



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP14)  
Original: English

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

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th Meeting (Samarkand, February 2024)

*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,

*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,

*Further noting* that CMS COP 11 adopted the ten-year SakerGAP (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.5.2) as the basis for action on the conservation and management of the Saker Falcon, and decided to continue the Saker Falcon Task Force, under the auspices of the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MOU to bring together Range States, Partners and interested Parties,

*Recalling* that the Saker Falcon Task Force, established by CMS COP11, was mandated by COP12 to report to the Signatories of the CMS Raptors MOU, the CMS Scientific Council and to the CMS Conference of the Parties,

*Aware of* the urgent need for conservation action to ensure the survival of the Saker Falcon throughout its range, including the need to reduce the impact of electrocution from powerlines and related infrastructure,

*Recognizing* that the listing of the Saker Falcon in CMS Appendix I excludes the population in Mongolia, and that any legal taking of the Saker Falcon is allowed only within the legal frameworks of CITES and CMS in particular,

*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, 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, and

*Noting* that significant data and information gaps exist in relation to understanding the ecology of the Saker Falcon across its range including in particular the origin of birds seen and trapped on migration, and that there is an urgent need to develop a coordinated monitoring programme for the species,

*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. *Decides* to continue the implementation of the SakerGAP 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. *Encourages* the continuation of the CITES endorsed programme in Mongolia of using artificial nests and setting sustainable harvest quotas, taking into consideration the ecological balance of the ecosystem and encourages additional conservation activities on the natural breeding population of the Saker Falcon in Mongolia;
4. *Further decides* to continue the Saker Falcon Task Force, and instructs the Task Force, subject to the availability of resources, to:
  - a) Actively promote the implementation of the SakerGAP including by continuing to facilitate engagement, communication, cooperation and collaboration between the stakeholders; and coordinate its review;
  - b) Further develop, refine, and implement, where legally possible, and following best practice, an adaptive management and monitoring framework to improve the present conservation status of the Saker Falcon through, inter alia, regulated, and sustainable use;
  - c) Promote monitoring and research across the range of Saker Falcon, inter alia to fill information gaps on population size and trend, improve knowledge of the genetic structure of Saker Falcon populations, fill knowledge gaps regarding other key parameters needed for population modelling and contribute new information to any future IUCN global Red List reassessment for the species;
  - d) Work collaboratively with the CMS Energy Task Force (ETF) to ensure synergies and identify priority areas within the range of the Saker Falcon and promote mitigation measures that could reduce the impact of electrocution from power lines and related energy infrastructure on populations of the Saker Falcon;
  - e) In collaboration with the CMS ETF and other expert groups, continue to raise awareness of the serious issue of electrocution of Saker Falcon with energy companies and national governments; and
  - f) Ensure synergies with any relevant work proposed under the CMS Central Asian Flyway Initiative to minimise impacts of energy infrastructure on birds;

5. *Agrees* on the following reporting framework for the Saker Falcon Task Force:
  - Report to each meeting of the CMS Raptors MOU;
  - Report to the next meeting of the CMS Scientific Council; and
  - Review progress on implementing the SakerGAP and report to the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties;
6. *Urges* Parties, Range States and stakeholders to actively support the work of the Saker Falcon Task Force;
7. *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; and
8. *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).