



An Adaptive Management Framework concept for the sustainable use of the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)

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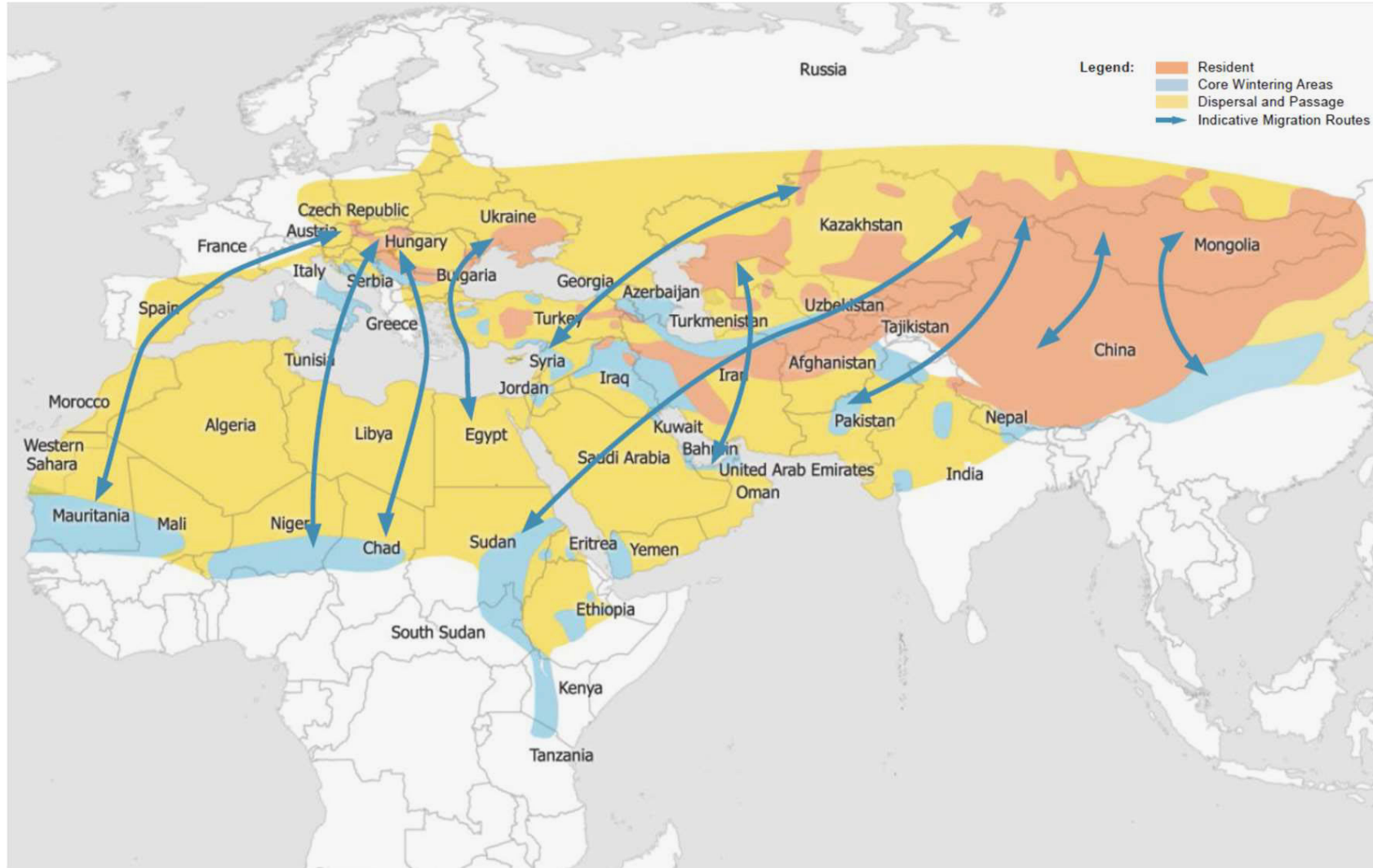
CMS Raptor MoU Secretariat



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



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The Saker Falcon Task Force (STF) and the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP)

- CMS COP10 established the **Saker Falcon Task Force (STF) in 2011**, to develop a coordinated Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP).
- **The SakerGAP was adopted** at CMS COP11 in **2014** and endorsed by Signatories to the Raptors MOU at the second Meeting of Signatories.

