



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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17TH MEETING OF THE
CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
Bergen, 17-18 November 2011
Agenda Item 17.3.5

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE SAKER FALCON

(Cover note prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

1. Resolution 9.20 urged Parties to support a workshop to consider the status and conservation needs of the Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*). This Workshop took place in Abu Dhabi from 5-7 April 2009 and its conclusions and recommendations are tabled as UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Inf.5.
2. Resolution 9.20 further urged Parties to assist in the delivery of a research programme, designed to re-evaluate vigorously the conservation status of the species across its range. In accordance with this request, Saudi Arabia has initiated and completed a corresponding research project. This research has been conducted by BirdLife International and funded by the Saudi Wildlife Commission. The report of the project is tabled as UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Inf.6.
3. The 16th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bonn 28-30 June 2010) reviewed the situation of the Saker falcon with the information then available, bearing in mind that the final report of the research project mentioned above was still not available at that time, and concluded by encouraging CMS Parties to support Saudi Arabia's call for more financial resources for vital scientific research into this species (see UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Inf.1 for a record on the full discussion).

Action requested:

The 17th Scientific Council is requested to:

- a) Take note of the above mentioned reports; and
- b) Consider the report conducted by BirdLife International as a reference for the evaluation of new proposals to list the Saker falcon in Appendix I.