



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# Representative List

Original: English and French

## CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Fifth session  
Nairobi, Kenya  
November 2010

#### NOMINATION FILE NO. 00442 FOR INSCRIPTION ON THE REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN 2010

<b>A. STATE(S) PARTY(IES)</b>
<i>For multi-national nominations, States Parties should be listed in the order on which they have mutually agreed.</i>
United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic
<b>B. NAME OF THE ELEMENT</b>
<b>B.1. Name of the element in English or French</b>
<i>This is the official name of the element that will appear in published material about the Representative List. It should be concise. Please do not exceed 200 characters, including spaces and punctuation. The name should be transcribed in Latin Unicode characters (Basic Latin, Latin-1 Supplement, Latin Extended-A or Latin Extended Additional).</i>
Falconry, a living human heritage
<b>B.2. Name of the element in the language and script of the community concerned, if applicable</b>
<i>This is the official name of the element in the vernacular language corresponding to the official name in English or French (point B.1.). It should be concise. Please do not exceed 200 characters in Unicode (Latin or others), including spaces and punctuation.</i>
الصقارة، البيزرة، تبيازت، القنص، الصيد بالطير الحر

Falconry: Hawking, Chasse au vol, Sokolnictvi, Cetreria, Halconeria, valkerij, falkneri
<p><b>B.3. Other name(s) of the element, if any</b></p> <p><i>In addition to the official name(s) of the element (B.1.) please mention alternate name(s), if any, by which the element is known, in Unicode characters (Latin or others).</i></p>
In this submission 'falconry', 'falconer' and 'falcon' covers the use of all species of birds of prey (raptors), such as falcons, eagles, hawks, buzzards, etc.
<p><b>C. CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ELEMENT</b></p>
<p><b>C.1. Identification of the communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned</b></p> <p><i>According to the 2003 Convention, intangible heritage can only be identified with reference to communities, groups or individuals that recognize it as part of their cultural heritage. Thus it is important to identify clearly one or several communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned with the nominated element. The information provided should allow the Committee to identify the communities, groups or individuals concerned with an element, and should be mutually coherent with the information in sections 1 to 5 below.</i></p>
<p>Communities involved in falconry are villages and kinship groups, tribes, families and individuals, as well as organized falconry clubs, falconry heritage trusts and institutions. In addition, there are supporting agencies and associations such as falcon hospitals, breeding centres, conservation agencies, traditional falconry equipment makers, artists, poets, and professional falconers.</p> <p>Examples of specific communities are the following:</p> <p>Belgium: Belgian Federation for Falconry “Valkeniers.be”, which includes the following 4 clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belgische Vereniging voor Valkeniers en Havikeniers, BVVH vzw</li> <li>- Beoefenaars Vluchtbedrijf de Valkenier, BVdV vzw</li> <li>- Flanders Valkerij Academie, FVA vzw</li> <li>- Studiegroep Behoud Valkerij, SBV vzw</li> </ul> <p>and Belgische Valkerij Vereniging Club Maria van Bourgondie vzw</p> <p>Czech Republic: Klub Sokolníkù (Falconry Club of the Czech-Moravian Hunting Union)</p> <p>France: Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers Français</p> <p>Republic of Korea: Korean Falconers’ Association, Jeong-o Park (National Treasure), and Yong-soon Park</p> <p>Mongolia: Eagle Hunting is practised primarily by the Khazakh minorities in Bayan Ulgii Province, Mongolian Falconry Association, Mongolian Burkut (Eagle) Association.</p> <p>Morocco: Kwassems Oulad Frej Tribes in Abda-Doukkala Region, Association Marocaine des Fauconniers (Al Noubala), Association des Fauconniers d’Ouled Fraj pour la Chasse au Vol, Association de l’Éducation Environnementale et de la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc</p> <p>Qatar: Qatar Falconry Society</p> <p>Saudi Arabia: Villages and towns in the Eastern Region, Festival Nuairyah Province Spring Falconry Competition, National Authority for the Protection of Wildlife and its Development.</p> <p>Spain: Spanish Association for Falconry and Conservation of Raptors (AECCA), Real Gremio de Halconeros de España</p> <p>Syria: Al Rehaiba Falconry community</p> <p>United Arab Emirates: Tribal families and communities in the Western and Eastern regions of Abu Dhabi Emirate, Emirates Falconers’ Club, Emirates Heritage Club, Abu Dhabi Authority for</p>

Culture and Heritage (ADACH), Environment Agency -Abu Dhabi.

**C.2. Geographic location and range of the element and location of the communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned**

*This section should identify the range of distribution of the element, indicating if possible the geographic locations in which it is centred. If related elements are practiced in neighbouring areas, please so indicate.*

Falconry is practised along the migration routes used by falcons for thousands of years. Thus falconry is mainly found within these traditional migration flyways and corridors that run from north and east Asia and north Europe through Mediterranean Europe, the Middle East and the Caspian Sea countries to North Africa, and from North America, south to Central and South America.

Falconry is found in more than sixty countries. It depends on open terrain so that the falconer can follow the bird. Thus, habitat dictates the practicality of falconry and shapes its particular local variations of traditional styles. For example, in the deserts of Arabia, the open terrain allows the use of falcons that fly long distances, and the steppes of Asia permit the flying of both falcons and large eagles. However, in forested areas and mixed farmland, as found in much of Europe as well as Japan, parts of China and Republic of Korea, short-range birds, such as goshawks and sparrow hawks, are preferred. Spain provides opportunities to fly both short and long-wing birds of prey according to varying habitat.

Falconry retains an unbroken tradition in central and east Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and most parts of Europe. Following a decline in 18-19th century Europe, it is recovering and provides a link to the countryside by increasingly urban populations. When settlers from Europe reached the Americas, southern Africa and Australasia, they took many of their traditions along with them, including falconry.

In most countries falconry is a stable minority activity. However, in some countries, rapid urbanisation has restricted the opportunity to practise falconry and leading to a decline. The migration from the countryside to towns is a major threat to rural-based traditions.

**C.3. Domain(s) represented by the element**

*Identify concisely the domain(s) of intangible cultural heritage manifested by the element, which might include one or more of the domains identified in Article 2.2 of the Convention. (This information will be used primarily for visibility, if the element is inscribed.)*

While falconry incorporates all five domains in Article 2.2 of the Convention, two domains are particularly important: 'social practice, rituals and festive events', and 'knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe'. Falconry has social, cultural, and educational significance along with its recreational value. Groups of falconers have developed their own social and ritual practices over millennia. Since falconry is intimately involved with nature, practitioners gain field skills and knowledge about nature. Falconry has also given rise to special language and expressions, artistic representations such as literature, poetry, proverbs, idioms, songs, sculpture and painting, and a variety of handcrafted falconry equipment.

