

**FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE SAKER FALCON TASK FORCE (STF14)**

(Online, 26 May 2025)

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**SAKER FALCON TASK FORCE (STF)  
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Objective**

To bring together Range States, Partners and interested parties, to implement the Saker Global Action Plan, to conserve the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*). In particular as per Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP14) to:

- a) Actively promote the implementation of the SakerGAP including by continuing to facilitate engagement, communication, cooperation, and collaboration between the stakeholders; and coordinate its review.
- b) Further develop, refine, and implement, where legally possible, and following best practice, an adaptive management and monitoring framework to improve the present conservation status of the Saker Falcon through, inter alia, regulated, and sustainable use.
- c) Establish an independent scientific process to assess the population status and trend in each region to inform the decision on any quota of birds taken from the wild, and to identify any significant data or information gaps to be assessed by the STF.
- d) Where legally possible and taking account of the recommendation of the independent scientific process, to propose any quota of Saker Falcons that could be taken from the wild for the coming triennium (three-year period following each CMS CoP), and indicate also an indicative level of quota for the subsequent two triennia (giving a projection of nine years in total).
- e) Promote monitoring and research across the range of Saker Falcon, inter alia to fill information gaps on population size and trend, improve knowledge of the genetic structure of Saker Falcon populations and fill knowledge gaps regarding other key parameters needed for population modelling, and contribute new information to any future IUCN global Red List reassessment for the species.
- f) Work collaboratively with the CMS Energy Task Force (ETF) to ensure synergies and identify priority areas for action within the range of the Saker Falcon and promote mitigation measures that could reduce the impact of electrocution from power lines and related energy infrastructure on populations of the Saker Falcon.
- g) In collaboration with the CMS ETF and other expert groups, continue to raise awareness of the serious issue of electrocution of Saker Falcon with energy companies and national governments; and

- h) Ensure synergies with any relevant work proposed under the CMS Central Asian Flyway Initiative to minimise impacts of energy infrastructure on birds.

## **Membership**

The aim is for a relatively small (15 - 20 people) but highly effective Task Force. Membership should be focused on scientific representation, based on nominations from the Range States, Signatories and Partners. Members will be required to take responsibility for leading and driving forward discrete tasks, as identified by the STF. The working approaches adopted may vary and could include teleconferences, e-mail circulation, online fora, meetings, workshops, etc.

The recommended composition of the STF is:

- Chair and Vice Chair – as elected at the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting.
- STF Secretariat – to be provided by CU of the Raptors MOU
- 2 CMS Scientific Councilors – including the Chair of the Scientific Council
- 3 – 4 representatives from Central and East Asia (core breeding areas)
- 2 representatives from Europe and Eastern Europe (breeding areas)
- 2-3 representatives from the Middle East (migration/wintering areas and falconry)
- 1-2 representatives from North and East Africa (wintering areas)
- 2-3 representatives from NGO partners
- 1 independent Specialist Technical Advisor (ornithologist)
- 1 representative from CMS Secretariat
- 1 representative from CITES Secretariat

The composition of the STF this may be modified by the STF, as required.

Following each CMS COP, STF members shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among the Task Force Members. They should serve for one term and may be re-elected.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Chair/ Vice Chair**

- Suggest meeting dates and provide deadlines for actions by the STF Members and contributors.
- Develop meeting agendas, in consultation with the CU.
- Conduct meetings and facilitate events, in collaboration with the CU.
- Provide guidance and follow up on Action Points, through the CU.
- Review key papers and scientific assessments (e.g., population status, threats, etc.), as necessary.
- Report to CMS COP, Raptors MOU MOS, and CMS Scientific Council.

### **CU – Secretariat to the STF**

- Review the draft Work Plan of Priority Actions for the STF, in collaboration with the Chair/Vice Chair.

- Prepare and facilitate logistics and other support to aid the implementation of the Work Plan by Members of the STF, including the establishment and implementation of the modular Saker Falcon Adaptive Management Framework.
- Coordinate with Range States, Partners and other parties, in close collaboration with the Chair/Vice Chair.
- Gather and disseminate information on relevant issues, as required.
- Develop, implement, and follow up on Small Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) with relevant bodies, Governments, other parties, and consultants, as appropriate.
- Liaise with the CMS Scientific Council and CMS Secretariat and support the technical assessment and monitoring mechanisms.
- Oversee the compilation and submission of Reports to the Meetings of Signatories of the Raptors MoU, the Meetings of the CMS Scientific Council, CMS COPs and other bodies, as required (to be presented by the Chair).

### **Members of the STF**

- Lead in taking forward key tasks, as directed by the STF.
- Participate actively in meetings, events and in correspondence issued by the CU on behalf of the STF.
- Establish and support the Saker Falcon Adaptive Management Framework nationally and regionally.
- Encourage and facilitate local, national, and regional actions to support the implementation of SakerGAP (e.g., surveys, management, monitoring, etc.).
- Monitor the implementation of SakerGAP and its effectiveness, as well as existing impediments for adequate implementation of the SakerGAP.
- Provide relevant information to the STF in a timely manner, including via the CU.
- Suggest sound ideas and review the feasibility of conservation and management measures that might be proposed on a case-by-case basis.
- Coordinate nationally and regionally with their other Government colleagues and STF members of their region, as appropriate.
- Coordinate with the Focal Points of other MEAs at a national and regional level, as required.
- Pro-actively participate actively in fundraising activities.
- Act as 'champions' to promote the conservation of the Saker Falcon.

### **Reporting**

Resolution 11.18 (rev. COP14) indicates the following reporting framework and the timeline for the Task Force:

- Report to each Meeting of Signatories of the CMS Raptors MOU.
- Report on the Inter-sessional CMS Scientific Council Meeting; and
- Review progress on implementing the SakerGAP and report to the 15th Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties.