

**REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED
TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**Deadline: 15 February 2023
for examination in 2023**

File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*Please provide only the information requested below.
Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

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

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

NGO-90006

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

Address: Rue de Flandre 31, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Telephone: +32 472 069 354

number:

Email
address: info@iaf.org

Website: www.iaf.org

Other relevant
information: www.facebook.com/IAF.org

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr.

Family name: Timbrell

Given name: Gary

Institution/position: CEO

Address: Rue de Flandre 31, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Telephone number: +32 467 02 09 02

Email address: timbrell@iaf.org

Other relevant
information: +353 87 133 0922

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework², as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

B.1. *Describe your organization's contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.*

Not to exceed 250 words

IAF is an international NGO representing over 100,000 falconers from 116 associations in 90 countries, the main ones being: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, **Austria**, Azerbaijan, **Belgium**, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, **Croatia**, **Czech Republic**, Denmark, El Salvador, Ecuador, Estonia, **France**, Georgia, **Germany**, Greece, **Hungary**, India, Indonesia, **Ireland**, **Italy**, Japan, **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Korea**, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia,

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.

2. For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

Malta, Mexico, **Mongolia**, **Morocco**, Namibia, **Netherlands**, New Zealand, **Pakistan**, Peru, **Poland**, **Portugal**, **Qatar**, Romania, Russia, **Saudi Arabia**, Serbia, **Slovakia**, Slovenia, South Africa, **Spain**, Sweden, **Syria**, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, **United Arab Emirates**, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.

Countries listed in **bold font** have already achieved listing in the Element's extensions.

IAF has great capacity and opportunities to contribute to the implementation of the Convention at national level through our representatives and our member organisations. In general, in Countries that are States Parties to UNESCO ICH Convention. Where possible and desirable, we collaborate with national cultural authorities and institutions in favour of the implementation of the Convention by cultural, scientific, and supportive political means.

IAF supports the practice and transmission of ICH through specific activities to strengthen human capacities for safeguarding culture and heritage. All our members have an inclusive involvement in ICH safeguarding and management, particularly in the falconers' communities. In many countries IAF coordinates events, workshops, and exhibitions in museums, archives, libraries, etc., to contribute to ICH safeguarding and management. We also publish, on a regular basis, documentation to support the practice and transmission of ICH.

B.2. *Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education** for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

IAF has a dedicated **Education Working Group** with project representatives from eleven Countries on five Continents. Their core objectives are the transmission of falconry heritage through formal and non-formal education, strengthening the transmission of ICH, and promoting respect for ICH to many groups across national boundaries. These activities facilitate inter-cultural and inter-linguistic communications, particularly in incorporating youths.

Many members of our Association play an active role in safeguarding and transmitting falconry elements into primary and secondary education in the context of relevant disciplines used to strengthen teaching and learning about ICH and having respect for one's own and others' ICH.

Our educational programs include the protection of natural and cultural spaces and places of "falconry memory" whose existence is necessary for expressing the ICH value of our element.

These project representatives liaise with **300 youth volunteer project members** around the world:

- Translations Working Group with 32 language capacity
- School Links Programme (*School students of different countries learn to respect and reflect on the ICH of their community and the ICH of others through educational programs*)
- Youth Exchange Programme
- Support Task Groups (*IT, Policy and Conservation Research, and Art and Design*)
- Young Falconers' Group
- Social-media

B.3. *Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Our organisation participated in several dedicated workshops organised by the government of UAE in 2008-2015 and in capacity building workshops in Ireland, Italy and the UAE (annually) since 2017. The aim was the exchange of information, documentation and cooperation between communities and government bodies towards the promotion and preservation of falconry and/or the extension of the multinational file. Representatives of 18 government bodies and 18 national communities joined these events. Since prior inscriptions on national inventory lists are

necessary, members of our organisation played a pivotal and very active role in the creation of those national inventory lists in the extension states.

We have a dedicated team exchanging information with universities and museums/archives and are currently gathering knowledge into a dedicated museum in Brussels, as capital of the EU, due to open this summer.

