

A photograph of three young raptors, likely Common Buzzards, perched on a nest made of dry sticks and twigs. The birds have brown and white mottled plumage and blue beaks. The background is a blurred natural setting with a tree trunk.

IAF/CMS RAPTOR MOU SAKER-GAP FLAGSHIP PROJECT I: TRUST-BUILDING PORTALS.

Robert Kenward and Janusz Sielicki,
Sustainable Use Groups of IUCN

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Founded in 1948

Business meetings at 4-year interval

3 pillars include: Staff, >1000 in 45 Offices

Members, 89 States, 1036 Non-Government

~20,000 experts in Six Commissions

- World Commission on Protected Areas
- Environmental Economic and Social Policy
- Species Survival - Sustainable Use & Livelihoods
- Ecosystem Mgmt - SU & Managing Ecosystems
- Communication and Education
- Environmental Law

Recent history of raptor declines I

1961: **Peregrine decline** recognised in UK (Treleaven)

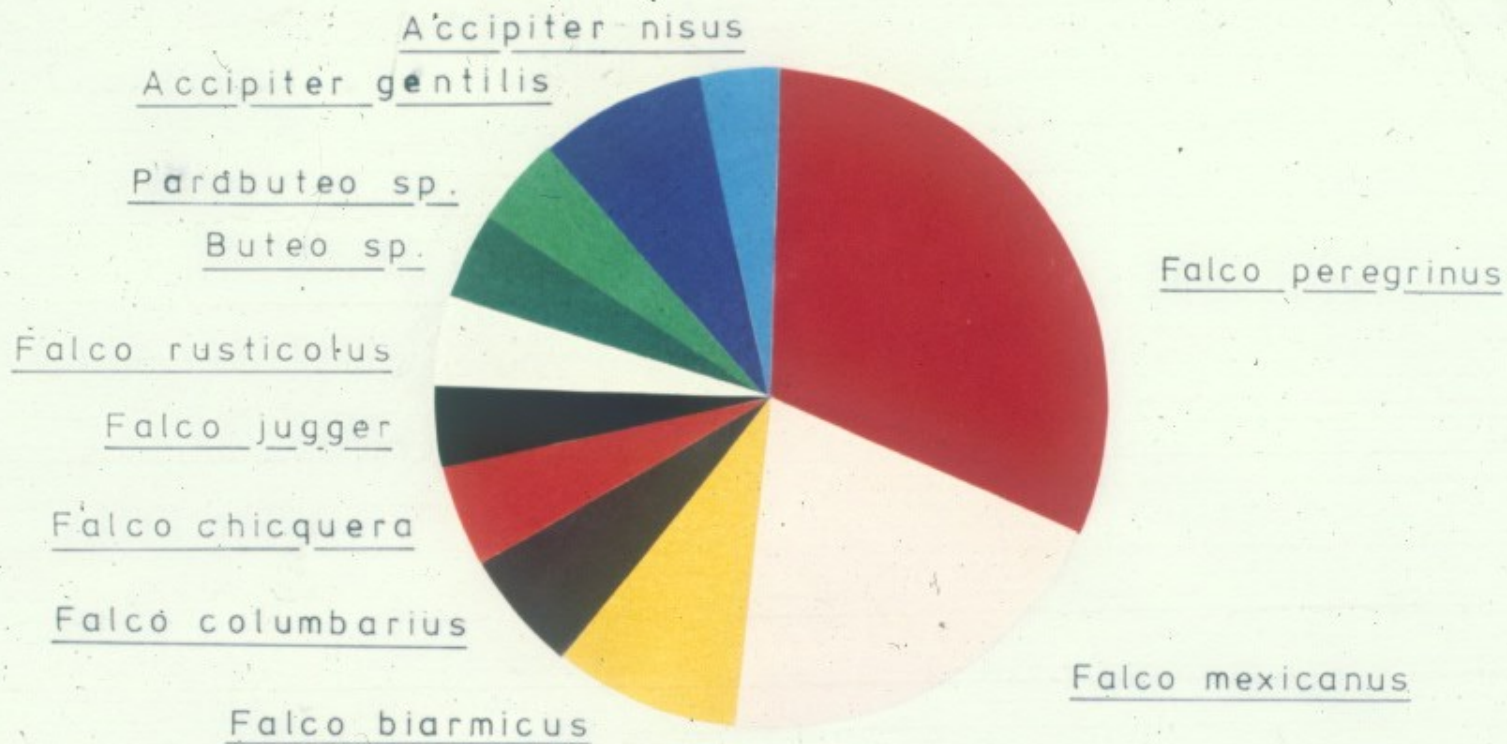
Perceived threats: resurgent persecution and falconry

