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**Coming together for the  
conservation of birds of prey**



# Report on the implementation of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP)

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# Establishing the Saker Falcon Task Force and developing the Global Action Plan

- CMS Resolution 10.28 established the Saker Falcon Task Force (STF) in 2011, under the auspices of the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, to develop a coordinated Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP).
- The SakerGAP was adopted at CMS COP11 in 2014 by means of CMS Resolution 11.18 and endorsed by Signatories to the Raptors MOU at the second Meeting of Signatories.

# Implementation of the Global Action Plan

- CMS Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP12) extended the STF's remit to oversee SakerGAP implementation and recognized that the work of the STF had been a unique and productive partnership employing a transparent consensus-building approach.
- Reporting to the Raptor MoU and formally to the CMS CoP.

# Overall Goal

- The overall goal of the SakerGAP is to re-establish a healthy and self-sustaining wild Saker Falcon population throughout its range, and to ensure that any use is sustainable.



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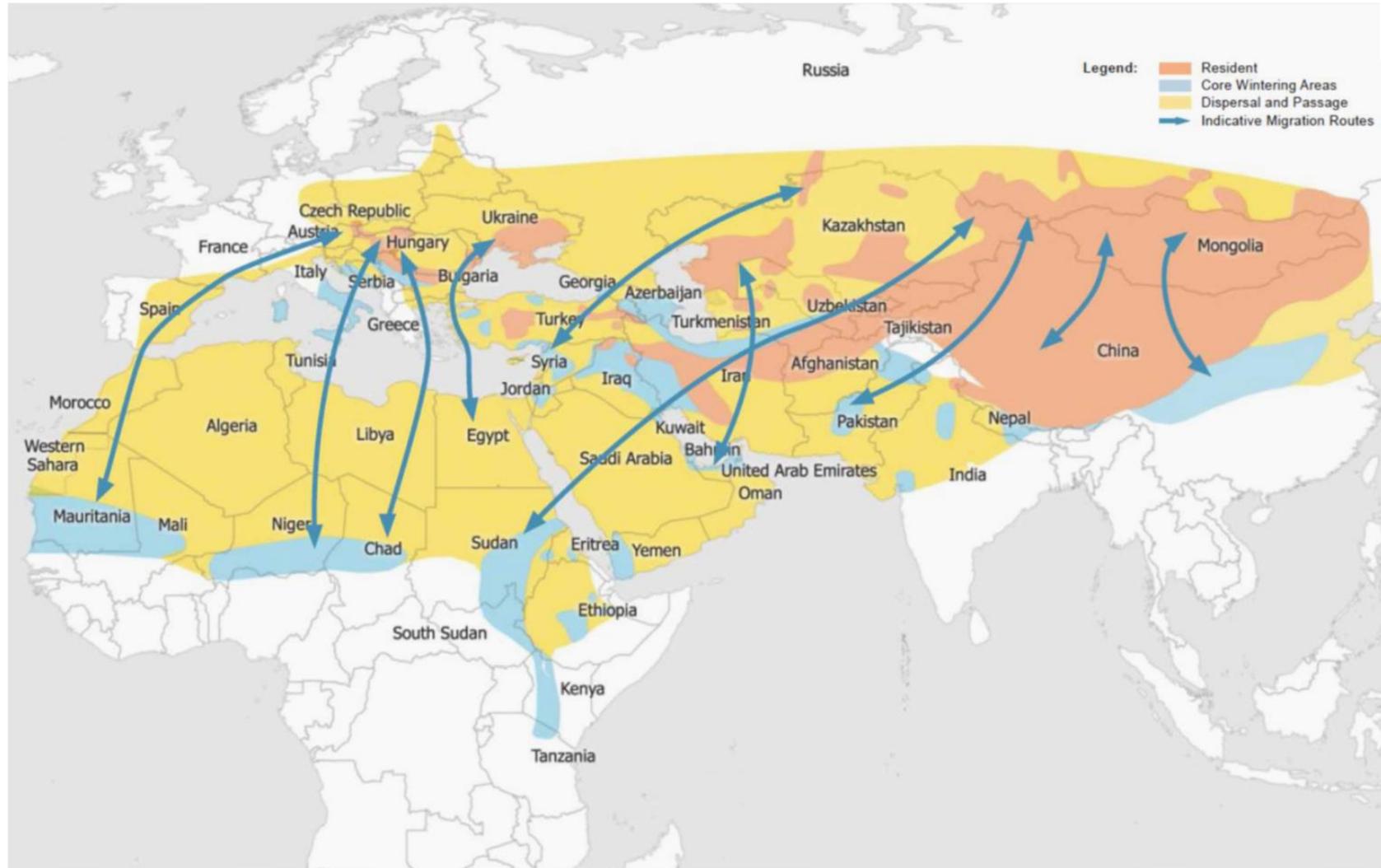
# The Saker Task Force

