

## Save Our Avian Resources (SOAR)



Save Our Avian Resources (SOAR) is a **non-governmental organization (NGO)** dedicated to protecting the natural environment, particularly **endangered** bird **species**. SOAR advocates on behalf of nature, speaking for animals that cannot speak for themselves, including the Lauret crane.

SOAR is very concerned about the fate of the Lauret crane. The Lauret crane is the largest flying bird in the world, standing at six feet tall with a wingspan of eight feet. Nature lovers from all over the world donate money to pay the salaries of veterinarians, scientists and park rangers who work at the Lake Eco Wetlands Preserve, which is one of the last places on Earth where these magnificent birds still live in the wild.

SOAR strongly opposes Yeeland's plan to build the **hydroelectric power** plant. It will devastate the wetlands preserve. Zoos are not the answer. A number of scientific studies have shown that Lauret cranes live longer in the wild and produce more chicks than they do in zoos. Putting these birds into zoos is not only further acquiescence to global **climate change**, but also a direct threat to the long-term survival of this endangered species.

SOAR has already helped angry Grusans stage several protests in front of the Yeeland Embassy in Grusa and in Yeeland's capital city. These protests have received a great deal of negative international media attention and embarrassed the Yeeland government. SOAR is willing to stage even larger protests in both countries if it doesn't like the compromise Yeeland and Grusa reach today. SOAR is confident many Grusans will participate as the crane is Grusa's national mascot, like the American Bald Eagle or the Red Kangaroo in Australia.

SOAR thinks the United States will support its position, because American scientists are interested in developing cancer medicines from the Lauret crane's saliva. Additionally, SOAR is aware that U.S. airlines and tour companies make a great deal of money from "crane tourism."

**Opening Position:** Building the dam and the power plant is the wrong thing to do. These Lauret cranes are an endangered species and both Yeeland and Grusa have a responsibility to protect them. Crane tourism is not just for fun – it benefits both countries by providing jobs and enhancing their international reputations. It is important that scientists be able to study these animals in their **natural habitat**. SOAR urges both Yeeland and Grusa to abide by the Water Convention's "do no harm" rule. SOAR supports proposal #\_\_\_\_\_ for the following reasons:

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