



RAPTORS
MOU

Working Group 7 Sustainable Use

Colin Galbraith



Working Group Membership

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Colin Galbraith | Chairman |
| Umeed Khalid Pakistan | Vice Chairman of STF |
| Andrew Dixon | International Wildlife Consultants (UK) |
| Mohammed Shobrak | Saudi Wildlife Commission |
| Robert Kenward | IUCN |
| Monif Al Rashedi | Vice dean of scientific research, Faculty of Science, University of Hail (KSA) |
| Diane Klaimi | UNEP Regional Office for West Asia |
| Fernando Spina | CMS Scientific Council |
| Janusz Sielicki | International Association for Falconry |
| Andras Kovacs | Specialist Technical Advisor to STF |
| Aurelie Boutrou | Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU |
| Nick P Williams | Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU |
| Borja Heredia | CMS Secretariat |
| Mátyás Prommer | Hungary (Environment Ministry and MME) |
| Michal Adamec | Slovakia (Environment Ministry) |
| Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan | Iran (Environment Ministry) |
| Tom De Meulenaer | CITES Secretariat |

The Saker falcon

1 The Saker falcon, *Falco cherrug*,
Iconic species

Historic role in falconry



Conservation status of the Saker Falcon has attracted considerable attention

Population has declined over much of its traditional range

Traditional practice of taking some birds from the wild for falconry has been questioned.

The issue



A classic conservation dilemma

The use of the species has become a core part of the culture for a number of countries

Active protection, with no taking from the wild, possession or use of the species, is the management norm in other range States.

The challenge

To develop a holistic approach - implemented for its conservation and management.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) has taken a leading role, working with a wide range of partners

The 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CMS adopted Resolution 10.28 which lists *Falco cherrug* in CMS Appendix I, excluding the population in Mongolia which remains in Appendix II.

Establishment of a Saker Falcon Task Force (STF) and the implementation of a Concerted Action in cooperation with the Signatories of the Raptors MoU, range States and other interested parties.

The Saker Falcon Task Force



Working together

In support of the Saker Falcon Task Force, CMS and the CITES Secretariat have concluded an Internal Cooperation Agreement to:

Review relevant international policies and legislation relating to the sustainable use of the Saker falcon for falconry and trade

Develop a framework document for the controlled sustainable use of the Saker falcon under an adaptive management framework that conforms to the needs of CITES and that incorporates robust monitoring and feedback mechanisms

The role of the Sustainable Use Working group



To:

- i) Elaborate options for the sustainable use procedure, propose different scenarios.*
- ii) Investigate the potential effects and possible conditions of legal trade and use of wild-origin Sakers by falconers and agree on the method of estimating the level of sustainable use in the light of identified knowledge gaps.*
- iii) Review potential means that aim toward delegating rights, responsibility, and accountability to those (e.g. indigenous and local communities, private landowners, conservation organizations and the trade sector) that manage and/or use Saker populations in a sustainable and controllable way.*

Modelling Contract

The STF have commissioned a short contract to address some of the key biological and socio-economic issues involved. It will:

- i) Review existing population data, models and modelling techniques, including specifically any models that have already been developed for discrete Saker falcon populations.
- ii) Develop a series of related demographic models covering the range of Saker falcon populations to create a modelling framework for the global Saker falcon population.

The contract addresses some of the key issues highlighted here as requiring substantive investigation.

Key outputs

Before the report to CMS can be concluded for the next Conference of the Parties in 2014 a number of products are required and issues need to be addressed

- i) Need a holistic monitoring and management plan
- ii) Stakeholder involvement in this workshop – key event
- iii) Further work to be undertaken by the Saker Task Force in the lead up to the CoP

Key questions

- i) What governance structures will be required and what will be the composition of any management grouping established to ensure the delivery of the Global Action Plan?
- ii) Who will implement the management and monitoring plan?
- iii) Who will fund the overall implementation of the management and monitoring plan?
- iv) What reporting mechanisms are required in future years for CMS and CITES?
- v) What monitoring methods are to be employed, both in relation to the population and to the level of off take from the wild?

Field techniques

Further consideration is required of the methods needed to monitor the taking of birds from the wild

The use of micro-chipping

Marking of trapped wild birds and other field techniques

Consideration of possible field monitoring of the population is of real importance in developing the overall approach

The practicalities of Sustainable use

A number of detailed and important questions remain about the nature and extent of any “take” from the wild including:

- i) What number of birds can be taken from the wild each year?
- ii) When can birds be taken?
- iii) Where can birds be taken from?
- iv) What age and sex ratio of birds can be taken? How might this vary across the species range and over different stages of their life cycle?
- v) How can birds be taken (trapping methods) and what factors might influence this, both from a biological and socio-economic perspective?

Developing an adaptive system

What variability in the level of “taking from the wild” over time might be appropriate and how could such variability, for example over a period of years, be incorporated into any management system?

Could the variability covered above be linked to the relative numbers and productivity of the species over a number of years?

Is a taking and export quota system a viable option as part of this approach?

Importantly, the modelling contract has addressed many of these issues, thereby enabling substantive discussions about the options for management.

Outcomes



A range of outcomes can be envisaged from the discussions at CMS COP11 in 2014

Consideration now in relation to the implementation of any monitoring and management system

Future governance and funding will be key to the success of the initiative

Thank You



We need your input and involvement now