**D. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ELEMENT**

*The brief description of the element will be particularly helpful in allowing the Committee to know at a glance what element is being proposed for inscription, and, in the event of inscription, will be used for purposes of visibility. It should be a summary of the description provided in point 1 below but is not an introduction to that longer description.*

Falconry is the traditional activity of keeping and training falcons to take quarry in its natural state, and has been practised for more than 4000 years. It probably evolved in the steppes of

Asia, and spread via cultural and trade links to other countries.

Falconry as intangible cultural heritage is integrated into communities as a social recreational practice and a means of connecting with nature. Originally a way of obtaining food, falconry has acquired other values over the centuries, and is identified with camaraderie, sharing, and expressions of freedom. Nowadays falconry is practised by people of all ages in local communities in more than sixty countries.

Falconry has its own set of culturally-shaped traditions and ethics; while falconers come from different backgrounds, they share universal values, traditions and practices. Falconry is transmitted from generation to generation as a cultural tradition by a variety of means, such as mentoring, learning within families, or formalized training in clubs.

Falconry provides modern man with links to nature and strengthens local identities. It is an important cultural symbol in many countries. The modern practice of falconry aims at safeguarding not only falcons, quarry, and habitats but also the practice itself as a living cultural tradition.

## 1. IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF THE ELEMENT (CF. CRITERION R.1)

*This is the key section of the nomination to satisfy criterion R.1: “The element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention”. A clear and complete explanation is essential to demonstrate that the nominated element meets the Convention’s definition of intangible heritage. This section should address all the significant features of the element as it exists at present, and should include:*

- a. *an explanation of its social and cultural functions and meanings today, within and for its community,*
- b. *the characteristics of the bearers and practitioners of the element,*
- c. *any specific roles or categories of persons with special responsibilities towards the element,*
- d. *the current modes of transmission of the knowledge and skills related to the element.*

*The Committee should receive sufficient information to determine:*

- a. *that the element is among the “practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills — as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith —”;*
- b. *“that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize [it] as part of their cultural heritage”;*
- c. *that it is being “transmitted from generation to generation, [and] is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history”;*
- d. *that it provides communities and groups involved with “a sense of identity and continuity”;*  
*and*
- e. *that it is not incompatible with “existing international human rights instruments as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development”.*

*Overly technical descriptions should be avoided and submitting States should keep in mind that this section must explain the element to readers who have no prior knowledge or direct experience of it. Nomination files need not address in detail the history of the element, or its origin or antiquity.*

The practice of falconry:

Falconry is one of the oldest relationships between human and bird, dating back more than 4000 years. Falconry is the traditional art and cultural practice of flying falcons to take quarry in its natural habitat. The falcon and her prey have evolved together over millions of years; their interaction is an age-old drama. The falconer’s task is to bring the actors together on nature’s stage.

Falconry is practised by people of all ages, men and women, amateurs and professionals. Falconers develop a strong relationship and spiritual bond with their birds; commitment is

required to breed, train, handle and fly falcons. Falconers come from all walks of life, societies, cultures, linguistic and religious backgrounds. Falconry shapes the lives of practitioners, as individuals, in families, villages, and clubs. Falconry practitioners are the essential leaders for the conservation of birds of prey.

Falconry probably evolved in the steppes of Asia, and spread via cultural and trade links to other countries, first to Europe, North Africa and East Asia and later in the 16th century to the rest of the world. The practice of falconry in early and medieval periods of history is documented in many parts of the world.

Falconry as intangible cultural heritage:

Falconry as intangible cultural heritage is integrated into communities as a social recreational practice and a means of connecting with nature. Originally a way of obtaining food, falconry has acquired other values over the centuries, and is identified with camaraderie, sharing, and expressions of freedom. Nowadays falconry is practised in local communities in more than sixty countries.

While falconers come from different backgrounds, they share universal values, traditions and practices. For example, the methods of training and caring for birds, the equipment used and the bonding between falconer and the bird are similar throughout the world. Falconers can understand each other by simple gestures; it is these shared traditions and knowledge that make falconry universal and keep it alive. Although the principles of falconry are universal, constraints of terrain and types of quarry have led to a fascinating diversity of cultural traditions. Over a hundred species of birds of prey have been trained using falconry techniques. In addition, other animals, such as horses and specific breeds of dog, have been associated with falconry. In Arabia the traditions of the camel and the saluki hound are intertwined with falconry.

Falconry expresses itself in multiple cultural domains, in particular 'social practices, rituals and festive events', as well as 'knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe'. These include traditional skills, traditional knowledge about the biology and behaviour of birds and the environment, the making of traditional falconry equipment, as well as linguistic and artistic expressions found in idioms, painting, sculpture, poetry, rituals and music.

Falconry is a dynamic tradition, evolving within the wider socio-economic and cultural transformations in modern societies. While falconry traditions are adapting to changing times, such as the use of radio-tracking equipment, some groups still keep their local traditional costumes. For example, Mongolian, Korean and Belgian falconers have special jackets, headbands, and buttons respectively indicating identities. To identify their birds, Korean falconers attach two white feathers to the falcon's tail, and some European falconers attach a bell to the bird's leg.

Community of falconers:

Falconers regard themselves as a group, thus reinforcing the cultural values of sharing, interdependence and mutual support. Falconry has its own set of culturally-shaped traditions and ethics, including how to cooperate as a hunting group. A bond of 'almkhuwa' (brotherhood, UAE) or 'al-shareek' (partner ethics, Saudi Arabia) governs the behaviour of falconers. Almkhuwa signifies a bond of companionship and equal sharing of tasks, costs and responsibilities during the hunting trip. There are usually groups of six to twelve falconers on an excursion of one to three weeks. After a day of falconry, they sit around the camp fire and recount stories and anecdotes of the day, often composing poems. For the almkhuwa group, falconry is the means to enjoy a cultural tradition that celebrates the camaraderie of falconers in the open desert.

European falconers often join together in special social events, such as field meets. The camaraderie experienced by the falconers can be summed up by the Czech statement, "We do not hunt for the quarry itself, but for all the other nice experiences during the hunting". At the end of the day the prey may be honoured by speeches and the blowing of horns. In many European countries, such as Belgium, Czech Republic, and Spain, it is a tradition to hold mass in churches for certain patron saints of falconry to pray for successful hunts. In Arabia, falconers utter God's name over the bird or animal caught by his falcon.

