

**CMS**

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug* GLOBAL ACTION PLAN (SakerGAP)

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)

Noting that at its Tenth Meeting, the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Resolution 10.28 decided on an immediate Concerted Action supported by all Parties, including the establishment of a Task Force under the auspices of the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU) to bring together Range States, Partners and interested parties, to develop a coordinated Global Action Plan, including a management and monitoring system, to conserve the Saker Falcon;

Further noting that CMS COP10 decided that improvements in the conservation status of the Saker Falcon in any Range State may allow sustainable taking from the wild in that Range State under a management system, and that in such cases a Party or Parties may request an exclusion from the Appendix I listing to apply in that Range State, and that the Task Force would endeavour to facilitate this process through the Scientific Council inter-sessionally and through the Conference of the Parties;

Recalling that the Saker Falcon Task Force was mandated to report to: the First Meeting of the Signatories to the CMS Raptors MoU held in the last quarter of 2012; the 18th Inter-sessionally CMS Scientific Council Meeting; and, to the 11th Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties, with consideration given to down-listing the Saker Falcon at that time;

Recognizing that the listing of the Saker Falcon in CMS Appendix I excludes the population in Mongolia, in recognition of its Saker Falcon conservation and management programme, which has been carried out in collaboration with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates;

Further recognizing that the work of the Saker Falcon Task Force has been a unique and productive partnership involving a wide range of parties, and appreciative in particular of the financial contributions made by the Parties at CMS COP10, the European Union, the Saudi Wildlife Authority on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and by the CITES Secretariat, as well as of the wider support in the form of working time contributed by all the members of the Saker Falcon Task Force; and

Stressing the need for immediate action by Range States and stakeholders to address the principal threats to the Saker Falcon at all stages of its life cycle and across its full range;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Congratulates* the Saker Falcon Task Force on its work, including especially the transparent consensus-building approach that has been employed, and *recognizes* the importance of the development of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) for the conservation and management of the species;
2. *Adopts* the ten-year SakerGAP presented as UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.5.2 as the basis for action on the conservation and management of the Saker Falcon in the coming triennium and beyond, with the overall goal ‘to re-establish a healthy and self-sustaining wild Saker Falcon population throughout its range, and to ensure that any use is sustainable’;
3. *Decides* to continue the Concerted Action for the Saker Falcon during the next triennium at least, to enable initial implementation of the SakerGAP to begin;
4. *Further decides* to continue the Saker Falcon Task Force, under the auspices of the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MoU, and *instructs* the Task Force to:
 - Actively promote the implementation of the SakerGAP, including by continuing to facilitate engagement, communication, cooperation and collaboration between the stakeholders;
 - Further develop, refine and implement an adaptive management and monitoring framework to improve the present conservation status of the Saker Falcon through, *inter alia*, regulated and sustainable use; and
 - Keep under review the option to down-list the species;
5. *Welcomes* the offer by the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) to lead in taking forward the first Saker Falcon Task Force Flagship Project to develop an Online Information Portal to engage falcon hospitals, falconers and trappers within a Saker Falcon Network;
6. *Recommends* the following reporting framework and timeline for the Task Force:
 - Report to the Second Meeting of Signatories of the CMS Raptors MoU;
 - Report to the 19th Inter-sessional CMS Scientific Council Meeting; and
 - Review progress on implementing the SakerGAP and report to the 12th Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties;
7. *Urges* Parties, Range States and stakeholders to actively support, including by voluntary financial contributions, the work of the Saker Falcon Task Force;
8. *Further urges* Parties, Range States and stakeholders to work collaboratively to immediately begin to mobilize the considerable resources required to fully implement the SakerGAP throughout the species’ range;

9. *Invites* Parties and Range States to integrate implementation of the SakerGAP into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and/or National or Regional Species Action Plans developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and

10. *Instructs* the CMS Secretariat to convey this Resolution to the secretariats of the other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular CITES, seeking their support and contributions to the implementation of the SakerGAP.