

**PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS**

**A. PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of *Falco naumanni* in Appendix I

**B. PROPONENT:** Government of the Republic of Hungary

**C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

**1. Taxon**

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1.1 Classis                  | Aves  |
| 1.2 Ordo                     | Falconiformes                                     |
| 1.3 Familia                  | Falconidae  |
| 1.4 Genus/Species/Subspecies | <i>Falco naumanni</i> (Fleischer) 1818, Monotypic |
| 1.5 Common (English) name:   | Lesser Kestrel                                    |

**2. Biological data**

2.1 Distribution

Breeds extensively but in an increasingly fragmented range over the Mediterranean, Southeastern Europe and Central Asia. Winters almost exclusively in Africa south of the Sahara with the bulk of passage occurring over the Middle East.

2.2 Population

Serious decline has occurred in population levels in Europe since the 1950s. In Spain alone the population has declined from 100,000 pairs in the 50s to 5,000 pairs in 1990 (Collar et al. 1994). The total European breeding population estimate is 10,000 - 17,000 pairs (Tucker and Heath 1994). Winter population in Africa is now estimated at 80,000 individuals (which is the majority of the global total)(del Hoyo et al. 1994).

2.3 Habitat

The species breeds in warm, open areas with short vegetation and patches of bare ground, including meadows, dry pastures, steppe habitats, extensively cultivated land and occasionally open woodland. In their winter quarters birds forage in savanna, steppe, thornbush vegetation, on open grasslands and farmland.

2.4 Migration

All populations undertake a long-distance migration in Southern/Southwestern direction to sub-Saharan Africa. They are highly congregatory on the wintering grounds.

**3. Threat data**

3.1 Direct threats to the population

Pesticide use in the wintering areas and in some cases even in the breeding areas (e.g. in Spain) is an important factor affecting the species' survival. Shooting probably occurs during migration in the Middle East (Heredia et al. 1996).

3.2 Habitat destruction

Probably the most important factor responsible for the massive decline in the species' populations in Southern

Europe is agricultural intensification, which results in both the disappearance of suitable habitats and prey population for the species (Heredia et al. 1996).

### 3.3 Indirect threats

In the breeding area the loss of suitable nest-sites (e.g. old buildings) is also a threat to the species (Heredia et al. 1996).

### 3.4 Threats connected especially with migration

As mentioned above, some shooting may occur during migration. Much more important is, however, the threats facing the population in the wintering areas, where it is highly concentrated and therefore vulnerable to persecution, habitat loss and use of pesticides (Heredia et al. 1996).

### 3.5 National and international utilisation

Not relevant.

## **4. Protection status and needs**

### 4.1 National protection status

The species is protected in Bulgaria, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. No information is available from other range states.

### 4.2 International protection status

The species is listed under Annex I of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and under Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).

Global Conservation Status: Vulnerable (IUCN criteria A1a,b,d)

### 4.3 Additional protection needs

There is an international Action Plan prepared by BirdLife International with support from the European Union LIFE funds and Council of Europe (Heredia et al. 1996). Some of the steppe areas important for the species are protected in Spain or special management measures are being implemented under the EU agricultural environmental regulations.

Urgently needed conservation measures include wider habitat conservation measures in all range states which favour the species, full enforced legal protection of the species and its key sites both in the breeding and wintering areas, protection of breeding colonies, monitoring of population levels and research.

## **5. Range States (parties and signatories to the Convention in bold)**

The species' breeding range includes Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, **France**, Georgia, **United Kingdom** (Gibraltar.), **Greece**, Islamic Republic of Iran, **Israel**, **Italy**, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, **Morocco**, **Portugal**, Romania, Russian Federation, **Saudi Arabia**, **Spain**, Syria, Tajikistan, **Tunisia**, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia.

During passage and winter the species occurs in Angola, Bangladesh, **Benin**, **Burkina Faso**, Burundi, **Central African Republic**, **Chad**, Congo, **Cote d'Ivoire**, Cyprus, Djibouti, **Egypt**, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, **India**, Iraq, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, **Mali**, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia,

Nepal, **Niger**, **Nigeria**, Oman, **Pakistan**, Qatar, Rwanda, **Senegal**, **South Africa**, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, **Uganda**, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, **Zaire**, Zimbabwe.

**6. Comments from Range States**

**7. Additional remarks**

**8. References**

Collar,N.J., Crosby,M.J. and Stattersfield,A.J.(1994) Birds to Watch 2: the world list of threatened birds. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.

Heredia,B., Rose,L. and Painter,M. eds. (1996) Globally threatened birds in Europe: Action plans. Strasbourg: Council of Europe.

del Hoyo,J., Elliott,A. and Sargatal,J. eds. (1992 - ) Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volumes 1,2 and 3. Barcelona: Lynx Editions.

Tucker,G.M. and Heath,M.F. (1994) Birds in Europe: their conservation status. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.