Falconry creates a sense of pride and identity within the larger community. For example, the Kwasseem tribe of central western Morocco gained prestige and recognition of their practice of

falconry over centuries, and the receipt of letters of praise from the Sultans distinguishes them from other tribal communities. Some families of practitioners are so well known that they carry the family name of Biaz (falconer).

Transmitting knowledge, skills and heritage:

Falconry is transmitted from generation to generation as a cultural tradition by a variety of means, such as mentoring, learning within families, or formalized training in clubs. Because falconry is essentially a practical activity, the main method of non formal education is mentoring, where an experienced falconer instructs the beginner and demonstrates techniques. Informal methods of transferring knowledge often occur within families, which is typical in Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE. Falconers take their children to the desert and give them training in how to handle and build a relationship of trust with the bird, which is often treated as part of the family. This is a long process that leads the falcon to recognize the falconer's voice. It also includes developing skills such as feeding and holding the falcon on the fist, and calling the falcon by swinging a lure.

These centuries-old methods are equally effective for transmitting cultural values and traditions. In many Middle Eastern countries, where most nomadic Bedouin have settled in towns within one generation, falconry is one of the few remaining links with the desert and their traditional culture and ways of life. As stated by Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed, Chairman of Emirates Falconers Club, "Falconry lets our children experience the magic of the desert and instil in them the virtues of patience, strong will and brotherhood that are as important today as they have been for generations".

More formal systems of learning have been developed in many falconry groups and clubs and have led to apprenticeship schemes, and courses for nationally recognized certificates. For example, in the Czech Republic, the candidate must pass an official state examination to become a legal falconer. The practical knowledge of falconry has also been documented over the centuries as a way of ensuring the continuity of the practice; the 13th century book, "De Arte Venandi cum Avibus (The Art of Hunting with Birds)", by Frederick II is still widely referred to today. Falconry is also taught in schools; in Belgium children use a book on falconry to learn to read Flemish.

In recent times falconry has seen a renaissance because it strengthens local identities and provides links to nature. The process of transmitting falconry heritage from one generation to the next activates not only the historical memory of the falconry community but also enriches its cultural identity.

Artistic and symbolic significance:

Falconry has also inspired artistic creativity, with a rich heritage of books, manuscripts, poetry and painting. Art provides numerous artefacts depicting falconers, testifying to the historical depth of this tradition. The falcon is an important cultural symbol in many countries, and is used widely in postage stamps, money, and coats of arms; it is the official state emblem in several Arab and European nations. The gift of falcons has also been used in diplomacy throughout history. Falcons have been used to name children and human settlements. In Mongolia, during the national festival competition, wrestlers perform the 'eagle dance' showing the power and beauty of its flight.

Conservation and sustainable development:

Falconry depends on the sustainable use of wildlife resources, and falconers are deeply involved in looking after those resources. Falconry is by its nature a low-impact activity; falconers understand the concept of 'sustainable use', and their traditions and ethics are designed with this in mind. Currently the practice of falconry in most countries takes into consideration the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the 1992 Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). As countries become increasingly urbanized, falconers are proposing that areas of land be kept in their natural state to ensure the survival of all plant and animal species. Sheikh Zayed commented on the sustainability of nature, "...it is not what you catch that is important, it is what you leave behind."

## **2. CONTRIBUTION TO ENSURING VISIBILITY AND AWARENESS AND TO ENCOURAGING DIALOGUE (CF. CRITERION R.2)**

*The nomination should demonstrate (Criterion R.2) that "Inscription of the element will contribute to ensuring visibility and awareness of the significance of the intangible cultural heritage and to encouraging dialogue, thus reflecting cultural diversity worldwide and testifying to human creativity".*

*Please explain how the element's inscription on the Representative List will contribute to ensuring visibility of the intangible cultural heritage and will raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of its importance. This section need not address how inscription will bring greater visibility to the element, but how its inscription will contribute to the visibility of intangible cultural heritage more broadly.*

*Explain how inscription will promote respect for cultural diversity and human creativity, and will promote mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals.*

Inscription of falconry on the UNESCO Representative List will increase the visibility, and status of this unique, living, traditional cultural element at local, national and international levels. At the same time, it will promote awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage in general.

Communities which practise falconry ensure through their clubs, societies and communal festivals that falconry is viewed within the context of its wider cultural heritage, such as traditional falconry handicrafts (the handmade jess, glove, hood, leashes, bells), traditional costumes, popular poetry, and communal rituals and celebrations. In addition, international falconry gatherings celebrate not only falconry heritage, but also other aspects of the cultural heritage of the different communities taking part, such as traditional dress, food, folk songs, music and dance. UNESCO recognition will contribute to the safeguarding and sustainability of these cultural traditions in all countries that practice falconry.

Falconry is practised in many different cultures, and in countries which are geographically separate. The traditions of falconry in individual countries cannot be strictly separated, since they have been diffused and passed on in the course of history. A falconer's bird is always flying somewhere in the world; as a Korean falconer settles his bird for the night, a French falconer prepares his bird for a day of flight. Falconry is not restricted to a particular season or locale, and its inscription on the UNESCO Representative List as an intangible cultural element would raise its profile in many communities worldwide. It would give far reaching publicity to both intangible cultural heritage and UNESCO's mission.

### **Ensuring visibility of intangible cultural heritage:**

Falconry is carried out in the countryside, and can easily be overlooked by the urban public. Therefore, falconers have made active efforts to promote this rich cultural heritage. They conduct public displays with their birds at a wide variety of venues and events, including exhibitions, heritage events, historical castles, festivals and country fairs. This practice gives the general public a feeling for the beauty and exhilaration of falconry. At national and international levels, falconers hold many events and field meets which are also open to the public. Recently more than 10,000 people visited the international falconry festival held in Reading, UK in July 2009, and a similar number, including 5,000 school children, had the opportunity to view the falconry display in ADIHEX 2009 (UAE). Events such as these have led to increased dialogue between falconers and the general public, encouraging a spirit of cooperation to the benefit of society and nature.

Falconry captures the fascination and interest of the young, and falconry practice is well suited to raise awareness of intangible cultural heritage among the younger generation. There are already well established programmes in many countries to present falconry to youth. Many falconers visit schools with their falcons to explain their skills and traditions. They also provide experience days in which members of the public can participate and experience the magic of a bird of prey landing on the fist. Falconry transcends generations and borders, and the UAE continues developing an international programme for school children to make visits and correspond with schools in other countries using falconry as the medium linking them together. Falconry is being used in Arab countries to introduce youth to desert life and other aspects of their cultural heritage.