1965-1980: Realising organochlorines were the problem

1970-1980: Falconers develop breed-release

1975: ICBP motion to ban falconry revealed its benefits

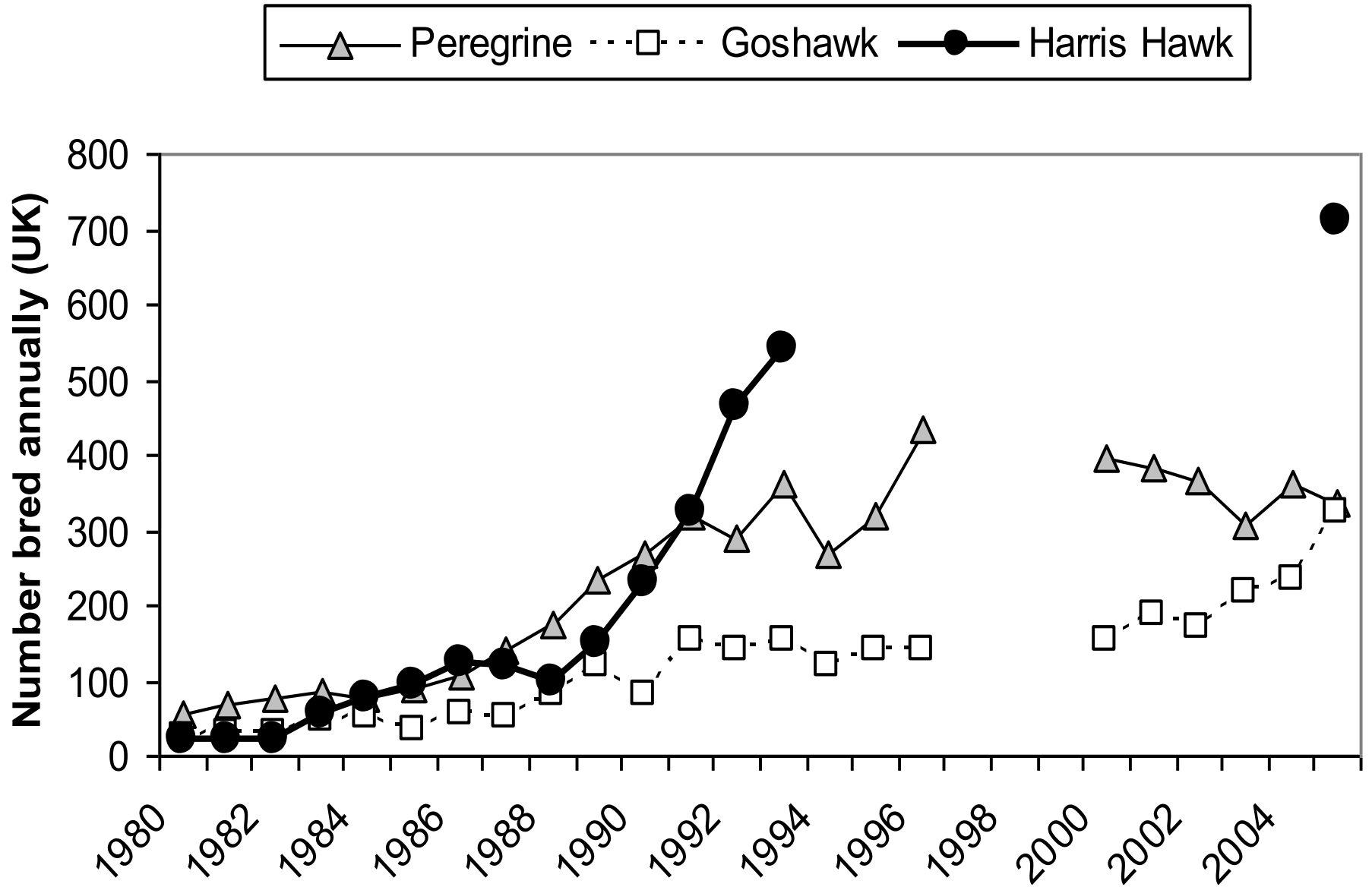
Slide from IAF Vienna presentation (1975)



FALCONIFORMES BRED PRIVATELY BY FALCONERS

IN 1975 (excluding F. tinunculus & F. sparverius)

Development of domestic breeding (UK)



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Concern that breeding for falconry is laundering

1990s: Peregrines exceeding pre-decline numbers in UK

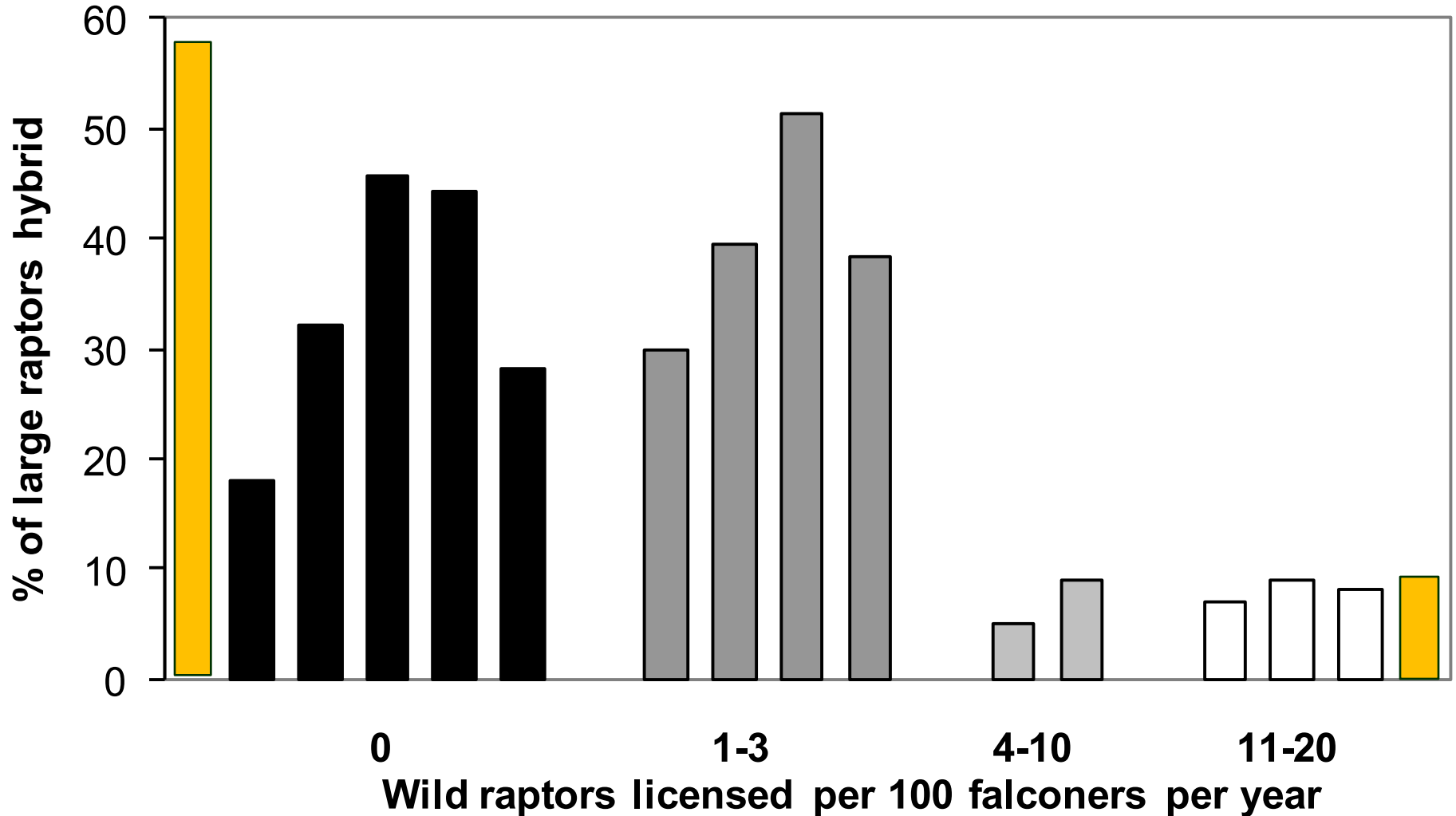
(1998: German chemists still blame decline on falconers)

