

IUCN Resolution WCC2.74. Conserving the Saker Falcon

RECOGNIZING that the Saker Falcon, a migratory steppeland raptor, has for centuries been harvested as a high value natural resource for traditional falconry;

NOTING that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a prominent National Commission for Wildlife Research and Development, extensive practise of falconry and is located on an important Saker migration route;

ACKNOWLEDGING that valuable research on the population ecology of Saker Falcons has been conducted in Saker range states, especially by the United Arab Emirates;

AWARE that raptor populations can be important biological indicators of healthy ecosystems, including steppelands that are widely threatened by intensification of agriculture;

AWARE also that Saker Falcon populations have recently declined in some of their range states;

NOTING that resolutions by the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and the Raptor Research Foundation call for monitoring and regulation to ensure that use of Saker populations remains sustainable;

NOTING FURTHER that combination of electronic markers with DNA-analyses could be used to monitor populations and their harvest through traditional trapping, motivate conservation of breeding areas through payments for marking and minimise costs of CITES regulations;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4-11 October 2000:

CONGRATULATES the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on their early implementation of national measures for research-based conservation of wildlife;

REQUESTS that Saker range states and falconers work with CITES and other international regulatory authorities to develop an internationally recognized system, initially for this species but applicable for other wildlife, that combines wildlife research and modern marking technologies to:

- (a) monitor populations and estimate sustainable yields;
- (b) regulate procurement and international movements with minimal administrative costs; and
- (c) motivate conservation of the species and its habitats throughout its range.