Lake Natron is the only site in Eastern Africa where this species breeds regularly and successfully, and one of only five such sites in the world
3. Lake Natron is uniquely suitable for Lesser Flamingo nesting because of the chemical composition of the water, the presence of a suitable substrate for nest construction, and very effective isolation from disturbance by humans and predators
4. The Lesser Flamingo population in Eastern Africa, of some 1.5-2.5 million birds, accounting for 75% of the global population, is therefore dependent on this lake for its survival
5. The display of pink flamingos at lakes in the East African Rift Valley is a major tourist attraction, described as "the greatest ornithological spectacle on earth"
6. At the global level, Lake Natron is a Ramsar site, recognized as a wetland of international significance, as well as an Important Bird Area