2000: Williams & Evans publish on DNA forensic tests

2005: Sweden promotes ORNIS enquiry on hybrids

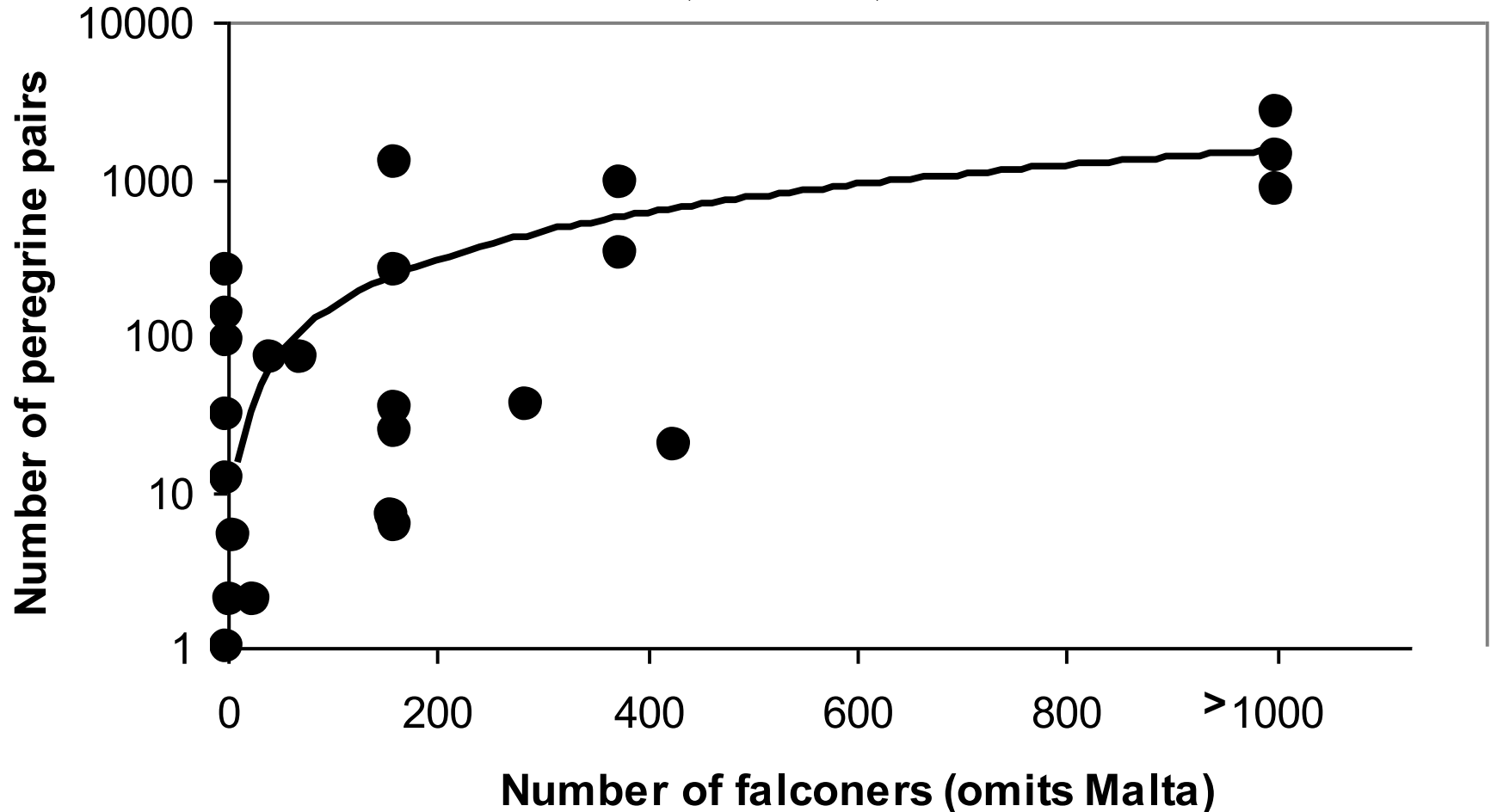
2006: IAF data for ORNIS on hybrids (and wild peregrines)

Falconers use few hybrids where they have good access to wild raptors (IAF+**CMS** data)



BirdLife recorded large Peregrine populations in EU states with high numbers of falconers: no evidence of damage to a popular species.

$R^2 = 0.61$, d.f. = 22, $P < 0.001$



Recent history of raptor declines II

1996: **Vulture declines** recorded in India

Perceived threats: deliberate killing and habitat loss

2002-2004: Realising Diclofenac was the problem (P-fund)

1972 US falconer Morley Nelson starts electrocution work

IAF Oxford conference (1977)

**Morley Nelson
on electrocution**

**A
Conference on
Bird of Prey
Management
Techniques**



Department of Zoology
& Wadham College, Oxford

October 3rd, 4th & 5th, 1977

Organised on behalf of the International Association of Falconry
and Conservation of Birds of Prey by the British Falconers' Club.

Mongolia 2015



Progress?



Recent history of raptor declines II

1996: **Vulture declines** recorded in India

Perceived threats: deliberate killing and habitat loss

2002-2004: Realising Diclofenac was the problem (P-fund)

1972 US falconer Morley Nelson starts electrocution work

1998: **Saker declines** in Central Asian widely reported

2003 Electrocution features in Hungary raptor conference

2004, 2011: Red List Endangered status

Perceived threat: trade for falconry

2011: CMS Appendix I (except Mongolia)

2012: Realisation of electrocution impact in C Asian Sakers

2014: CMS adopts Global Action Plan for Saker Falcon: an Adaptive Management Framework & Flagship Projects

Needed for Adaptive Management:

1. A robust population model

New ringing data from Hungary (yellow) showed that a first model from Kazakhstan (left) was too conservative. Models with Hungarian ringing data give greater resilience, with more non-breeding adults (blue) - or a generous harvest of juveniles.

