



FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE SAKER FALCON TASK FORCE (STF15)

(Online, 8 September 2025)

UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/STF15/Report

MEETING REPORT

(Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU)

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair of the Saker Falcon Task Force (STF), Mr Colin Galbraith, welcomed all participants (see Annex 1) to the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda (Doc 1)

Following the welcome, the Chair invited participants to review the proposed agenda. This structured approach allowed for any final amendments or suggestions for "Any other business" items. The agenda was adopted without amendments.

3. Update since the 14th Meeting of STF

Mr. Umberto Gallo-Orsi, (Coordinating Unit), provided an update on developments since STF14. He reported that a number of comments to document "CMS Decision Making Structure" as presented at that meeting had been received, and that consultations had been held with the CITES and AEWA Secretariats to understand their perspectives on quota-setting approaches and related challenges. Informal discussions within CMS also helped clarify the way forward. On the basis of these inputs, the draft document under consideration had been revised. The importance of moving beyond theoretical frameworks was stressed and including indicative costs of implementation, noting that financial planning was necessary to secure Party engagement and support.

4. Decision making structure for the conservation and adaptive management of the Saker Falcon (Doc.2)

The Coordinating Unit introduced the revised document ([UNEP/CMS/STF15/DOC2/Rev1](#)) on the proposed decision-making structure. The text was reviewed paragraph by paragraph, with comparisons made to the earlier draft considered at STF14. The revised framework emphasizes a stronger role for national governments, supported by international population data and scenario modeling, in setting and managing quotas. National authorities will be responsible for collecting data and proposing quotas. STF will review these proposed quotas using sophisticated populations modelling and recommend an appropriate sustainable level of take. The Coordinating Unit underlined that new scientific approaches must be developed to build population models that incorporate parameters such as reproductive success, habitat conditions and taking levels. He stressed that the focus should remain on effectiveness rather than cost, ensuring the framework is both practical and scientifically sound.

Discussions addressed how the adaptive management framework would apply in Mongolia, which currently is the only country among the CMS Parties where taking is legally possible, and clarified

that while the framework is voluntary, it aims to provide a transparent, science-based approach to quota-setting. Members agreed on the importance of using best available science, incorporating scenario modeling, and monitoring at both national and international levels. Annual reviews of new data and modelling results was proposed. Quotas to be produced for three-year cycles, which are subject to annual review.

The need to recognize and factor in information on illegal take was also highlighted, with consensus that it should be considered when assessing population impacts and risks. Participants further agreed that STF decisions should be reached by consensus wherever possible, with voting procedures only applied in cases of deadlock.

The updated Terms of Reference of the STF were already agreed at STF14 to emphasize safeguards, conservation actions, and mitigation of illegal activities. Overall, members welcomed the revised structure as a clear, practical, and implementable framework to take forward to CMS.

Action Points:

- A. Revised texts to incorporate agreed amendments and circulate the final draft to participants. (done)
- B. The chair proposed to draft a cover letter to wider Task Force members, emphasizing importance of the work, encouraging support, and highlighting funding needs.

5. Indicative Budget of the AMF (Doc.3)

The Chair introduced the discussion on the indicative budget, noting that STF14 had concluded on the need to move from theory to practice by attaching costs to proposals.

The Coordinating Unit noted that to operationalize the Adaptive Management Framework (AMF), the Task Force would require engagement of external independent experts and consultants, which in turn demanded a realistic budget. Drawing on the experience of similar processes, such as the goose management initiative, he explained that indicative financial planning was essential for Party engagement and effective delivery.

Mr. Andras Kovacs (Technical Advisor to the STF) presented the [UNEP/CMS/STF15/Doc.3](#), outlining the two initial budget scenarios: a baseline scenario (USD 250,000 annually) and an enhanced scenario (USD 500,000 annually). These covered coordination, data management, range state support, and additional modeling and analysis. He explained that the draft budget aimed to give Parties an indication of the scale of resources required to establish and implement the AMF. In discussion, members expressed concern that presenting two widely divergent figures might lead COP to default to the cheaper option. Instead, participants agreed to frame the first three-year period as a pilot phase budget, focusing on data collection, information sharing, capacity building, national contributions, and at least one in-person STF meeting. This approach was seen as more realistic, given the early stage of implementation and the need to build engagement gradually. The Chair concluded that a single pilot-phase budget proposal should be developed, reflecting these priorities, and that the revised budget would be re-circulated for review before submission to the CMS Scientific Council.

Action Point:

- C. CU to develop single pilot-phase budget proposal.

6. Closure of the meeting

The Chair thanked all participants for their active engagement and contributions to the meeting.

ANNEX 1 Participant List

Range States	
Iran	Mohammad Tabari
Slovakia	Peter Puchala
Partners & Independent Experts	
BirdLife International	Vicky Jones
Independent Expert	Mohammed Shobrak
Mohammed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund	Andrew Dixon
Independent expert	Mátyás Prommer
Tilad Associates	Albara Binothman
Steering Group	
Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU	Umberto Gallo-Orsi Konika Jangir
Chair of the STF	Colin Galbraith
Volunteer Technical Advisor to the STF & Coordinator of the Adaptive Management and Monitoring Framework Discussion Group	Andras Kovacs