

A Naturalliance for holistic conservation

Considering Covid-19

Is Covid-19 good for conservation? Time will tell! For the moment, some animals may have bred more successfully, free from disturbance during lockdowns which also slowed carbon emissions. However, other wild species may have been over-exploited because less food was farmed. Above all, Covid-19 has been educational. Lockdown was a simple remedy to stop the virus spreading. Banning wildlife trade is a proposed simple remedy against further pandemics. However, people rapidly realise that lockdowns harm livelihoods and hence harm health in other ways. A holistic approach is needed. Similarly, the best outcomes for nature, without harming the motivations to conserve species and their ecosystems that stem from normal use of wild foods and legal trade, need a One Health approach based on IUCN as well as WHO, FAO and World Organisation for Animal Health.



A market for fish, an important wild food which is widely traded. © Anatrack Ltd.

In the meantime, the (often impoverished) rural communities who manage our biodiversity need advice to help survive Covid-19. Sustainable use groups across three IUCN Commissions therefore agreed to speed the roll-out of a network intended to encourage holistic conservation, with useful Covid-19 guidance. The www.Naturalliance.org network, already in 35 of 40 targeted languages, was evolved from two other multilingual networks by our team of conservation-translation experts.

A Partnership for Partridges



A Grey Partridge, which is endangered by intensive farming but conserved by hunting. © Mark Williams.

Why do people value nature? Is it because ecosystems and their biodiversity provide food, materials, clean air, safe water and clement weather, giving livelihoods, recreation and health? Understanding the need to manage all these services holistically is challenging, but a focus only on protection can reduce motivations for conservation from livelihoods, recreation and health.

To promote holistic management for a flagship species, which can motivate conservation of habitat for pollinators and many other species in farmland, IUCN runs www.Perdixnet.org with a

long-term Member, the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF). Aiding management of agricultural ecosystems for people and wildlife is a classic project for Commission on Ecosystem Management through its thematic group on sustainable use.

Security for Sakers

The Global Action Plan for the Saker Falcon, under the Raptors MoU of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), calls for conservation through sustainable use of an endangered species. Such conservation needs trade to be legal and to be used to help monitor Saker populations, as well as to encourage mitigation of the worst threats to the species: power-lines and other habitat change. The group Sustainable Use and Livelihoods, across Commissions on Species Survival and Environmental Economic and Social Policy, supported establishment of www.Sakernet.org for this purpose, together with CMS, IAF and BirdLife International.



A Saker Falcon radio-tagged for release in the UAE.
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Cooperation of four international organisation to encourage holistic conservation science started with building networks to roll-back intensification and manage trade. For their health and education, please signpost Naturalliance and bring it to the attention of communities everywhere.