Sakernet Status Update June 2020 for STF

Progress summary July 2019 – June 2020

A paper (Appendix A) was prepared by Robert Kenward and Adrian Lombard for the IAF Board discussion of Strategy on 30 June 2019 in Brussels, to suggest that the networking developed by IAF with IUCN was potentially important for conservation in general, and especially that the existing Sakernet portal needed upgrading in ways that would also benefit Perdixnet and AmFalCon. It was agreed that the existing Sakernet portal should be upgraded as follows:
1. Transfer Sakernet content to current hub
2. For hub translation checking, a more user-friendly order of content
3. SYCL to link all languages on the hub & display RTL languages correctly
4. SYCL back-office for editors working primarily in RTL languages
5. European Sustainable Use Group to arrange expert translation of SYCL editing system to classic Arabic, Mongolian and Urdu

Items 1-4 were completed in time for the upgrade to be launched by HE Dr Awadh ali Saleh at ADIHEX on 27 August 2019 with at least the Home Page in the 10 languages agreed, including the original Arabic (now classic), English, Farsi, Pashto and Russian, with added French (for north Africa), Hindi, Mandarin (simple), Mongolian and Urdu. By 2020, hub translations were complete except for polishing in Farsi and Pashto. The number of visitors peaked at 800 per month in autumn 2019, totalling 16,000 visits from launch in 2015 to the end of 2019 (initial target was 1000!). Thanks to a new satellite-launching approach for www.naturalliance.org, with a Home Page which can be translated and loaded online in about an hour by those familiar with hub translation, simple satellites have now been launched in Arabic for North Africa and English for southern Asia. The original satellite in English (www.sakerfalcon.org) had also been brought up to date.

It is important to understand that Sakernet management remains voluntary. Anatrack was paid for the upgrading items 1-4, and ESUG for arranging translation of instructions for Satellites. Satellites can be managed entirely in classic Arabic, French, Mongolian and Russian (as well as 10 languages less relevant for Sakernet) without knowledge of English. This capability has yet to be added in Urdu or Hindi (for which €125 is available) and progress has halted on this in Farsi due to geopolitics (which also halted an agreement for Hindi in Kashmir).

Indeed, the geopolitical rifts between Saker range states, administrative problems at CMS and various health issues for organisers, have not been at all helpful for the Stage II of Sakernet which was foreseen in the SakerGAP (objective 5) as a Saker Falcon Adaptive Management System. The data collected from the Sakernet I portal and survey were intended for design of an improved Stage II of the portal system, to host an adaptive management system through which:
- registration of Saker Falcons marked at nests,
- reporting of falcons when trapped, and
- registration of falcons at hospitals,

could be used to estimate harvests, assess population sizes and encourage only legal, sustainable trade. In late 2017, IAF and IUCN consulted Environment Agency Abu Dhabi and proposed a Saker Trade and Ecological Monitoring System for:
1. Marking wild birds for population assessment;
2. Encouraging trappers to report for population assessment;
3. Contracting falcon hospitals to mark for e-passports and report for population assessment;
4. Administration, including (a) markers (b) samples for population assessment and mark-bank;
5. Falconers using e-passports, including the checks on them at borders.

Unfortunately, the time was not felt right for such a system.

Sakernet Volunteer Team

	Name	Role	Reports to	Language Fluency
Management Team	Robert Kenward	Coordinator for network overall, for hub, & default satellite lead	Angela Andrade (IUCN) Gary Timbrell (IAF)	English, Swedish, German
	Julian Mühle Janusz Sielicki Adrian Lombard	Reserve coordinators & site leads, IAF representatives & advisors	Robert (Gary)	Spanish, German, English Polish, Russian, English
Site Leads and Contributors	Dr Loay Frookh	Classic Arabic translation (IUCN)	Robert	English, Arabic
	Omar Haidan	Arabic North Africa (Egypt) site	Julian, Robert	English, Arabic
	Dr Reza Kiamarzy	Farsi translator	Robert	English, Farsi
	Kamran Khan Yousafzai	Pashto translation	Robert, Julian	English, Pashto, Urdu, Farsi
	Janusz Sielicki	Russian lead	Robert, Julian	English, Polish, Russian
	Dr Tetiana Gardashuk	Russian translation (IUCN)	Robert	English, Ukrainian, Russian
	Zhenwei Man	Mandarin translation	Robert, Julian	English, Mandarin
	Dr Dashzeveg Tserendeleg	Mongolian translation (IUCN)	Robert	English, Mongolian
	Sarah Ichinkhorloo	Mongolian site lead	Julian, Robert	English, Mongolian
	Farooq Khan	Urdu translation	Julian, Robert	English, Urdu
	Akanksha Singh	Hindi translation (IUCN, retired)	Robert	English, Hindi
	Aamir Khan	Hindi translation, site lead?	Julian, Robert	English, Hindi
	Veronique Blontrock	French translation	Gary, Julian	English, French
	Israel Manrique Sleiman	French translation	Julian, Robert	English, French, Spanish