Over the years, the existing National Inventories have been updated to reflect the current viability of Falconry elements, covering the reporting period. Falconer's Communities, with IAF support, actively participate in the inventory process, which helps to inform and strengthen their efforts to preserve their cultural heritage.

IAF also provides financial and other types of assistance to promote research, technical and artistic studies, documentation, and archiving. These activities are focused on preserving cultural heritage and are performed in accordance with ethical standards.

B.4. *Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Our secretariat, board and council of delegates is available to member and non-member organisations, and to non-aligned individuals to answer queries and ask for help in communicating with their national and regional authorities in matters of policy, legislation and administration.

IAF is a listed member of the EU Transparency Register and this, together with the situation of our head-office near the European Quarter in Brussels gives us access to the Parliament, the Commission and the Council of Europe. Our second office in Abu Dhabi assists non-EU states. Each continent has a vice-president living in it, with access for all the falconry communities to receive advice.

IAF provides advice to its members on cultural policies, as well as legal and administrative measures, in order to reflect the diversity of ICH and the significance of its safeguarding.

The activities and policies of IAF members are in accordance with and respect the UNESCO **Ethical Principles** for preserving ICH, the inclusive social development and the environmental. The practice of falconry indeed required policies and/or legal and administrative measures that recognize and support the customary rights of communities and groups to the land ecosystems and biodiversity.

B.5. *Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Most of the IAF's activities and projects strive to highlight the role of ICH and its safeguarding in society as a source of identity, continuity, and knowledge and skills. These efforts aim to reinforce the role of ICH as a valuable resource for sustainable development.

At all the meetings and conventions, we attend (we spent 90 days of last year at such events), our speakers and representatives are instructed to include references to the 2003 UNESCO Convention and how important to the safeguarding and social acceptance of our element the convention has been. This is often extolled with considerable enthusiasm.

At social gatherings of Falconry National Clubs and Federations, we always try to include a dedicated session on the importance of UNESCO and ICH as a means of promoting dialogue, mutual respect, conflict resolution, and peace-building.

The practice of falconry is inclusive and encompasses all sectors and strata of society, including groups with diverse ethnic identities, individuals of different ages and genders, and people with disabilities.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

We co-operate with universities, international conventions, other NGOs and with government departments, for example cultural and environmental, to show their falconry communities in a good light. We encourage member clubs and individuals to do the same.

Recent example: at the international trade fair in Thessaloniki, Greece, successful cultural diplomacy between the Greek government authorities (both cultural and environmental) were facilitated by the Greek falconers who were invited to welcome visiting dignitaries from Middle Eastern countries. This has resulted in changes to legislation in Greece favourable to the falconry communities.

On the 16th of November each year, we celebrate the date of the original inscription in UNESCO ICH, with World Falconry Day (WFD). All individuals, clubs and organizations are welcome to participate and use the WFD logo, irrespective of membership of the IAF. The only important consideration is that the activity should be designed to develop a good image of falconry at local and global level. Events are publicized internationally.

The IAF Young Falconers group and Falconry Youth Exchange Project actively engage youth in raising awareness about ICH. This includes collecting and spreading information about falconry heritage of their school and communities using all forms of media, in particular new media, for raising awareness of the importance of ICH and its safeguarding.

B.7. Describe your organization's participation in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

IAF considered Falconry as ICH already before the existence of the 2003 Convention, so we naturally identified Falconry as ICH as soon as States started to implement the Convention. Our international NGO is based on falconry individuals that form groups and communities at regional and national levels. So it is the nature of our work to cooperate with communities through meetings, festive events, internet media, printed media, word of mouth, etc.

We pay special attention to transmission of ICH from generation to generation: our members have been developing a "Children's Falconry Information Package", originally designed in the Dutch for primary school children, and now translated into the following languages: English, French, Spanish, Italian, German and Arabic. Our NGO has established an internal "Womens' Working Group". We also founded the "Young Falconers working group" during our meeting in Argentina in 2015, which is composed of young people between 16 and 29.