	Original Kazakhstan Data	European Plausible Survival	Asian Plausible Survival
survival rate to 9 months	23%	50%	50%
survival rate 10-21 months	82%	65%	65%
survival rate 3+ year	82%	80%	80%
stable population: adult breeding rate	65%	57%	42%
young produced per pair that lay eggs	3.10	2.20	3.00

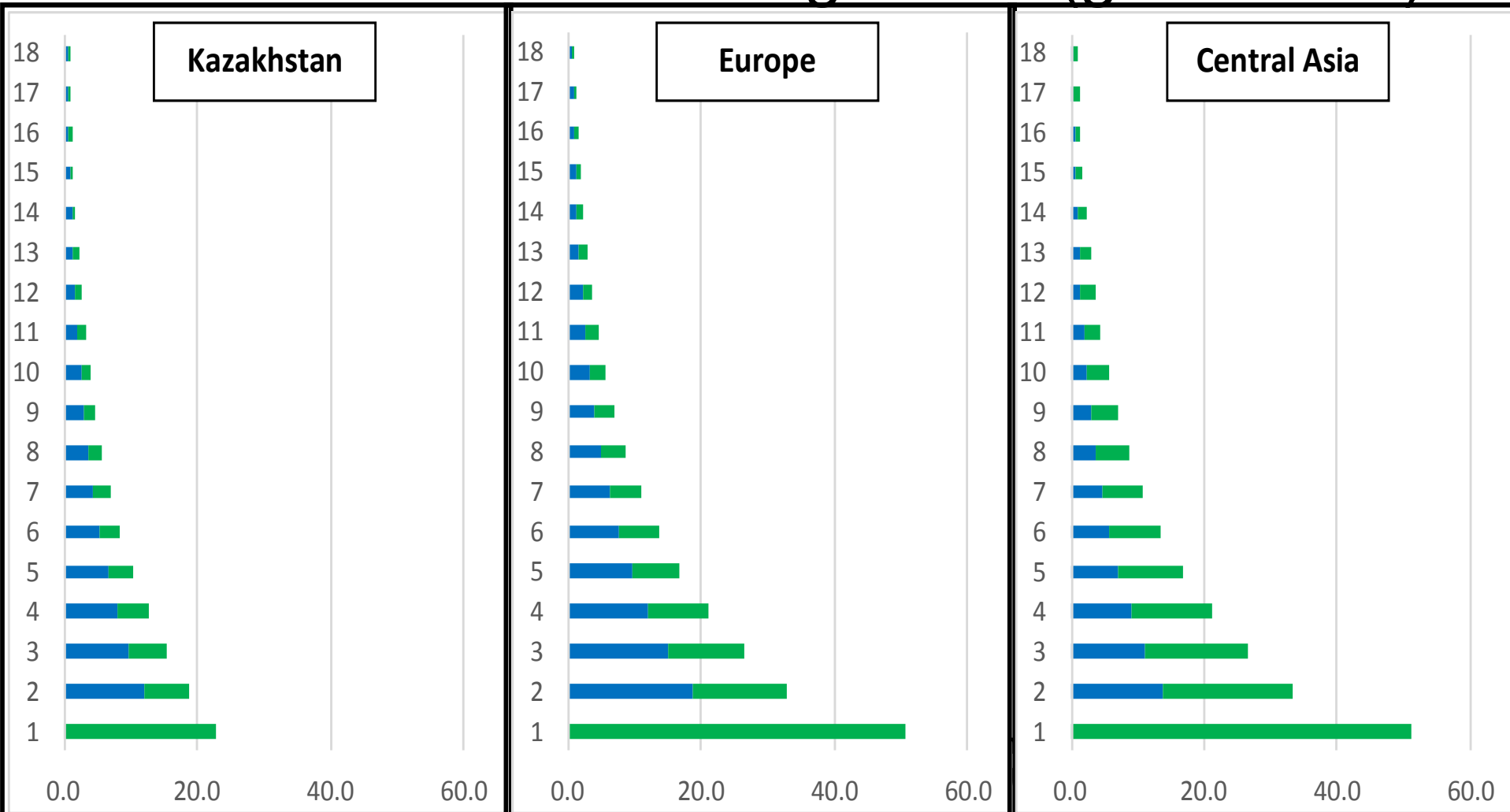
Estimates of survival during the first 9 and 12 months of life from ringing of nestling Saker falcons in Hungary during 1951-2013 (data kindly provided by Birdlife Hungary).

	Dead	Injured (later dead or not known)	Injured (later released)	Dead + injured
up to 9 months	21	8	0	29
between 9 and 12 months	6	0	0	6
beyond 12 months	20	6	4	30
Total	47	14	4	65
Survived 9 months	55%	56%		55%

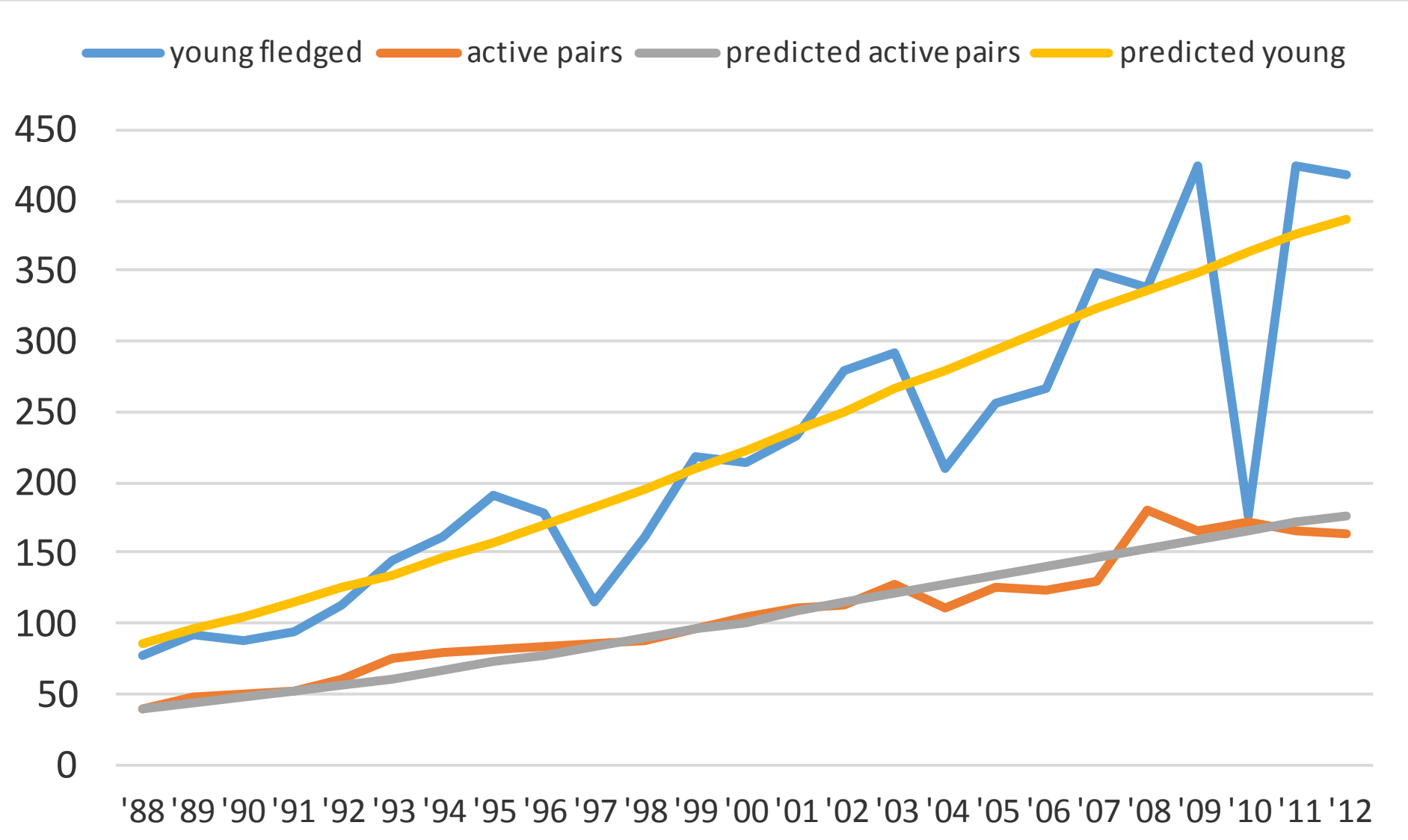
50% survival to next breeding season is as low as for male goshawks (49%), lower than for female goshawks (66%), buzzards, kites, eagles ($\approx 70\%$)