	Expected	Actual	Gaps / potential
Central and East Asia	3 - 4	4	Russia, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Central and Eastern Europe	2	4	Serbia, Austria, Moldova, Turkey
Middle East	2-3	7	Pakistan
North and East Africa	1-2	0	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia
NGO Partners	2-3	9	AD Falcon Hospital IFAW Int.nal Fund for Houbara Cons.
CITES	1	1	
CMS Secretariat	1	1	
CMS Scientific Council	2	1	
International organizations (EU, Arab League)	0	2	
Chair, V.Chair	2	1	
Advisor	1	2	
Raptors MOU	1	3	
Totals	18 - 22	35	17

# The Saker Falcon

- Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* (globally Endangered) populations have suffered rapid declines driven by threats including electrocution on powerline poles, unsustainable trapping for falconry purposes and habitat degradation.
- The species is of considerable conservation and cultural significance in many parts of its range.
- The status of its populations is a key factor in determining how conservation actions should be prioritised and whether any taking from the wild is sustainable.

# The range and flyways of the Saker Falcons



©SakerGAP, 2014

# The Global Action Plan

## Five initial Flagship Proposals:

- To create a single Saker Falcon Online Information Portal;
- To engage 10 Falcon Hospitals and 10 Trappers within a Saker Falcon Network;
- To deploy 100 satellite tags on Saker Falcons;
- To erect 1,000 artificial nest platforms for Saker Falcons; and,
- To install or retrofit 1,000,000 new or existing 'bird-safe' electricity poles.

The SakerGAP has been translated into both Arabic and Russian and published on a dedicated page of the Raptors MOU website.