We encourage member organisations to hold events connected with safeguarding, and an Italian falconers' association organised the 2019 conference "SAFEGUARDING PLANNING FOR FALCONRY UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE ELEMENT, capacity building for falconers' community and stakeholders. This project, funded by Law February 20, 2006, n.77 "Special measures for the protection and use of Italian sites and elements of cultural, landscape and environmental interest, included in the list of world heritage, placed under UNESCO protection". It had participation by non-falconry ICH communities interested in engaging with the safeguarding of their elements.

B.8. Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels** for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.

Not to exceed 250 words

In some countries (e.g. Czech Republic and Ireland), we successfully encouraged parliaments to ratify the Convention, in other countries that are not yet States Parties yet we have been encouraging them to recognise the Convention.

The falconry communities of Greece, Serbia, Georgia, Denmark, China, Turkey and Malta are all engaged in encouraging their national authorities to add to the international falconry extension. Georgia and Malta already have national listings. The IAF is assisting.

B.9. *Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Our NGO gained experience during the preparation of complex multinational nomination "Falconry, a living human heritage" inscribed in 2010/2012/2016/2021. Therefore, we have been serving as an information and knowledge database for related communities, NGOs and even for cultural authorities in certain cases. Our organisation has been contacted many times by individuals, communities and NGOs related to our work as well as in domains different from our field. We always provide and share bundles of information and documentation and examples equipped with a description of our experience and practical hints. As we know, the advantage of such an informal approach is that interested partners obtain relevant info in a friendly way and much faster than from official States authorities. Since Falconry is an interdisciplinary multinational intangible heritage, IAF inherently participates, collaborates, and contributes to the development of networks of NGOs, communities, experts, museums, dedicated or general media, at (sub)regional, national and international levels.

In some Countries, we played a positive role in implementation and ratification of the convention.

Our NGO and falconers' communities have been invited to several participating countries to provide information on Falconry as Intangible Cultural Heritage and to determine safeguarding priorities, leading to the preparation of the State's Periodic Report.

National members of our NGO also actively participated in the creation of National Inventory lists in these countries. Our contribution to the ICH element "Falconry, a living human heritage" is therefore reflected in most of the State's Periodic Reports in these countries.

B.10. *Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Our organization played a crucial role in the preparation of the nomination for the Representative List, encouraging State Parties, coordinating with concerned communities and related NGO on both national and international levels, leading to the successful submission of "Falconry, a living human heritage." This nomination was inscribed in 2010, extended in 2012, re-extended in 2016 (decision 11.COM 10.b.15), and once again in 2021 (decision 16.COM 8.b.14).

IAF is pleased that this cultural element was the pioneer, and the first item of the ICH Representative List in two countries - in Austria and United Arab Emirates and this even remains the only representative cultural element inscribed in Syrian Arab Republic.

In 2012, the nomination pioneered the extension procedure with two other States - Austria and Hungary. In this regard, ICH committee mentioned in its report (ITH/10/5.COM/CONF.202/6) that this is: "an outstanding example of co-operation between States and the exemplary quality of the information provided was underlined". This success has been based on efforts that our organisation exhibited for over 5 years prior to inscription.

So far, this file is the largest multinational nomination in ICH Convention history. The large number of 24 states participated in this multinational nomination: United Arab Emirates, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain and Syrian Arab Republic. Our NGO is active in other countries that wish to join the extension in the future. See answer to B.8.

C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

☐ *Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)*

☒ *Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention*

☒ *Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators*

☐ *Cooperation with Category 2 Centres*

☐ *Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO*

☐ *Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs*

☐ *Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund*

☐ *Financial support from the Participation Programme*

☐ *Other types of cooperation*

Not to exceed 250 words

In October 2018 the Italian Falconers' Associations an IAF member, organized a conference titled "Falconry and Intangible Cultural Heritage participation, cultural diversity and sustainable development" received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO of the 2003 Convention. Under the patronage of UNESCO, the Meeting aimed to promote the UNESCO 2003 Convention, and specifically the multidisciplinary cultural values that have led to include "Falconry, a living human heritage" in the UNESCO Representative List.