The more plausible survival gives not only far more survivors from 100 birds fledged than in the original Kazakh scenario (left), but more resilience due to more non-breeding adults (green bars).



Models matched numbers of active nests and fledged young in Hungary if breeding rates declined from 95% to 70%, or from 85% to 60% with 4% increase in survival.



Needed for Adaptive Management:

2. Population sizes - Mark-recapture

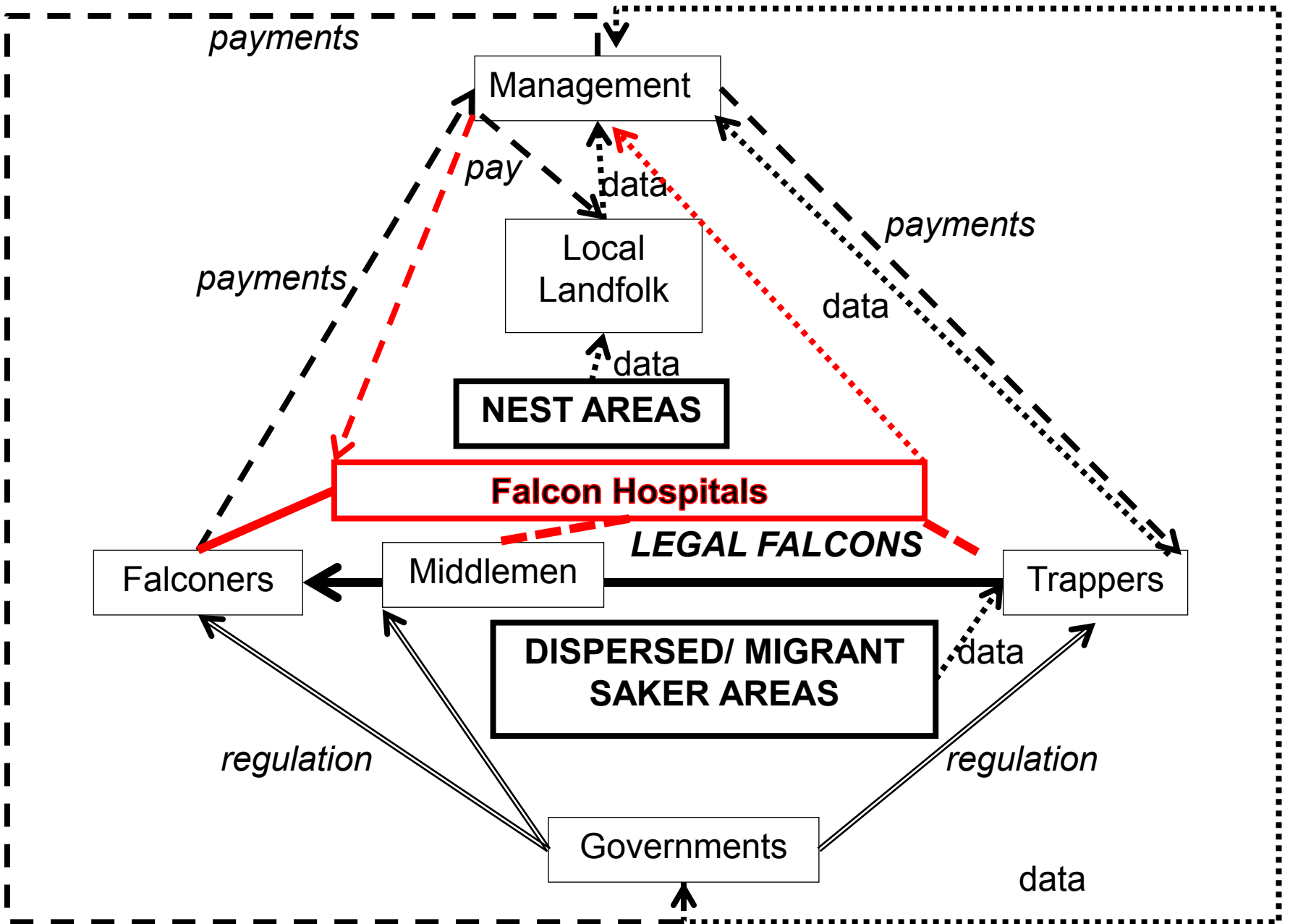
1. Harvest rates through trappers & falcon hospitals: in 1990s, thanks to British Trust for Ornithology for rings and to falcon hospitals in the Gulf States for recording transponders, 13 of 171 falcons marked in Kazakhstan during 1993-7 were recorded as trapped, representing a minimum harvest of 8%.
2. Population sizes from records at veterinary hospitals: Riddle & Remple (1994) estimated that 2,750 falcons were being obtained in the Gulf States annually in the late 1980s. With the 8% harvest rate, these would have represented about 36,000 young, or progeny from 12,000 laying pairs with 3 young/clutch.