<u>IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseilles, France, as rescheduled for January 2021</u>

Janusz, Julian and Maya will attend IUCN's quadrennial meeting WCC7 after selection in a hotly contested field for a Speaker Pitch event on "Does Everyone Speak English?" The event is co-hosted by IAF and IUCN's thematic group on Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems, with other IUCN members and commission groups as supporters. This will note the pioneering role of falconry for multilingual networking, which although used widely by corporates based on advertising (e.g. Facebook, Google), is unusual for the civic sector (Wikipedia is the best-known example for multilingual dissemination of peer-reviewed factual information independent of corporate and state interests).

<u>Next Steps for Sakernet I:</u>

- Put all logos on hub (add RaptorMOU, BirdLife, IUCN).
- Get polishing of Pashto completed
- Get polishing of Farsi completed
- Get SYCL instructions for satellites translated to Urdu and Farsi
- Agree on satellite leads and get all satellites initiated with Home Page (instructions available)
- Follow Naturalliance steps being developed for further development of satellites
- Redraft for Sakernet II?

Appendix A. Sakernet upgrade proposal for IAF by Anatrack Ltd and IUCN, 30 June 2019

In days of increasingly populist politics, it is critically important for those who benefit from sustainable use of wildlife to be perceived favourably by the public. This means behaving well and being seen as useful. IAF has worked with IUCN to develop tight teamworking for using an inexpensive user-friendly multilingual internet system which archives information, guides best-practice and shows how falconers contribute to humanity through culture and conservation (*sensu* their UNESCO inscription).

Sakernet started as a simple multilingual website. After building it, Anatrack created a multilingual hub to which satellite sites could link in each language and be easy for volunteers to run. This network approach, used by IAF in www.Perdixnet.org and www.AmFalCon.org, and by IUCN in www.naturalliance.org, provides training to support conservation worldwide. It fits neatly into IAF's system of rewarding translators by invitation to Falconry Festivals. The Sakernet content, currently attracting more than 500 visits/month, now needs to transfer to this new hub, with the addition of Mandarin, Mongolian and Urdu, and of 14 satellites for use by IAF clubs, as follows:

Africa, North (Arabic)	India (Hindi)*
Africa, North (French)	Iran (Farsi)
Asia, Central (Russian)	Mongolia (Mongolian)
Asia, South Central (Farsi)	Pakistan (Pashto)
Asia, Southern (English)	Pakistan (Urdu)
Asia, West (Arabic)	Russia (Russian)
China (Mandarin, simple)	United Arab Emirates (Arabic)

*Availability in Hindi seems wise as India is an important country for conservation in Asia

The satellites (part of a System for Community Liaison - SYCL) now need to display right-to-left (RTL) scripts correctly for Arabic, Farsi, Pashto and Urdu, and to be as easy for club teams to edit purely in these languages (without knowledge of English) as it is already in French, Russian & 12 other languages. A little work is also needed for IAF to check translation more easily on the hub. Sakernet2 will be ready by ADIHEX in August 2019, with IAF translation of content and Anatrack work as follows:

Transfer Sakernet content to current hub
For hub translation checking, a more user-friendly order of content
SYCL to link all languages on the hub & display RTL languages correctly
SYCL back-office for editors working primarily in RTL languages
European Sustainable Use Group to arrange expert translation of SYCL editing system to classic Arabic, Mongolian and Hindi/Urdu.

SYCL is controlled and obliged to be non-commercial by licencing between Anatrack and the Game and Wildlife Management Trust, with oversight by IAF and IUCN. This means that Sakernet is:
- maintained for IAF and IUCN to be as user friendly for volunteers as possible;
- endowed with capabilities ahead of alternatives in terms of both in-house experience & economics;
- not vulnerable to service pressures from commercial or state interests;
- can have advertising, if required, but under control of those running the network.