As a result of this, also in Italy, due the project funded by February 20, 2006, n.77 many activities were organised with the help and the support of Italian and International Facilitators (Benedetta Ubertazzi, Harriet Deacon).

During the 9.GA in 2022 (Paris) one of our UNESCO representatives participated to a meeting of the Global Network of Facilitators.

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

D.1 *Has your organization participated in the sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes, we attended ICH committee and GA meetings: 3.COM in 2008 (Istanbul), 5.COM in 2010 (Nairobi), 7.COM in 2012 (Paris), 10.COM in 2015 (Windhoek), 11.COM in 2016 (Addis Ababa), 12.COM in 2017 (Jeju), 7.GA in 2018 (Paris), 13.COM in 2018 (Port Louis), 14.COM (Bogotá), 15.COM (online), 16.COM (online) and 9.GA in 2022 (Paris).

As observers, we participate actively in NGO activities including ICH NGO Forum platform meetings and events. During all meetings we socialise and have useful dialog, exchange of information and exchange of experiences with other NGOs and with the state representatives.

In 2021 a member of IAF UNESCO Working Group, Patrizia Cimberio, was elected to the Electoral Board of the NGO Forum in order to manage the election of the new members of Steering Committee.

We always take the opportunity to absorb maximum information that we use and transfer consequently to our partners and concerned communities at national and international level. We use experience gained for promotion and PR of ICH. We often collaborate with mass media to inform about UNESCO ICH sessions, especially about inscription of the new elements.

D.2 *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

As of now, we have not received a request to serve on a Consultative/Evaluation Body or evaluate a nomination. Nonetheless, we express our willingness and preparedness to fulfil such a role in the future.

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

So far, we have not had the opportunity to offer our expertise as advisors to the Committee. However, we are eager and ready to do so in the future, particularly in areas related to our expertise in nature and the universe, as well as festive events.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Although our NGO is specialised, we are a worldwide International NGO currently representing related communities in 90 states, having not only a professional staff, but also a number of voluntary experts among our members. The majority of our members demonstrate good English, some of them are native English speakers, a few are French speakers. We also have members and experts that speak natively other languages e.g.: Spanish, German, Arabic, Russian, Czech, Dutch, and others. Concerning English, among the professional staff, we have a native English speaker and three more who are fluent in English. Staff members also speak German and Spanish.

Our voluntary Translations Working Group is able to translate into 32 languages.

E.2. *Does your organization have experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes, our organization does possess a wealth of experience working across various domains of intangible cultural heritage (ICH), particularly in the areas of knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe, as well as festive events. To a lesser extent, we also have some experience in the domains of social practices, rituals, and traditional craftsmanship.

E.3. *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Our organisation does have a professional staff and many voluntary experts among our members that have a scientific background and degrees (professors, doctors etc.) in the field of natural science as well as culture. Our experts are able to analyse proposals or applications. So far, we have also analysed internally (for our own purposes) essential ICH convention documents, ICH session agendas, as well as several ICH Representative List applications and national inventory list documents

E.4. Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes, our NGO does have experience in drafting synthetic text in English since it is a working language of our international organisation. Our organisation and members of our organisation produce various scientific papers, we publish our own Journal and Newsletters in English, we prepare English PR materials for exhibitions and events, we prepare various legislation drafts and statements, we also prepare various materials and documents for international conventions and conferences other than UNESCO.

For language capacity see E.1.

E.5. Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes, our NGO does have deep experience over several decades in working at the international level extrapolating local experience and applying it within international context. Since we are the international NGO focused in a special domain and working with small communities, it made it easier to us to learn how to work with local/regional/national experience within international context. We have a network of our 116 NGO members from 90 countries. We have been using this network to extrapolate local experience via social media, e-mail communication, word of mouth, annual member's meetings, seminars, conferences, and internal surveys/forms we issue on various topics.

F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

☒ Yes

☐ No

G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: Patrizia Cimberio

Title: ICH Liaison Representative

Date: 12.02.23

Signature:

