

## **2.74 Conserving the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)**

RECOGNIZING that the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*), 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 practice of falconry, and is located on an important Saker Falcon 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 agricultural practices;

ALSO AWARE that Saker Falcon populations have recently declined in some 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 Falcon populations remains sustainable; and

FURTHER NOTING that a combination of electronic markers and DNA analyses could be used to monitor populations and levels of harvesting through traditional trapping, to motivate conservation of breeding areas through payments for marking, and to minimize costs of implementing the regulations of the Convention in Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

The World Conservation Congress at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. CONGRATULATES the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on their early implementation of national measures for research-based conservation of wildlife;
2. REQUESTS that Saker Falcon 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.

*This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government*

*position on the Recommendation as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).*