3. Fraud-proof trade - Mark and Bank

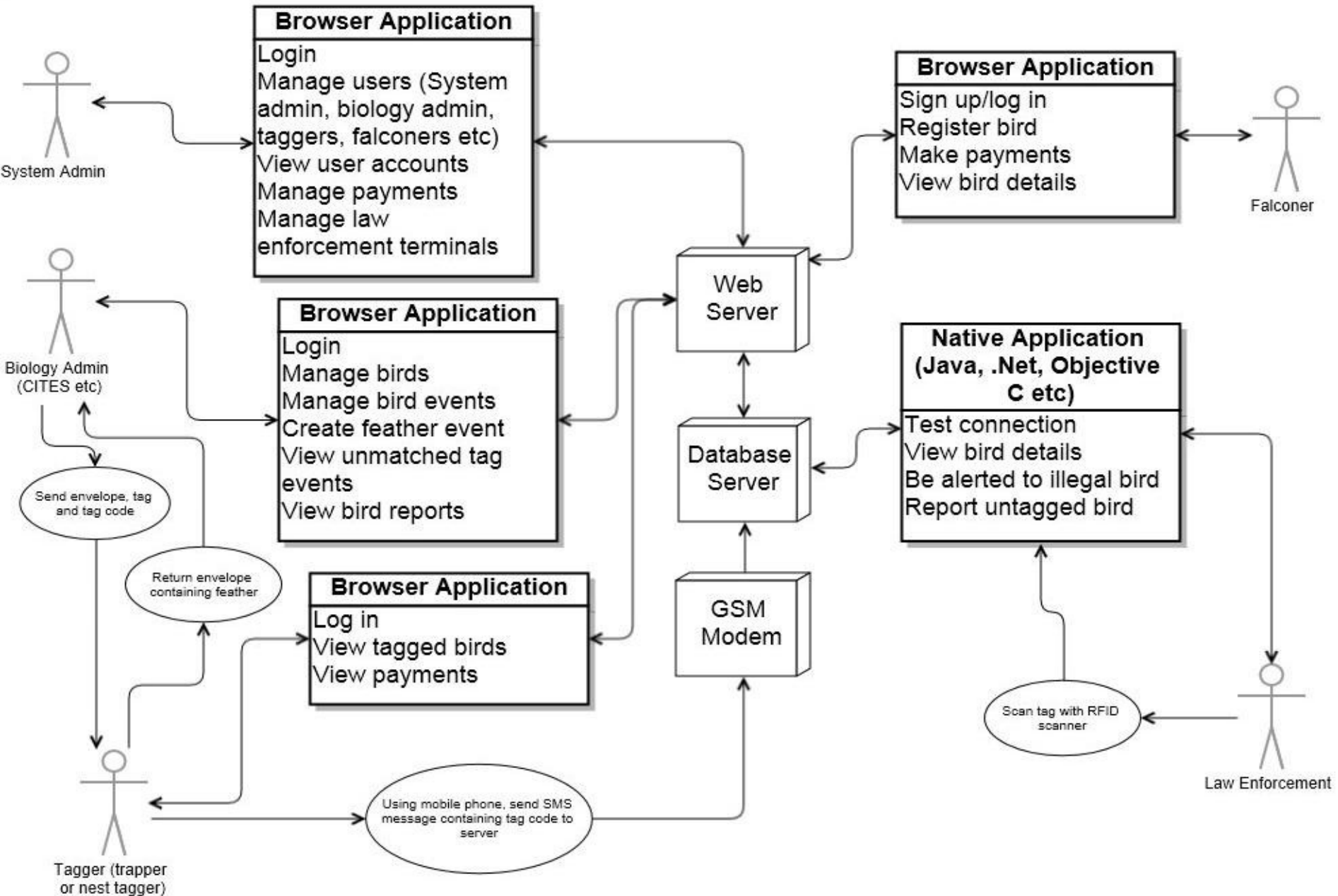
1. Mark with transponders (implanted or rings);
2. Deposit (bank) a feather when bird first marked;
3. DNA test if tampering suspected



4. Help from Falcon Hospitals...



5. Software to run the System

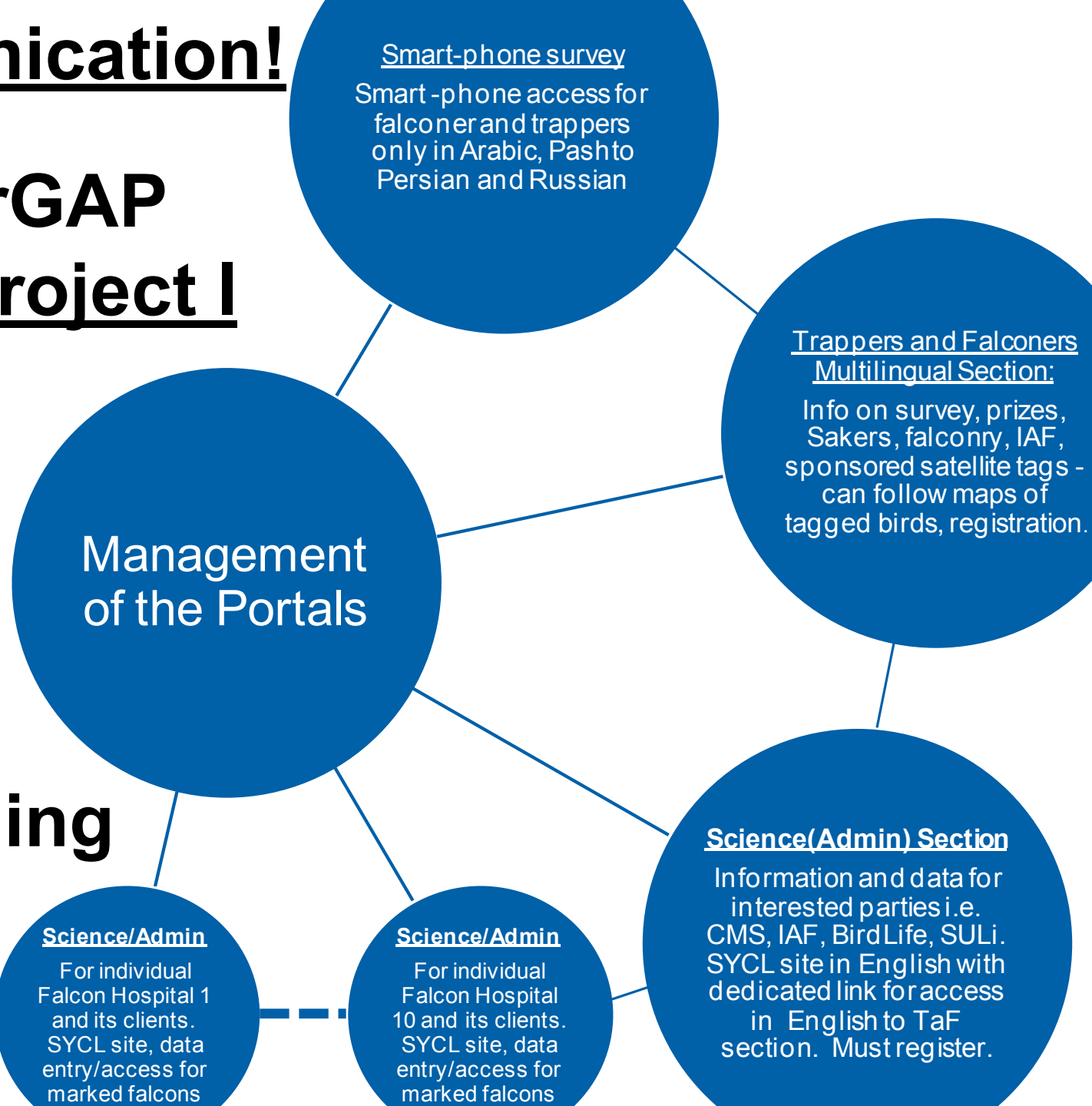


6. Communication!

CMS SakerGAP Flagship Project I

**CMS
&
IAF**

**Trust-building
portals**



Web addresses

Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Russian

www.sakernet.org

English as well:

www.saker-staging.net

Translation! The CMS/IAF Team

1. Arabic: Dr Monif al Rashidi (Saudi Arabia)
2. Farsi: Reza Parastar Namini (Iran)
3. Pashto: Kamran Khan Yousafzai (Pakistan)
4. Russian: Janusz Sielicki (Poland)

Thanks to all for their good and timely work,
and to a steering group chaired by Nick Williams and Dr Adrian Lombard, including also Prof Mohammed Shobrak, Dr Margit Muller, Dr Ian Burfield, Dr Salim Javed and Matyas Prommer.

Saker Staging Editor

Translation

- [Home](#) - Return to the editor home page
- [Users](#) - Create edit and suspend users
- [Editable Pages](#) - Create and edit pages
- [Editable Page Links](#) - Create and edit page links
- [Translations](#) - Translate pages and data
- [Site](#) - Go back to the last page you visited on the site

Select a resource set such as a page then select elements within the set to translate. Elements that are shown in red have not been translated into the specified language. Click **Save** to save each change before moving on to the next element.

Resource set:
Carousel Control

- Elements to translate:**
- Healthy Carousel Description Text
 - Healthy Carousel Link Text Text
 - Healthy Carousel Title Text
 - Next Button Text Text
 - Previous Button Text Text
 - Register Description Text
 - Register Link Text Text
 - Register Title Text
 - Results Description Text**
 - Results Link Text Text
 - Results Title Text
 - Survey Description Text
 - Survey Link Text Text
 - Survey Title Text
 - Trained Carousel Description Text
 - Trained Carousel Link Text Text
 - Trained Carousel Title Text

Text to translate:

Results Description Text

en: Results of the survey will be presented as simple diagrams. The first diagrams from a previous survey done two years ago will be replaced as your information is added.

ar: سيتم عرض نتائج المسح (الدراسة الإستقصائية) كرسوم بيانية مبسطة عندما يكون لدينا عدد كبير من السجلات.

fa: در صورت دریافت تعداد متناسبی گزارش معتبر، نتایج تحقیق بصورت دیاگرامهای ساده ارائه خواهند شد.

ru: Результаты опроса будут представлены в виде простых

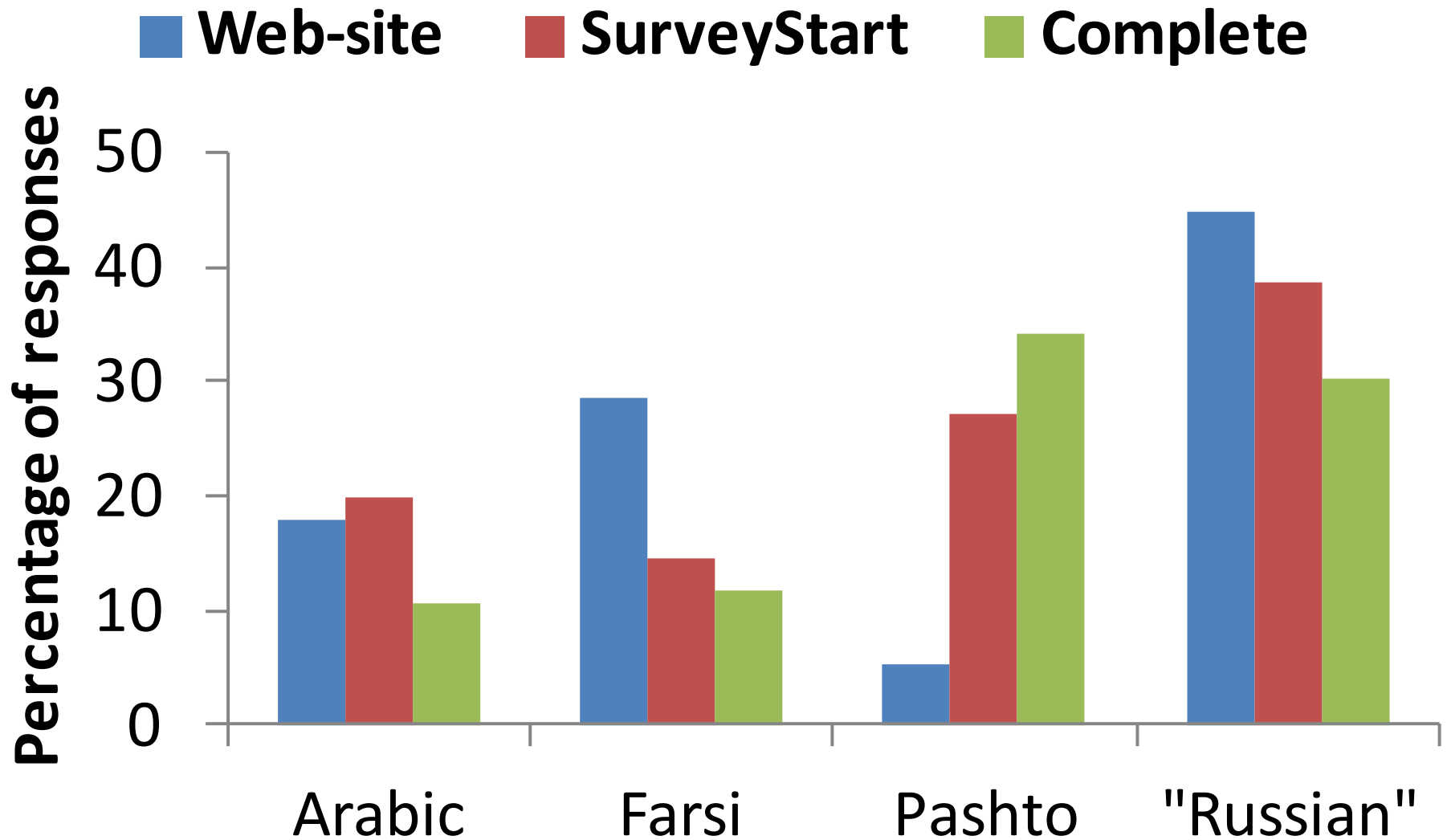
Language to translate into:

Arabic (ar)

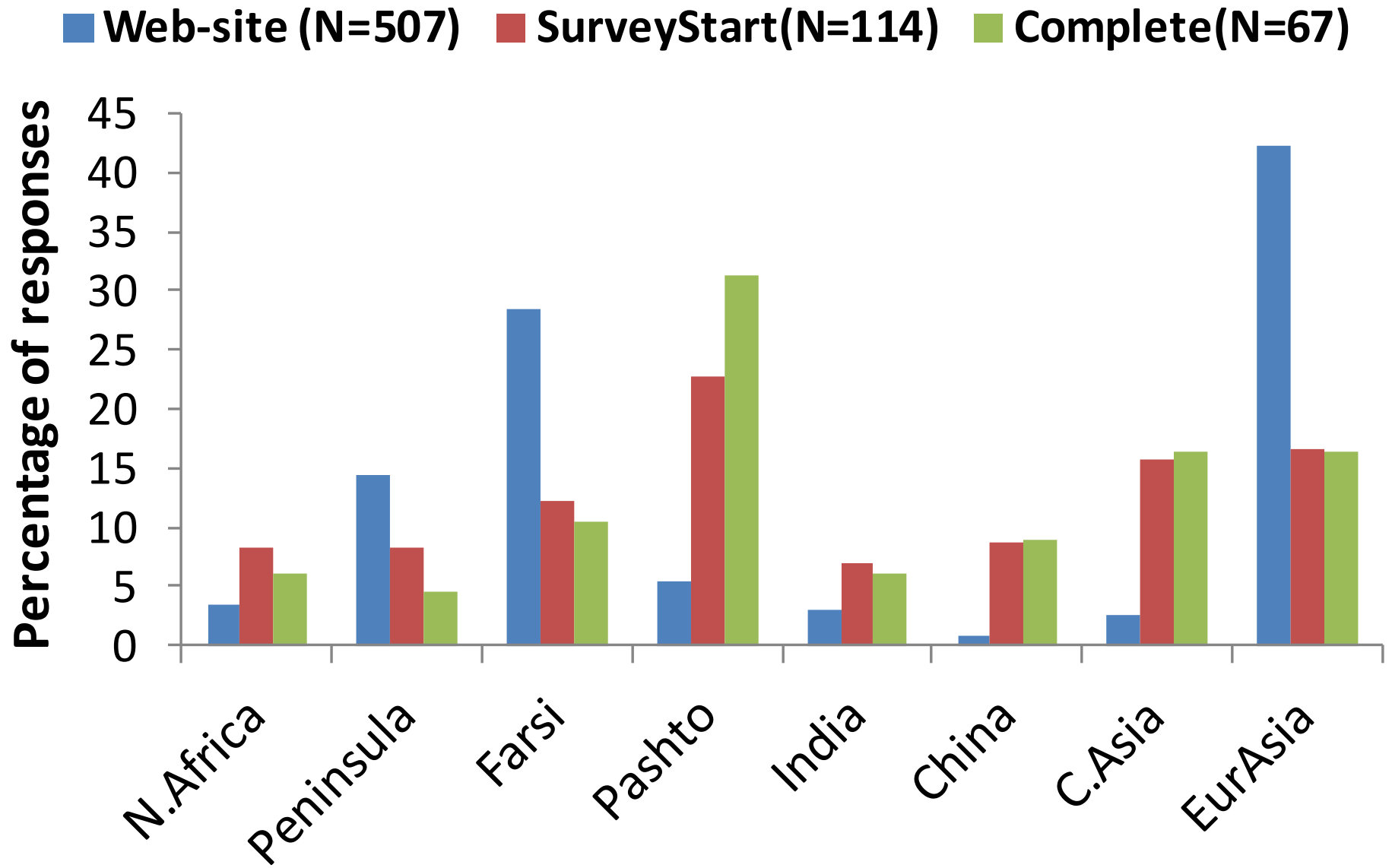
Translation:

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Survey results: first three months



Survey results: first three months



Survey results: first three months

	No. of survey returns	Saker 'increase'-'decrease' as % of N	% of repondents in each country or region who:					
			keep Sakers	keep hybrid	falconers for <10 years	use falcon clinics	trap own Sakers	release trained Sakers
North Africa	4	+25	100	75	25	25	75	50
Saudi Arabia	37		70	15	14	100	17	50
UAE	10	-33	30	90	20	67	22	100
Iran	5	-100	100	40	80	80	100	100
Pakistan	18	-50	83	44	72	28	67	83
India	3	-33	0	0	33	67	67	100
China	4	-75	100	0	50	0	25	100
Central Asia	9	-22	89	0	44	56	44	89
North Asia	10	+10	30	50	40	70	20	50



within notably high 20% (tolerable sample)

within notably low 20% (tolerable sample)



within notably high 20% (inadequate sample)

within notably low 20% (inadequate sample)

Falcon racing in Qatar.
Classes for pure sakers
discourage hybrids, but
need a trade control
system to ‘unlock’
down-listing.



Beyond 1000 webvisits in 4 months

Suggests that there is great scope for the web-site to educate on Saker issues, and promulgate results if the other 3 Flagship Project plans are implemented:

- 100 satellite tags to revolutionise data on migration and main threats, especially electrocution;
- 1000 nest boxes to restock sakers in Kazakhstan, where they seem to need most help;
- 1000,000 power-poles made saker-safe
- Habitats too!



Conclusions

1. Raptor MOU Coordinating Unit formulated conservation through SU approaches in Saker GAP.
2. At last the international conservation community, via CMS, is treating falconers as solutions not problems.
3. Targets (>1000 web-visits & 10 falcon hospitals) met.
4. Survey data show how a system can work to
(i) manage trade legally; (ii) monitor populations; and
(iii) raise funds for other flagship projects.
5. Introduction of the system needs to be coordinated with down-listing to encourage international adoption.
6. There is an urgent need to address electrocution - more information at IAF & BirdLife side-events today.

Thank you for listening (more in the side-events today)



CMS Raptors MOU, MOS2,
Trondheim, Norway, 6 October 2015

CEM Sustainable Use & Management of Ecosystems (SUME)
SSC/CEESP Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi)