The practice of falconry has also spurred the production of numerous cultural programmes on television and other forms of media, the publication of illustrated books, magazines, children's literature, communal celebrations and festivals.

Inscription on the UNESCO Representative List will help promote this interface between falconry and the general public and media. Inscription would greatly contribute to the active efforts of falconers to promote the visibility of falconry as intangible cultural element. This could be particularly important where falconry is practised in traditional village or tribal communities, such as Mongolia, Syria, Morocco and the UAE. This in turn will increase public appreciation of falconry and raise public awareness of intangible cultural heritage in general.

**Encouraging dialogue and respect for cultural diversity and human creativity:**

Falconers also gather together to celebrate the various arts and techniques of practising falconry. Some falconry events are international, the largest being the International Festival of Falconry which attracts falconers from more than 50 countries, and gives an opportunity for each country to display its particular cultural traditions. As a national example, a large traditional meet is held in the Czech Republic over three days each October in Opočno castle. Similar events are carried out in many countries and these communal displays of rich and diverse cultures and heritage promote dialogue and mutual respect for cultural diversity, to the benefit of both falconers and the general public.

Falconry is a practice found worldwide, and there are many countries actively involved with falconry in addition to the participating states to this nomination. Cooperation among all these falconers through websites, forums and international meetings has already led to increased dialogue. There is increased awareness of and respect for the diversity of cultural traditions of these countries as well as falconry cultural practices, which are the result of human creativity. The universal values of falconry have created a link which transcends generations, nationality, geography, politics and religion, and helps to create understanding and bridges between nations.

**Raising awareness of the importance of ICH at local, national and international levels:**

UNESCO recognition of falconry will generate greater interest in the intangible cultural heritage of communities in general, as falconry culture is diffused within multiple elements of ICH.

There are a number of cultural spaces and artefacts which are important historically because they link falconry to our past. These include buildings, such as the castles of Emperor Frederick II, stone monuments and carvings such as the carved Falconer on Bewcastle Cross (670 AD) in UK, frescoes and depictions of falconers on pottery and in metalwork. Old forts in modern Gulf cities are used as a celebration space of falconry and other heritage activities during certain national festival days. UNESCO recognition for falconry would help to highlight use of traditional historical sites and spaces and would contribute both to their preservation and to the public recognition of their significance in our heritage.

Falconry continues to inspire artistic creativity, as evidenced by medieval tapestries from Belgium, France and Spain, a rich heritage of the written word in books, manuscripts and poetry, and modern paintings, urban sculptures and symbols.

With UNESCO support, falconry can increase its integration with related heritage activities. The inscription will empower falconers and their communities to enhance these wide ranging falconry practices, and thus raise community awareness of ICH in general. For example, in the Czech Republic the falconry community played a major role in encouraging Parliament to ratify the UNESCO ICH Convention.

**Promotion of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals:**

The preparation of this multinational submission itself has led to increased dialogue among nations, increasing knowledge, awareness and promoting mutual respect of the cultural diversity of the different falconry communities, groups and individuals. It has also led to increasing cooperation among the participating states on many other aspects of intangible cultural heritage.

Inscription on the Representative List would help falconry communities have a recognized place in modern society. Especially where falconry as traditional heritage is facing challenges, as in the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and Morocco (and other countries out of the submission such as Algeria and Vietnam), these falconry communities would gain much-needed support. Support



can come from government agencies and NGOs, but especially from communities of falconers in other countries, who in recognising their plight, can provide the specialist aid that they need.

### **Environmental Conservation:**

Falconers have an important role to play as guardians of the environment, our natural heritage. Because falconers depend on healthy populations of falcons, of their quarry species and of falconry grounds, they are quick to notice problems in the environment. Falconers regularly take action if they notice environmental degradation, whether it is pesticides, dangerous electricity poles, increasing fencing or despoliation by commercial developments. Because of their professional role and skills, falconers in many countries are involved in the health management and rehabilitation of injured birds of prey. Their general concern for conservation will be aided by UNESCO recognition because it will give falconry communities a stronger voice in promoting public awareness of environmental issues as well as related intangible cultural heritage traditions.

### **3. SAFEGUARDING MEASURES (CF. CRITERION R.3)**

*Items 3.a. to 3.c. request the elaboration of a coherent set of safeguarding measures as called for in Criterion R.3: "Safeguarding measures are elaborated that may protect and promote the element". Such measures should reflect the broadest possible participation of the communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned, both in their formulation and in their implementation.*

#### **3.a. Current and recent efforts to safeguard the element**

*Please describe the current and recent efforts of the concerned communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals to ensure the viability of the element. Describe efforts of the concerned State(s) Party(ies) to safeguard the element, taking note of external or internal constraints, such as limited resources.*

As a safeguarding measure, many falconry countries have formalized the transmission of heritage from one generation to the next by setting up mentoring and apprenticeship schemes. They have established clubs, teams ('equipages') and groups that meet regularly and host visiting speakers and events. In Asian countries, falconry continues to be transmitted in tribal, extended family and friendship groupings.

As additional safeguarding measures, countries such as Belgium, Czech Republic, France and the UAE have established museums and heritage research institutions to record and protect their falconry artefacts, original documents and art. In many countries, similar efforts have been made to collect and preserve falconry heritage, such as language, poetry, proverbs, songs, paintings and sculptures, as well as encouraging the production of falcon-related handicrafts.

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of books, magazines, artwork and films relating to falconry, which have helped to raised public awareness.

At the national level, falconers have formed themselves into national clubs and federations. These have enabled them to develop clear lines of representation to national authorities.

At the international level, national clubs have linked together to form the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), with 40,000 members excluding China. Falconers are also represented by the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC). These NGOs represent the interests of falconers in matters of international legislation, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Various internet forums have been set up for falconers to promote international communication and cultural dialogue. The University of Valladolid (Spain) has a website for Archives of IberoAmerican Falconry.

As part of social responsibility, falconers have established conservation and breeding programmes to ensure sustainable populations of both falcons and quarry. For example, rapid urbanization in the Gulf region has motivated environmental agencies to designate large desert

areas as national wildlife conservation parks. Areas managed for sustainable falconry provide homes for a multitude of other species, and serve to maintain the heritage and place of falconry in society.

