

Resolution to Encourage Conservation of the Saker Falcon

Recognizing that populations of Saker Falcons have declined in some countries;

Noting that, when pesticides caused declines in populations of Peregrines and other raptors, falconers pioneered breeding and release techniques, worked successfully to restore raptor populations and helped to organize the regulation of falconry;

Welcoming the vision of the World Conservation Union (IUCN 2.29 and 2.74) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Article 10 and Decision VII/12) that encourages conservation through sustainable use of wild living resources and to benefit local people;

Appreciating cooperation from IUCN, CIC, WWF, Birdlife International, TRAFFIC and the secretariat of CITES; and

Applauding the strong engagement of United Arab Emirates with IAF, the falcon research conducted by ERWDA and the innovation of marking regulations by UAE;

At its 35th Annual General Meeting on 15th September 2004 in Abu Dhabi, the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) requests falconers in the Middle East and other range states to work urgently with IAF to help conserve and restore Saker Falcon populations, by:

- (i) adopting marking and registration systems that identify and encourage legal supplies of Sakers;**
- (ii) encouraging scientific studies of all Saker populations to assess their status;**
- (iii) working to restore populations of Sakers that have declined (e.g. by breeding for release);**
- (iv) motivating authorities and local people in range states to maintain wild Saker populations, especially the breeding birds;**
- (v) encouraging scientifically managed release, after use, of wild-caught Sakers that are suitable to enter breeding populations.**

The IAF accepts its responsibility, within its available resources, to assist falconers and organisations with initiatives that fulfil the intent of this resolution.