



**LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 Conservation of Falco cherrug
in the Carpathian basin**

Beneficiary: Bükk National Park Directorate
3304 EGER, Sánc u. 6. Hungary



International Conference

**CONSERVATION OF THE SAKER FALCON (*FALCO CHERRUG*) IN
EUROPE**

**Sharing results of the LIFE06 NAT/H/00096 Project “Conservation of *Falco
cherrug* in the Carpathian Basin”**

16-18 September 2010, Bükk National Park Directorate, Eger, Hungary

The conference was held on 16 – 18 September 2010 in Eger, Hungary. During the conference more than 70 experts from 10 countries reported and discussed the current conservation status of Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug* Gray, 1834) in Europe, the achievements up to now and challenges for the future. Based on all presentations and discussions the conference participants agreed on the following

Conclusions and Recommendations

- There is a shared common understanding among all conference participants that the conservation of the Saker Falcon in Europe is still a high priority goal in the European bird conservation.
- The conference participants recognise that in spite of all efforts and partial successes there are still common threats identified in the European distribution range.
- The conference participants have found that there is important new information resulted from recent Saker conservation projects that need to be included in the revised but officially not yet approved Saker Action Plan as well as national action plans.
- In order to further improve the conservation status of Saker Falcon in Europe and based on the conference results and findings, the conference participants recognise that there is an urgent need for following activities and actions in the near future:



Partners in Hungary: Aggtelek-, Balaton-, Duna-Dráva-, Duna-Ipoly-, Fertő-Hanság-, Hortobágy-, Kiskunság-, Körös-Maros -, Órség- National Park Directorates, E-misszió Environmental Association, MME/BirdLife Hungary, Provértes Public Foundation for Nature Conservation

Partners in Slovakia: Raptor Protection of Slovakia, The State Nature Conservation of Slovakia, SOS/BirdLife Slovakia, West-Slovak Electric Company



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- (1) The co-operation among all relevant organisations and stakeholders in the occurrence range of the Saker Falcon should be intensified. This concerns both all member states of the European Union as well as non-EU countries.
- (2) A revised version of the existing draft Saker Action Plan¹ should be officially approved by the European Commission and used by Member States and non-EU countries as a tool in the species' conservation. Efforts should be made in the implementation of the conservation measures proposed under the Saker Action Plan to combat all identified threats.
- (3) There is a need for more information on the migration routes and wintering areas outside the breeding range. As significant threats and substantial losses of the target species are expected outside of the EU territory, conservation plans and actions should consider also activities along the migration routes and in wintering locations.
- (4) In this respect there is an urgent need to establish European financial instruments allowing an efficient cooperation with non-EU member states and an efficient protection of migratory species also outside of the EU territory, for example by the improvement of the current LIFE programme.
- (5) Efficiency and feasibility of new methods for strengthening wild Saker populations should be examined and evaluated, including methods still not mentioned in the Saker Action Plan, e.g. the re-introduction of the species.
- (6) Working group consisting of all relevant stakeholders and experts on falcon hybrids should be established as instructed in the Saker Action Plan.
- (7) Involve countries in Saker conservation work that has not been involved especially those in the migration routes and wintering range of the species.
- (8) Sharing information with all relevant organisations, stakeholders and individual experts in *all* countries within the total occurrence range of the species should be established and/or intensified.

Eger, Hungary, 18 September 2010

¹ Compiled and approved in the "Workshop for the Conservation of the Saker in its European Range" coordinated by BirdLife Hungary, in February 2005 and discussed by the Standing Committee of the Convention On The Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats in December 2006. Available here: <http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/falche.pdf>



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