- The UAE has established several institutions to promote the welfare of falconry, including several falcon hospitals. The Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital was established in 1999 in Swaihan, 40km east of Abu Dhabi city. It is regarded as the first public institution in the world providing comprehensive veterinary services exclusively for falcons. It is affiliated to the Environment Agency in Abu Dhabi, and it is staffed by about 20 veterinary specialists. The hospital has a wide patient base that serves the UAE and neighbouring Gulf countries, and received 4,600 birds in 2007. In addition to the regular medical units, ADFH has summer molting wards, a mobile clinic, falconry health insurance, and a unit that promotes public awareness of health and disease issues in falcons, encourages good husbandry, and highlights the importance of the falcon to Arab cultural heritage. The falcon hospitals will continue internship programmes for local and overseas veterinarians wishing to specialize in falcon medicine. The UAE has also established falcon passports to facilitate falconers travelling with their falcons, and is spearheading initiatives for conservation of migratory birds of prey with an MOU under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
- Qatar has established a heritage area (open air museum) where falconry is displayed.
- Falconers in the Czech Republic provide technical support for wildlife conservation.
- Spanish falconers, at the request of the government, are leading 'breeding in captivity' programmes for endangered species like the Imperial eagle and Bonelli's eagle.
- Since 1971 falconers in France have collaborated with ecologists for the official protection of falcons.
- The two practitioners in Republic of Korea present falconry to the general public each spring.
- In some countries, falconers have pioneered the captive breeding of about 58 species, both for release to the wild and for falconry. Prominent amongst these is the Peregrine Fund of North America, which through a vast network of individual volunteers has succeeded in reintroducing peregrines into the wild to the extent that they are no longer endangered.

### **3.b. Safeguarding measures proposed**

*For the Representative List, the safeguarding measures are those that may help to solidify the element's current viability and to ensure that its viability is not jeopardized in the future, especially as an unintended result of inscription and the resulting visibility and public attention.*

*Identify and describe the various safeguarding measures that are elaborated that may, if implemented, protect and promote the element, and provide brief information concerning, for example, their priority, scope, approaches, timetables, responsible persons or bodies, and costs.*

The viability of falconry depends on five essential pillars for its survival. These are: 1) Falconers, 2) Falcons, 3) Habitats, 4) Quarry Species and 5) Place in Society. Future plans therefore hinge on safeguarding measures for each of these.

#### **1. The Falconers.**

It is important to encourage young people and urban dwellers to take up falconry. Proposed measures include expanding falconry and environmental awareness programmes in schools, and establishing falconry clubs for youth. Falconers also need a legislative framework to enable them to continue practising falconry.

Concrete safeguarding measures include:

- The French Association (ANFA) in 2009 signed a convention with the National Federation of Hunters (FNC) to train their technicians on methods to teach young people how to obtain falconry permits.
- In Morocco, a program to ensure the transmission of falconry to future generations will be implemented in 2010, in collaboration with falconers and with the financial support of national authorities.

- Mongolia will introduce support measures by 2011 to protect intangible heritage in general and falconry in particular, including the nomination of some falconers as 'living human treasures' and the establishment of a heritage museum.
- The local governments in the Republic of Korea will continue their support of falconry by giving monthly allowances of \$700 to the two practitioners.
- At the international level, the Falconry Heritage Trust has raised an endowment fund of \$1,630,000 and will provide scholarships for the study of falconry heritage, to be recorded on an international electronic archive available to all.

## **2. The Falcons.**

Nowadays wild falcons face hazards, such as pesticides, habitat loss and degradation, which reduce their populations. Falconers are making efforts to ensure the sustainability of these populations at national and international levels as follows:

- The Sheikh Zayed Release Programme, established in 1995, has already released more than 1000 falcons, and it will continue to re-establish falcon populations back into their breeding grounds in Asia.
- In Mongolia, a large-scale artificial nest programme for saker falcons, which will also support local herding communities, is being pioneered with the support of the UAE and the agreement of CITES.
- Qatar will continue to support a falconry hospital and falcon breeding programme.

## **3. The Habitats.**

Falconers are making great efforts in all their countries to retain significant areas of land with natural habitat. This benefits not only the falconer but also other wildlife and communities in the area. Efforts to preserve falconry areas will be supported at both national and international levels, and by greater awareness in the media.

- In France, a Foundation for the Safeguarding of Habitats has been established which will obtain and conserve suitable grounds.
- The Environment Agency Abu Dhabi is developing a system of managed areas protected from development, where falconry will continue on a sustainable basis using traditional methods. The priority is to inspire young Falconers to link up with their ancestral desert heritage and skills. This will be completed in 2014, with a budget of \$7,600,000.

## **4. The Quarry.**

Many falconers breed and reintroduce quarry species in order to maintain sustainable populations. In many European countries, there are ongoing agriculture and environmental measures to provide suitable habitats for quarry species, such as grey partridge and brown hare.

- Morocco will continue the collaboration with the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi and the Falconers Club to release more than 5000 Houbara per year into the eastern desert. A budget of \$6,250,000 has been allocated in 2010 for this project.

## **5. Safeguarding falconry's place in society**

Falconry communities also need a recognized place in some national societies. Therefore falconry will be promoted through activities such as rural events, traditional country fairs, conferences, workshops and publications. Examples are:

- The citizens of Ghent (Belgium) will continue their tradition every October of celebrating the patron saint of falconers, Saint Bavo (~600AD), in the cathedral. Falconers carrying falcons, and in their traditional costumes, are actively involved in the mass, which is also seen as the beginning of a new season for falconry. Several groups of traditionally dressed hunting horn blowers and the choir of the Saint-Bavo cathedral provide musical intermezzos. This is a very popular event and the cathedral is packed. After the celebration, there is a procession to the market square, where everyone in the community is invited to celebrate the day. In the same tradition, the Bishop of Ghent annually organises a day for confirmation, called Bavo-day, for children. All the children will carry a falcon cut from cardboard to symbolise Saint Bavo.
- France in 2010 will create a Foundation that will offer all the private archives held by French falconers to the International Museum of Hunting and Falconry in Gien, so that this heritage will

be accessible to the public.