# Global Action Plan – current focus

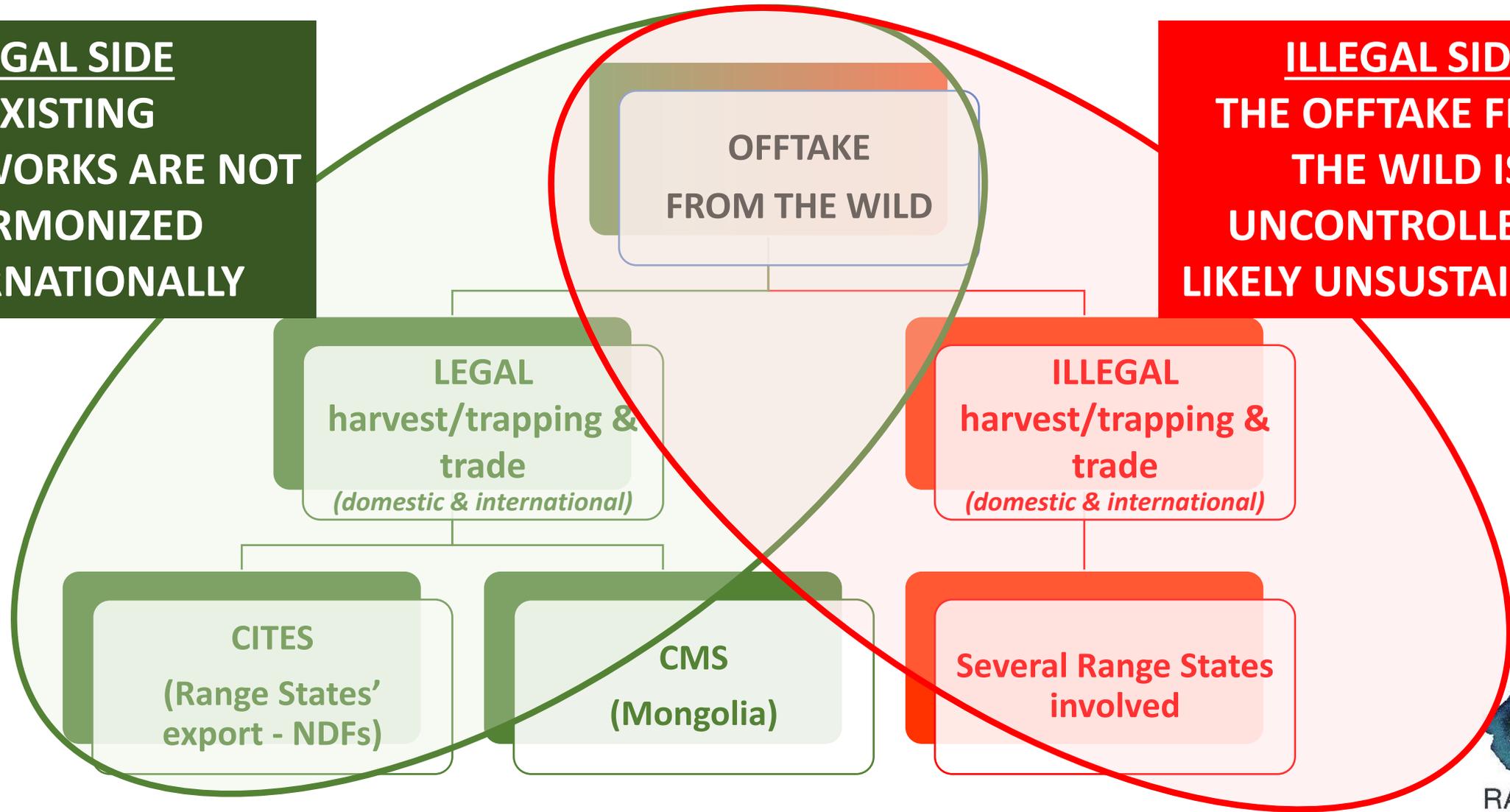
The STF is now actively undertaking work in relation to two key aspects of conservation and management action:

- The development of an Adaptive Management Framework (AMF) for the management of the species.
- Focussing on the impact of electrocution on populations throughout its range.

# Why is an AMF for sustainable use necessary?

**LEGAL SIDE**  
**EXISTING**  
**FRAMEWORKS ARE NOT**  
**HARMONIZED**  
**INTERNATIONALLY**

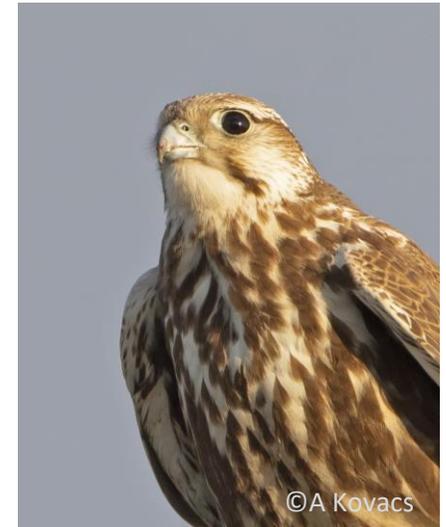
**ILLEGAL SIDE**  
**THE OFFTAKE FROM**  
**THE WILD IS**  
**UNCONTROLLED &**  
**LIKELY UNSUSTAINABLE**



# Adaptive Management Framework (AMF)

**The objective is to design an AMF which integrates nine modules:**

- global governance and data management, including effective sustainable use models and a sustainable, international quota scheme,
- internationally harmonized policy and law-making,
- reinforced law enforcement,
- effective awareness raising,
- effective monitoring and research schemes,
- complementary ex situ conservation measures,
- in situ conservation measures,
- effective stakeholder engagement, cooperation and networking,
- the involvement of rural communities in the conservation management of the Saker Falcon.