Implementation of the SakerGAP

– 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 sustainable use of the species.**
- Focussing on the impact of electrocution on populations throughout its range.

Objective 2 of the SakerGAP

- Ensure that where trapping and other forms of taking Saker Falcons from the wild are legal, they are controlled and sustainable, thereby encouraging population growth and eventual stabilization

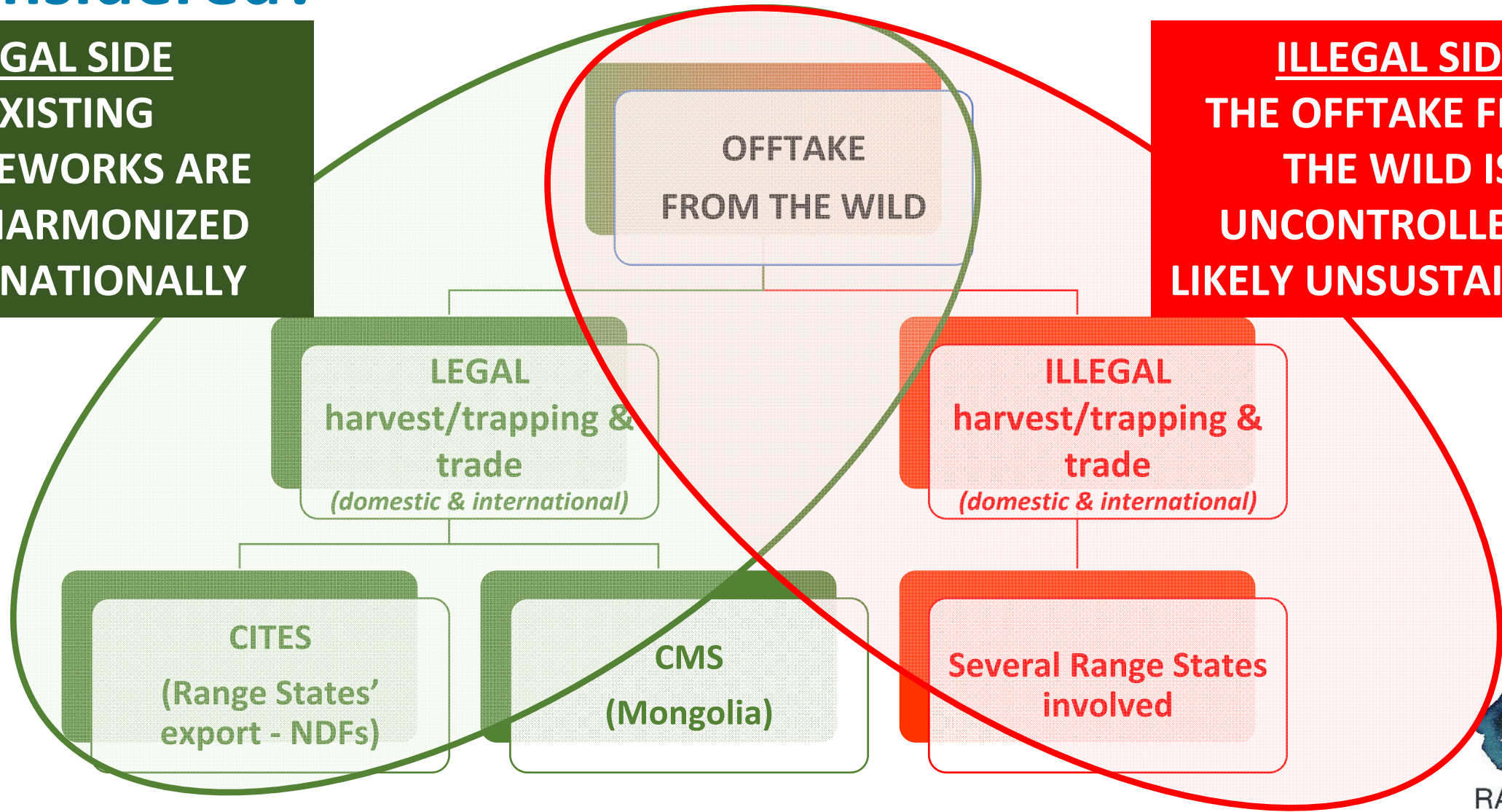


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Why is an AMF for sustainable use should be considered?

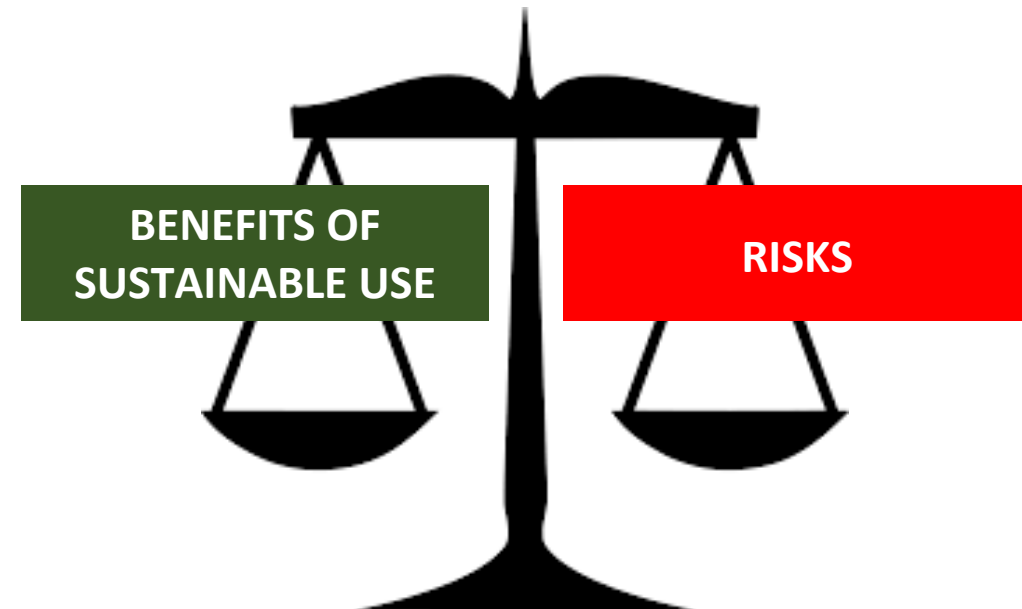
LEGAL SIDE
EXISTING
FRAMEWORKS ARE
NOT HARMONIZED
INTERNATIONALLY

ILLEGAL SIDE
THE OFFTAKE FROM
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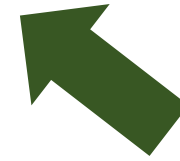


Need for an AMF and for increased control?

- Illegal harvest & trade – extremely challenging to monitor & control
- Legal harvest & trade – more chance to monitor & control with potential additional risks
- Can law enforcement change the situation?



Where can sustainable use potentially be applied?



Adaptive Management Framework (AMF) for the sustainable use of the Saker Falcon

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.

Decision-making process example (under discussion)

Future options?

- Maintaining the current status quo and trusting that improved law enforcement will reduce the illegal use of the Saker Falcon.
- 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 overharvesting.**

Future work

Subject to future funding:

- Completion and implementation of the Adaptive Management Framework.
- Review the Global Action Plan to ensure it provides an updated strategy for action.
- Reporting to the Raptor MoU and to the CMS CoP.

Acknowledgement

- Saker Falcon Task Force Members
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Thank you for your attention and support

- **Presenter**

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