- Saudi Arabia will continue the annual traditional falconry skills event under the name of Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud, to support local falconers and their culture.
- In the Republic of Korea, the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre has been established. The Centre will document ICH items including falconry, and build up a network of ICH researchers in the region and beyond. The government has allocated \$100 million for the 2010 operation of this centre.
- In Spain the royal group of falconers, established for more than 1000 years, will continue a programme of public engagements.
- Qatar has approved a project to carry out a field study of falconry heritage traditions, and will produce an annual report on falconry published by the Ministry of Culture.
- In Morocco there is a project to establish a museum for falconry in 2012 in Al Jedida town, with the support of the local government and falconry associations.
- In Syria, preparations are underway for the falconry festival to be held in al Rhaiba town in 2010, which will feature a carnival, performances and parades by falconers' groups, in addition to cultural, artistic and performance events.
- The UAE has plans to establish a Bedouin cultural museum by 2015, which will include falconry heritage. There is also a programme to develop high quality facsimiles of medieval falconry manuscripts for increased accessibility to the public and future research.
- IAF shall, through its channels, continuously reflect the diversity of falconry practices and raise awareness about the importance of falconry as intangible cultural heritage. IAF will continue to allocate an annual sum in the order of \$15,000 for its awareness-raising, information and publication activities aimed at the general public.
- The group of falconry countries involved in this UNESCO submission created an action group to cooperate and support falconry heritage issues, with special priority to countries where these traditions are being eroded.

Falconers in quite distant communities are increasingly interacting with each other. While evolution is a natural process to be encouraged to keep the element strong, this cultural homogenization can threaten the more colourful and local aspects of falconry heritage. Therefore future safeguards intend to draw a balance between development and the retention of some regional cultural particularities, such as falconry costumes, music, social practices, handicrafts, idioms, expressions, symbols, celebrated traditions, aesthetical and literary representations.

### **3.c. Commitment of communities, groups or individuals concerned**

*The feasibility of safeguarding depends in large part on the aspirations and commitment of the communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned. This section should provide evidence that the communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned have the will and commitment to safeguard the element if conditions are favourable. The best evidence will often be an explanation of their involvement in past and ongoing safeguarding measures and of their participation in the formulation and implementation of future safeguarding measures, rather than simple pledges or affirmations of their support or commitment.*

Falconers are determined to maintain and pass on their traditions to future generations. Hundreds of individual falconers, from many countries including those yet to sign the Convention, have given practical support to this submission. For example, they have submitted photographs and materials, held club meetings, and funded delegates to attend preparatory meetings. They have demonstrated their strong interest and commitment to maintain falconry as an intangible cultural heritage.

This submission has also been supported by local, national and international associations, and other falconry communities. Examples are :

- In the Czech Republic, the local communities, the Czech Falconry Club, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the National Forests, support the cost of organizing large falconry events, such

as in Opočno castle, to the amount of \$20,000 every year. This will be extended to include private and public sponsorship schemes by 2013. The Czech Falconry Club is very active in promoting falconry, and attends relevant national agricultural, hunting and environmental exhibitions 4 times a year. It organizes an educational workshop for participants from the general public and authorities every 3 years; it organizes falconry exams annually, and it runs quarterly preparatory courses and seminars on falconry. The Falconry Club publishes an annual newsletter and a wide range of promotional materials about falconry, such as information leaflets, brochures, CDs and DVDs, and promotes activities on its website. The club regularly communicates with the local media to raise awareness about falconry.

- In Mongolia, the Community Association for Preservation and Conservation of Golden Eagles organizes an annual falconry meet. Their culture of flying eagles from horseback in the steppes is becoming well known internationally.
- The various falconry associations in Spain have developed a successful breeding programme for birds of prey and there is a specific university programme on falconry studies.
- Falconry communities have supported international festivals with local costumes and cultural traditions. UAE will host the next International Festival of Falconry in 2011, and there is a budget of \$4.9 million for the cultural activities associated with this festival.
- The Middle East Falcon Research Group brings together field biologists, falconers and veterinarians, and publishes a bi-annual specialist journal, Falco, on falconry issues.
- As representative bodies of the falconry community, IAF, FACE and CIC safeguard all aspects of falconry at the international level. The IAF will compile and update regularly an inventory of international cultural elements of falconry.

### **3.d. Commitment of State(s) Party(ies)**

*The feasibility of safeguarding also depends on the support and cooperation of the concerned State(s) Party(ies). This section should provide evidence that the State Party concerned has the commitment to support the safeguarding effort by creating favourable conditions for its implementation and should describe how the State Party has previously and will in the future demonstrate such commitment. Declarations or pledges of support are less informative than explanations and demonstrations.*

State parties, by coming together and cooperating to bring forward the largest multi-national submission, have demonstrated their strong commitment to safeguarding falconry and to the principles of the Convention. In addition to the actions already presented in this submission:

- In 1986 the Saudi Government established the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development, with the responsibility to protect all forms of wildlife including birds of prey. This organisation has defined 16 large natural reserves in different regions of the country, and carried out comprehensive surveys of wildlife and scientific research into wildlife ecology. It has initiated breeding programmes for the Houbara bustard, and implemented a satellite monitoring system for falcons. It organizes many cultural festivals across the country to popularize and preserve falconry heritage, and has run media campaigns on the importance of preserving and protecting wildlife. In 1986 the allocated budget was \$4.8 million, and this has increased to \$23 million.
- In Mongolia the government and local authorities are helping the minorities which hunt with eagles by promoting ecotourism, which generates income for the communities and enables them to continue practising falconry and remain in this harsh environment rather than migrate into towns.
- In Syria the Ministry of Culture is supporting falconers by conducting a comprehensive survey to identify the needs and the number of falconers, who are mostly found in Al Reheaba town, Palmyra and in the Raqqa region of northeast Syria.
- Qatar has established an open air museum which includes falconry, and has provided the Falconers' Club with a new building.
- The UAE, through its relevant government agencies, has resourced breeding programmes for falcons, houbara bustards and desert hares, as well as research and conservation programmes for saker and peregrine falcons throughout Asia. Abu Dhabi is allocating 250 sq. km. of land for falconry and conservation. The budget allocated for falconry safeguarding projects exceeds \$ 8 million.
- In the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture will continue subsidizing the breeding of rare and indigenous species of birds of prey.
- In Morocco, Mongolia and some other countries, falconry needs additional support. As a result of contacts made during the formation of this submission, the UAE will co-operate with other nations to formulate a plan to provide resources to help falconers and to promote falconry to the youth.

