

CMS Standing Committee Meeting

2-3 December 2009



National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia CMS report StC meeting in Bonn 2-3 December 2009

Two key activities were carried out by the Saudi Arabia related to CMS, i.e., (i) currently leading an initiative to finalize the Agreement on Asian Houbara bustard within the framework of CMS and (ii) assessing the status of Saker Falcon in collaboration with BirdLife International. Beside these Saudi Arabia is also working on the marine turtle conservation.

The Asian Houbara bustard *Chlamydotis undulata macqueenii*

It was informed to CMS that as soon as confirmation is received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Saudi Arabia on the agreement to offer its services as Agreement Depository for the Asian Houbara Bustard. The Saudi Arabia is open for the signature.

The NCWCD as a focal point for CMS in Saudi Arabia Are not interested to host the secretariat of Houbara Bustard Agreement. But to be the depository country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Saudi Arabia Arranged with Saudi Embassy in Berlin for that matter and soon we get confirm Information. Then the suitable procedures that would allow all interested States to sign, for example, requesting interested Parties to either authorize their ambassadors in Saudi Arabia to sign or to send letters of accession.

THE SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug*

A UNEP/CMS/Resolution 9.20 was adopted by the CoP9 Meeting (Rome 1-5 December 2008) and it was urged Parties to take action to improve the conservation status of the Saker Falcon across its range and to support a workshop to consider the status and conservation needs of the species, that was held in the United Arab Emirates in 2009; that it further *urges* Parties to assist in the delivery of a research programme, initially supported by Saudi Arabia, designed to re-evaluate vigorously the conservation status of the species across its range; and *requested* the Scientific Council at its 16th meeting to review progress taking account of the decision reached at its 15th meeting on the basis of the proposal to list the entire population of *Falco cherrug* on Appendix I of the Convention; and *strongly recommended* that a Party proposes the species for listing on Appendix I of the Convention at the next Conference of Parties unless there is a transparent and significant improvement in the conservation status of the species across its full range by that time, in particular it is no longer being considered by IUCN as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered. To evaluate the population of Saker Saudi Arabia organized a regional council meeting in collaboration with BirdLife International held on 15-16th November 2009, where all the GCC (Middle East) countries participated and updated the information on Saker Falcon. During the meeting, an interactive session was organized for regional assessment as per the SMS recommendations. And NCWCD in Saudi Arabia Arranged with birdlife international to conduct the evaluation study.

A different picture was suggested by more recent data, which were nevertheless still inadequate to serve as a basis for sound scientific judgment. It was therefore proposed that the decision on listing the Saker falcon be postponed until sufficient data were available, adding that the position was supported by Parties as Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, as well as by such non-Parties as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. It was further proposed that the issue be examined under the new MoU on African Eurasian Raptors.

At the 8th plenary session, the facilitator of the contact group on the Saker falcon indicated that a draft resolution on the issue would be submitted by Saudi Arabia, reflecting the contact group's agreement that the proposal to list the species in Appendix I to the Convention should be withdrawn.

