

ADDENDUM 1**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**

(arising from ScC-SC8)

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

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.7

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends to adopt the draft resolution and decisions.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee welcomed the document.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

The following amendment is proposed for paragraph 9 in the reporting section of the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan on page 3 of the document:

Supported by the Mohammed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund (MBZRCF), ecological research work is ongoing in Mongolia to assess the impact of saker falcons and other raptors on the local rodent populations, and new nest boxes are being installed to replace the numerous old artificial nests that were installed over 15 years ago. ~~MBSRCF~~ MBZRCF is also expanding its research work in China, western Mongolia and eastern Kazakhstan with a focus on the 'Altai' saker falcon, with a view to developing further conservation work there.

The following amendment is proposed for paragraph 10 of the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan on page 3 of the document:

The Secretariat has launched, in cooperation with the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, two questionnaires. The first is targeted at falconers and trappers and aims to identify changes in their habits and attitudes by comparing the results with a similar enquiry carried out in 2013. The second questionnaire was developed and circulated in cooperation with the CMS Energy Task Force, and aims to gather information on knowledge about electrocution as a threat to sakers falcons and birds of prey in general. The results of the questionnaires will be available in 2026.

The following amendment is proposed for the first paragraph of Annex 3 on page 10 of the document:

See for details the legal opinion providing context for the work of the STF (UNEP/CMSCOP15/Inf.26.7). The STF is now nearing the completion of the development of an innovative Adaptive Management and Monitoring Framework (AMF) concept. †

The following amendment is proposed for paragraph 16 of Annex 3 on page 12 of the document:

The STF should establish an independent scientific process to undertake a prioritized assessment of the numbers and trend of saker falcon populations in each region of the world so that the full life cycle (breeding, migration and wintering) of the species is periodically reviewed. Population monitoring should be undertaken particularly in priority countries¹ of the range including any participating in quota setting. Such an independent assessment should feed into population modelling that is used to inform decisions on quotas. Where there are any significant data or information gaps, these should be assessed by the STF and, when making a decision, the precautionary principle should be applied.

¹ As identified by the STF - in Asia: China, Russian Federation (Asian part), Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; in Europe: Hungary, Russian Federation (European part), Ukraine; in Middle East: Iran.