## **4. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CONSENT IN THE NOMINATION PROCESS (CF. CRITERION R.4)**

*This section asks the submitting State Party to establish that the nomination satisfies Criterion R.4: 'The element has been nominated following the widest possible participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent'.*

### **4.a. Participation of communities, groups and individuals in the nomination process**

*Describe how and in what ways the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned have participated actively in the nomination process at all stages, as required by Criterion R.4. States Parties are further encouraged to prepare nominations with the participation of a wide variety of other concerned parties, including where appropriate local and regional governments, neighbouring communities, NGOs, research institutes, centres of expertise and other interested parties. The participation of communities in the practice and transmission of the element should be*

addressed in point 1 above, and their participation in safeguarding should be addressed in point 3; here the submitting State should describe the widest possible participation of communities in the nomination process.

This submission has been formulated by falconers and communities through a series of meetings and consultative processes at all levels. Signed consents from falconers, falconry groups and institutions are attached as evidence of scores of support letters and documents signed by communities and individuals. Internationally it has been promoted in international falconry festivals and falconry related associations such as the IAF, FACE, and CIC. The organization of conferences, symposia and workshops on falcons and falconry have also contributed significantly in engaging both local and international falconry groups and specialists, with the UAE taking an active lead during the last two decades in hosting many of these meetings. This submission for nomination to UNESCO has been very widely publicized amongst falconry communities and among all participating parties through meetings, newsletters and the internet. There has been unanimous resounding support from NGOs, and institutions participating in the process as shown (in Section 5) by each State-Party participating in this nomination. The submission has been circulated among the clubs and representatives involved for detailed approval.

#### **4.b. Free, prior and informed consent to the nomination**

*The free, prior and informed consent to the nomination of the element from the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned may be demonstrated through written or recorded concurrence, or through other means, according to the legal regimens of the State Party and the infinite variety of communities and groups concerned. The Committee will welcome a broad range of demonstrations or attestations of community consent in preference to standard or uniform declarations..*

*Please attach supporting evidence demonstrating such consent and indicate below what evidence you are providing and what form it takes.*

Free, prior and informed consents of submitting falconry as a human living heritage on the UNESCO Representative List for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity have been granted by the various communities, groups and individuals concerned in their respective national countries. Documents are attached to this submission.

The photos, audio and video clips chosen in this submission have been selected amongst falconers from each of the submitting countries, as most representative and evocative of their own falconry tradition and culture.

#### **4.c. Respect for customary practices governing access**

*Access to certain specific aspects of intangible cultural heritage is sometimes restricted by customary practices governing, for example, its transmission or performance or maintaining the secrecy of certain knowledge. Please indicate if such practices exist and, if they do, demonstrate that inscription of the element and implementation of the safeguarding measures would fully respect such customary practices governing access to specific aspects of such heritage (cf. Article 13 of the Convention). Describe any specific measures that might need to be taken to ensure such respect.*

To the best of our knowledge, there are no issues in these measures that would conflict in any way with customary practices governing access.

## 5. INCLUSION OF THE ELEMENT IN AN INVENTORY (CF. CRITERION R.5)

*This section is where the State Party establishes that the nomination satisfies Criterion R.5: "The element is included in an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies) as defined in Articles 11 and 12".*

*Identify the inventory in which the element has been included and the office, agency, organization or body responsible for maintaining that inventory. Demonstrate that the inventory has been drawn up in conformity with Articles 11 and 12, in particular Article 11(b) that stipulates that intangible cultural heritage shall be identified and defined "with the participation of communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organizations" and Article 12 requiring that inventories be regularly updated.*

*The nominated element's inclusion in an inventory should not in any way imply or require that the inventory(ies) should have been completed prior to nomination. Rather, a submitting State Party may be in the process of completing or updating one or more inventories, but has already duly included the nominated element on an inventory-in-progress.*

Falconry is included in the inventory lists of all countries participating in this nomination.

### **Belgium:**

The Flemish Community of Belgium included falconry on the Flemish Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage on 30th June 2009. This inventory is deposited with the Ministry of Culture in Brussels.

The French Community of Belgium included falconry in the Inventory of Cultural ICH on 30th April 2009. This inventory is deposited with the Ministry of Culture in Brussels (letter attached).

Every falconry club in Belgium has been actively involved in the making of the inventory. The progress is monitored through scheduled meetings, every two months. For non-affiliated falconers, information is disseminated through a public website and forum: <http://www.valkeniers.be>. More than 1900 people have registered with the website and a newsletter has been distributed to report progress.

Faro, interface centre for cultural heritage, has actively guided falconers in the process of preparing the inventory making. A workshop was organised by Faro to explain the concepts of ICH and all of the aspects of preparing and maintaining an inventory.

Sportimonium (Museum and Centre for sports heritage) has an extensive documentation section. During the process of drawing up the ICH inventory list, this proved to be a valuable and reliable source of information. Future plans have been made to actively enrich this section regarding falconry.

### **Czech Republic:**

The Minister of Culture included falconry on the Seznam Statků Tradiční a Lidové Kultury České Republiky (List of Intangible Properties of Traditional and Folk Culture of the Czech Republic) on 16th June 2009. The inventory is available with the Národní Ústav Lidové Kultury ve Strážnici (National Institute of Folk Culture in Strážnice) as well as on the website, [www.mkcr.cz](http://www.mkcr.cz)

The Falconry Club of the Czech-Moravian Hunting Union, as civil society and the only representative of the community practising falconry in the Czech Republic, created the detailed nomination documentation for inclusion in the national inventory "List of Intangible Properties of Traditional and Folk Culture of the Czech Republic" (Seznam Statků Tradiční a Lidové Kultury České Republiky) pursuant to Article 12 of the Convention. Inclusion rules of the national inventory explicitly require participation of the concerned community. On June 3rd 2009, delegates of Czech Falconry Club, as representatives of the entire concerned community, presented the nomination file for the inclusion in the national inventory; they defended the nomination and therefore the National Committee for Traditional and Folk Culture recommended to the Minister of Culture the inclusion of falconry in the national inventory. Pursuant to rules for inclusion in the national inventory, the nomination documentation of Czech Falconry Club was also authorised by Ministry of Agriculture, which takes responsibility for safeguarding of this element.



**France:**

Falconry was included in the Inventory of French Intangible Cultural Heritage in June 2009. It is the principle of the French inventory that it is written with the participation of the communities concerned, and most of the time they write the file. This was the case with the file on falconry; it was written by and at the request of the members of ANFA (Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers de France). The inventory is available online on the website of the French Ministry of Culture [www.culture.gouv.fr](http://www.culture.gouv.fr). See attached inventory documents within france supporting documents.