# Key points guiding the AMF approach

- Currently, Mongolia is the only Range State where CMS allows the legal taking of the Saker Falcon.
- The overall number (global number) of birds taken from the wild could be decided by a Quota Management System based on regular reports by the Range States.
- The Saker Falcon Quota Management System (QMS) - based on derived monitoring data over five years as a minimum, and re-adjustment of management practices as required.
- The Quota Management System could create financial incentives to manage wild Saker Falcon breeding populations in a sustainable way.



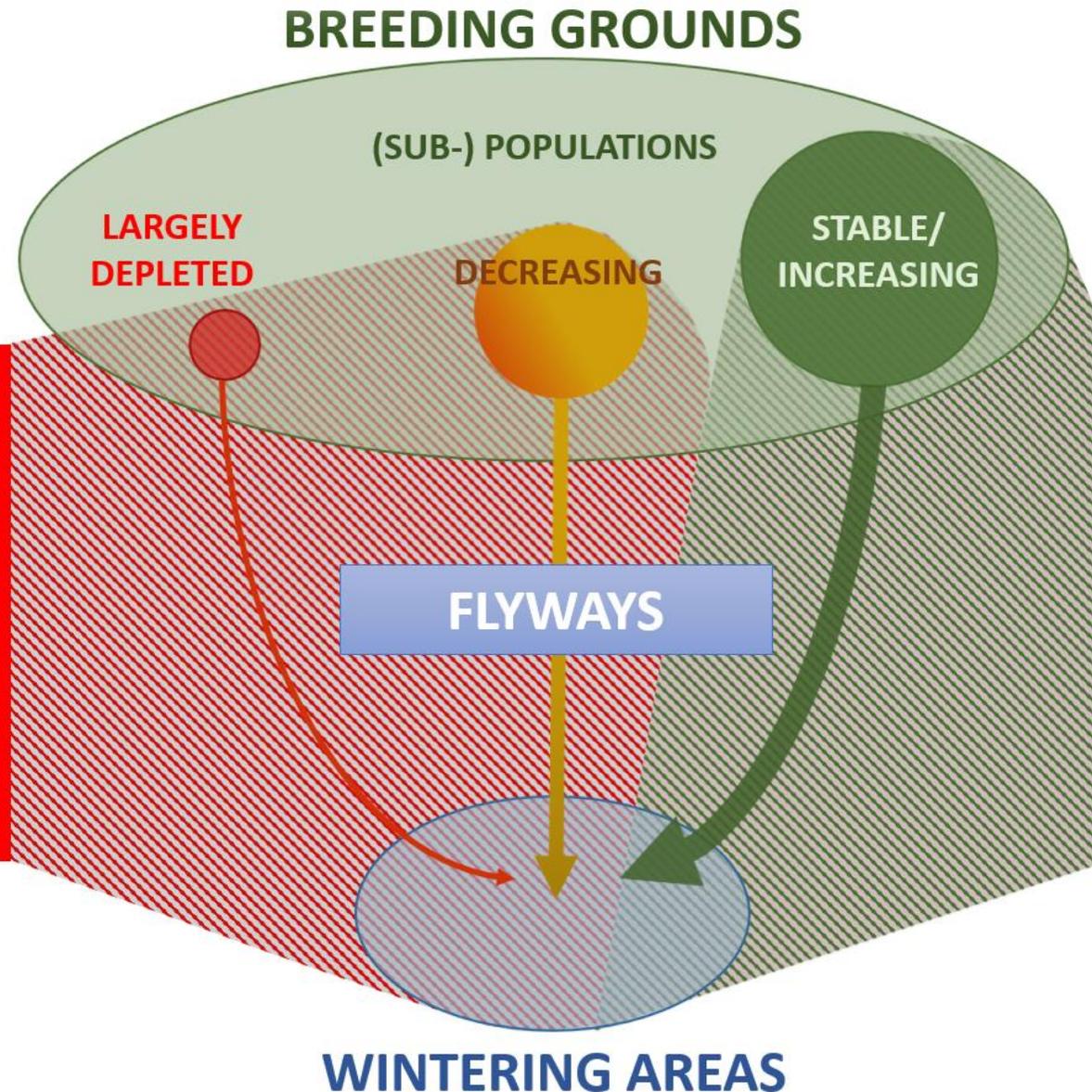
# Safety net features to be used

- A three-level (international, national, and local) governance and management hierarchy with collaboration between breeding and non-breeding Range States and stakeholders.
- Would bring together governments, regulators, conservation organisations and market players.
- Would need to be endorsed by Range States and by CMS and CITES.
- Must be evidence-based, follow available guidance and best practice, and takes a precautionary approach with regard to major knowledge gaps.
- Knowledge gaps are addressed through targeted research and monitoring.

# Safety net features to be used

- Legal protection of the Saker Falcon is in place in all Range States and effectively enforced.
- National laws ensure any use is managed sustainably through an AMF.
- Any taking of wild Saker Falcons must be traceable. The source population of trapped falcons must be identifiable.
- Wild falcons would be allowed to be taken only through a clearly defined process of licensing.
- Habitat conservation and management activities are implemented by national governments.
- Local communities would need to be involved in the implementation of the Adaptive Management Framework.

# Where can sustainable use potentially be applied?



## LIKELY UNSUSTAINABLE HARVEST/TRAPPING

- targets decreasing populations
- the origin of falcons is not identifiable

## SUSTAINABLE, LEGAL HARVEST/TRAPPING MAY BE ALLOWED IF

- safeguards are met
- the origin of falcons is identifiable

