CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

SPECIALIST MEETING ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE SAKER FALCON

April 5-7, 2009, Abu Dhabi

CONSLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SPECIALIST MEETING ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE SAKER FALCON

April 5-7, 2009, Hilton Abu Dhabi

<u>Conclusions and Recommendations</u>

Participants at the meeting agreed that there was a shared common goal in that the conservation of the Saker Falcon is a high priority. The meeting recognises that there are major gaps in our knowledge on the status of the Saker Falcon and the threats faced by the species.

1. Co-operation between all stakeholders in the Saker range states is required to improve the conservation status of the species, including undertaking conservation activities under the umbrella of the CMS Birds of Prey MoU and further to encourage all Saker range states to join this MoU.

2. The meeting has supported the Saudi Arabian initiative to develop a regional Action Plan together with BirdLife Middle East involving end users in the GCC region

3. BirdLife is to undertake a review of the IUCN status of the Saker via public forum in autumn 2009 and we encourage all interested parties to participate in this process.

4. The meeting recognises the need to:-

    i)   educate and inform end-users about the conservation issues of using wild-sourced Sakers
    ii)   quantify the number of falconers and the number and types of falcons used in the region
    iii)   and to transmit this information to relevant bodies.

    And this could be achieved by encouraging the establishment of falconry associations in Arab falconry nations.

5. The way MEA's are applied should reflect the realities of the needs for Saker conservation (including the role of legal sustainable use and trade), together with the social, cultural and economic needs of the parties. In turn, MEA obligations should be respected by all parties.