



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL'S EVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF THE SAKER FALCON

(Submitted by Birdlife International)

BirdLife International, with support from the Saudi Wildlife Commission, recently carried out a re-evaluation of the IUCN Red List status of the Saker Falcon, collating the latest data and applying them to the IUCN Red List criteria. Although significant knowledge gaps remain, a comprehensive review was undertaken of currently available published and unpublished data on the species, together with information obtained through open consultation with species experts and interested parties via an online discussion forum. A revised estimate of a 32% decline in the global population over a three-generation period from 1991 to 2010 based on analysis of these data has resulted in the Saker Falcon changing status from Endangered to Vulnerable on the 2010 IUCN Red List

While this review suggests that the decline in numbers of Saker Falcon has not been as steep as once feared, the species still has a high risk of extinction and exploitation remains a significant contributor to the species's adverse status. It remains the case, however, that dependable data on status and trends in most countries are unavailable, which means that this revised assessment must inevitably be treated with caution. Considerable investment is needed in order to generate better-quality data, appropriate monitoring systems and adequate protection across the global range of the species.

BirdLife is currently reviewing the knowledge gaps for this species and recommendations for future research and action. It is hoped that all range states, CMS Parties and relevant NGOs will participate in the development of an action plan for this threatened species, and contribute to its implementation both financially and technically.