**Republic of Korea:**

Falconry has been included in the Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage since 2000 and preserved by the Cultural Heritage Protection Act. In the Republic of Korea, the whole process of identifying ICH items starts with the communities and practitioners themselves. First, the communities or practitioners of a particular ICH item request the governmental authorities to add their ICH into the inventory. Then, the government examines all aspects of the ICH and decides whether to make a new entry to the inventory or not. This was also the case for falconry. At the request and assistance of falconry practitioners, it was registered on the inventory in 2000. The inventory can be found on the website of the Cultural Heritage Administration ([www.cha.go.kr](http://www.cha.go.kr)).

**Mongolia:**

The Minister of Culture included falconry on the National Inventory List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Burkudchidiin Bayar) on 5th July 2009. During the annual meeting of the Kazakh eaglehunter families in Olgi (west of Mongolia), the supporting community confirmed the necessity of safeguarding falconry and actively participated in the preparation of the file. In addition, falconers of Mongolia are participating in exhibitions and meetings to raise public awareness of falconry.

**Morocco:**

Falconry was included by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in "Morocco's National Cultural Inventory" in July 2008. The identification and the collection of elements for the national inventory was supervised by officials of the Directorate of the Cultural Heritage (Ministry of Culture), who met with members of the Moroccan Association of Falconers (Annoubalae), and the Association of Falconers Oulad Fraj of Hawking. They provided their consent and all necessary information about falconry and the documentation (copies of written documents, video and photographs).

**Qatar:**

Qatar Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage is the body responsible for the making of Qatar's national ICH inventory. Falconry has been included in this inventory (18<sup>th</sup> August 2009) with the active participation of communities and individuals. Qatar was the host of the Gulf Cooperation Folklore Center for 22 years, and a large corpus of ICH data has been collected, classified, archived and published. All the data of the GCC Folklore Center is deposited now with the Heritage Department and provided the base of Qatar National ICH Inventory. Additional data was collected by Qatar Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage and Qatar University. Qatar Radio and TV, Qatar National Museum, the Cultural Village, and Qatar Tourism Authority all provided heritage information. Civil societies and organizations, mainly Al Qanas (Falconer) Society, Qatar Olympic Committee, Qatar Foundation, Performing Arts Organizations and Committees as well as numerous individuals also participated in the process of inventory making and the inclusion of falconry on this inventory list which is currently in progress.

**Saudi Arabia:**

Falconry has been included in the Inventory of Saudi Arabia Intangible Cultural Heritage among other 54 elements of ICH covering all domains of ICH. This inventory is deposited at the Cultural Affairs Agency of the Ministry of Culture and Information (letter dated 23.8.2009) with the participation of individuals and communities. Falconers in Saudi Arabia organize themselves in groups and kinship groups, and provided information, documentation, photos, and videotapes related to falconry and other aspects of cultural heritage in the Kingdom. They have also provided guidelines and ideas about the identification of these elements, and contributed to the organization of conferences, lectures, seminars, festivals and workshops. Owing to the vast area

of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the diverse cultural groups all over the country, the Inventory of Saudi Arabia Intangible Heritage is in progress.

**Spain:**

The Ministry of Culture for the Kingdom of Spain included falconry on the Inventory List of Intangible Cultural Heritage on 17th July 2009. This list is deposited with the Ministry of Culture. Following the article of the UNESCO Convention, Spain had the participation of many communities and groups involved with falconry. We have supporting letters from all 17 Administrative Regions of the state party, and also at National level (included in appendix).

**Syria:**

The responsible body for making the Inventory for Intangible Cultural Heritage is the Ministry of Culture. Falconry was included in the inventory on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2009. This inventory is deposited at the Office of the Deputy Minister of Culture and it is still in progress. The Falconer's Association in al Rehaiba in the Damascus suburbs, and falconer's groups in Palmyra, al Qaryatein, Hama suburbs, al Raqqa, north east of Aleppo and other areas of the al Jazeera region cooperated in preparing a comprehensive survey of falconry and other ICH elements with the support of the Ministry of Culture. The efforts undertaken to establish the Falconers Union of Syria as well as conducting surveys about the number of falconers have actively contributed to the making of the inventory in supporting falconers' work, activities, events, customs and traditions.

**United Arab Emirates:**

Falconry was included in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory of Abu Dhabi Emirate on 1st July 2009. The inventory is deposited with the ICH Department of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH). In 2006 ADACH set up a Committee, of about 30 men and women, to work as a source group to identify UAE cultural elements. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development also formed 2 committees of about 24 persons to help in the making of the national inventory project. The Emirates Falconers Club, the Emirates Heritage Club, the Arabian Saluki Centre and the falconers themselves actively participated in the making of the national inventory and the inclusion of falconry on the national inventory list, through many meetings, interviews and provision of documentation. Many well known Emirati falconers and heritage practitioners participated effectively in this lengthy inventory making process. They included, among many others, Saeed Al Haddad, Khalfan Al Dhahri, Hamad Al Ghanim, Mohammed Al Dhareef who wrote a book on falconry in Arabia, Salim Ali Al Hamli, Mohammed Ali Al Raqraqi, Mohammed Al Mansouri, Zayed Al Mansouri, Fatima Al Mughni, Shaikha Al Jabri, Salim Al Mazrouei, Mohammed Saeed Al Meqbali, Mohammed Saif Al Falasi, Khalifa Al Katbi and Rashid bin Ftaim Al Mansouri.

<b>DOCUMENTATION</b>
<b>a. Required and supplementary documentation</b>
Required documentation provided.
<b>b. Cession of rights including registry of items</b>
Required cession of rights provided.
<b>c. List of additional resources</b>
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Websites:

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CIC - The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation: [www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)

FACE - Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU: [www.face-europe.org](http://www.face-europe.org)

Falconry Heritage Trust: [www.falconryheritage.org](http://www.falconryheritage.org)

The Archives of Falconry and Peregrine Fund: [www.peregrinefund.org](http://www.peregrinefund.org)

CITES - The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora:

[www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

ÖFB - Österreichischer Falknerbund: [www.falknerbund.com](http://www.falknerbund.com)

Czech Falconry Club of CMHU: [www.sokolnictvi.net](http://www.sokolnictvi.net)

Belgium website for Information on Falconry: [www.valkeriers.be](http://www.valkeriers.be)

ANFA (Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers Français) [www.anfa.org](http://www.anfa.org)

[www.falconryforum.co.uk](http://www.falconryforum.co.uk)

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Periodicals:

The International Journal of Falconry (published by IAF)

Newsletter of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF)

The International Falconer

Al Saggat (The Falconer) Journal (quarterly journal issued in the UAE).

Falco Magazine (Middle East Falcon Research Group) published in the UK

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