



## UAE FALCONRY: REGULATION, CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION

### UAE Commitments to International Falcon Conservation

The UAE upholds its international conservation role through active enforcement of CITES, CMS, and the Raptors MoU, ensuring the regulation of falcon trade and the protection of migratory raptors.



### UAE LEGISLATIONS

1990	MINISTERIAL DECREE NO. 229 Concerning the Issuance of the Falcon's Document	2025
FEDERAL LAW NO. 24 Bans hunting, possession, or trade of falcons without a permit	2019	FEDERAL LAW NO. 5 Strengthens controls on the trade, import, and export of protected species and introduces tougher penalties for violations (by at least 4 years in prison and/or a fine from AED 200,000 up to AED 2,000,000)

### REGULATED CAPTIVE BREEDING

Only captive-bred falcons are permitted for use in falconry, trade, and international movement, in accordance with national legislation and CITES regulations

Captive breeding is conducted exclusively by licensed breeding centers, ensuring genetic traceability, animal welfare, and compliance with conservation objectives

The use of official closed identification rings confirms captive origin and prevents the laundering of wild-caught falcons into legal markets

### NATIONAL FALCON REGISTRATION SYSTEM

#### Falcon Passports

The UAE was the first country globally to introduce the Falcon Passport, setting an international benchmark for regulating falcon ownership and cross-border movement under CITES

The Falcon Passport enables legal international movement of registered falcons while preventing illegal trade



#### Identification Rings

The UAE requires the use of official closed identification rings, issued by the competent authority, to verify captive breeding in accordance with national legislation and CITES provisions

Each registered falcon is assigned a unique identification profile, including species, breeder details, and identification ring number

The use of closed rings and centralized registration systems ensures that falcons used in falconry, trade, and competition are captive-bred, supporting conservation and enforcement efforts



#### Ownership Regulations

The UAE provides official services for falcon ownership transfer and cancellation, ensuring accurate and traceable records throughout the falcon's lifecycle

Ownership, breeding, and registration are limited to licensed falconers and government-approved breeding centers

Falcon ownership in the UAE is regulated through mandatory registration of captive-bred falcons using Ministry-issued identification systems

#### CITES Regulations

In the UAE, only captive-bred falcons are permitted for use in falconry, trade, and international movement, in accordance with national legislation and CITES regulations

All breeding centers must hold valid government licenses and comply with registration, monitoring, and reporting requirements

These measures collectively strengthen local falcon production, support the breeding of unique and documented bloodlines, promote traditional falconry practices and events, and enable UAE-bred falcons to participate in international markets and competitions in full compliance with international regulations



### RESPONSIBLE USE, REHABILITATION & VETERINARY CARE

ADFH supports falcon welfare during falconry use and plays a central role in the rehabilitation of falcons suitable for release into the wild

#### ABU DHABI FALCON HOSPITAL (ADFH)

established in 1999, provides state-of-the-art veterinary care, including advanced diagnostics, surgery, intensive care, and rehabilitation services

#### MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

All birds undergo comprehensive medical examinations, training, and identification through closed rings and microchips, with selected birds fitted with satellite tracking devices

### RELEASE PROGRAMMES & WILD POPULATION RECOVERY

#### Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme

Regulated breeding and rehabilitation directly support wild population recovery through the Programme, implemented under the auspices of HH. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan and supervised by Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, in partnership with the International Fund for Houbara Conservation and Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital

#### 81 captive-bred Saker

In May 2025, the programme released 81 captive-bred Saker and Peregrine falcons in Kazakhstan

#### Falcons returned to the wild

The total number of falcons returned to the wild since 1995 to 2,355

#### Releases

take place along natural migratory routes in Central Asia, supporting sustainable population recovery and biodiversity conservation

### INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF FALCONS

#### Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Initiative

Launched in April 2018, the Initiative allocated USD 1 million for raptor conservation and highlighted that power lines kill over 10,000 birds of prey annually, including around 4,000 Saker falcons

#### UAE's support for conservation efforts

UAE has provided major support for conservation efforts in Mongolia. In 2010, 5,000 artificial nests were set up, and in the subsequent five years over 7,500 chicks flew from those nests

#### The Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Foundation

was established with an endowment of USD 20 million and implements direct initiatives to protect birds of prey

#### Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

Over the past 15 years, the fund has awarded 424 grants worth over \$4 million to support the conservation of threatened bird species worldwide



### ETHICAL FALCONRY & CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Ongoing education and awareness programmes promote legal compliance, ethical falconry, animal welfare, and conservation responsibilities among falconers and breeders

The Emirates Falconers Club was established in 2001 to oversee all matters related to falcons and falconers

Launching the Mohamed Bin Zayed Falconry and Desert Physiognomy School in 2014