# Future options?

- The legal harvest and trapping could conditionally be allowed in larger, stable, and increasing Saker Falcon populations **only if safeguards for sustainability are met**, and the origin of falcons is identifiable.
- **Depleted and decreasing populations (e.g., in Europe) are not considered for use in this way to avoid overharvest.**

# Electrocution

- Objective 1 of the Saker GAP is to ‘Ensure that the impact of electrocution on the Saker Falcon is reduced significantly.
- The work has focussed on assessing the feasibility of developing a map of dangerous powerlines across the Saker range.
- The required information is widely dispersed amongst stakeholders at the national level.
- The key is to identify mitigation measures on dangerous powerlines in priority areas.
- A questionnaire is in development to help assess the existence and availability of such data.

# Electrocution

- A fieldwork approach is being taken in some key areas to identify dangerous powerlines, ownership, and subsequently to encourage mitigation.
- Combining both fieldwork and questionnaire-based data gathering will be used to help raise awareness of the global issue of electrocution and to target mitigation and prevention measures.
- It is recognised by the STF that work on electrocution in relation to the Saker Falcon has overlap with other birds of prey issues and initiatives (such as the CMS Energy Task Force).

# Future work

## Subject to future funding:

- Review the Global Action Plan to ensure it provides an updated strategy for action.
- Completion and implementation of the Adaptive Management Framework.
- Continue the focus on electrocution and work with partners including energy companies to reduce the problem.
- Reporting to the Raptor MoU and to the CMS CoP.

# Actions(s) requested

The meeting is invited to:

- a. Note the key conservation and management issues involved;
- b. Support the draft Resolution to be taken to the CMS Conference of the Parties later this year, and;
- c. Request that the work of the Saker Falcon Task Force continues to fully develop the Adaptive Management Framework for the species, and to update the Global Action Plan, especially in light of the growing threat to the species from electrocution.

# Thank you for your attention

- **Presenter**
- Colin Galbraith
- Chair of the Saker Task Force

