

Management Statement

Corso-sardinian Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis arrigonii*



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**Prepared by BirdLife International on behalf of the
European Commission**

Management Statement for Corso-sardinian Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis arrigonii*

Compilers

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Timetable

Date of first draft: 31st July 1999

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Reviews

This management statement should be reviewed and updated every five years. An emergency review will be undertaken if sudden major environmental changes, liable to affect the population, occur within the species range.

Geographical scope

The action plan needs active implementation in Sardinia (Italy) and Corsica (France).

Line drawing by Dan Powell kindly supplied by the RSPB (BirdLife Partner in the UK)

Current status

1.1 Distribution

The subspecies of Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis arrigonii* is confined to the islands of Sardinia (Italy) and Corsica (France).

1.2 Population and trend

The population estimate for Corsica is 50 - 80 pairs and 60 – 80 pairs for Sardinia. The lack of previous figures do not allow any trend to be identified, but at least in Sardinia the forest cover has decreased since the beginning of the XX century, thus probably the local Goshawk population has decreased as well.

1.3 Habitat requirements

The subspecies nests in forest which can be pure *Quercus ilex*, mixed Maritime Pine *P. maritimus* and Corsican P *P. nigra* or mixed conifer-broadleaf. In Corsica the subspecies breed in Oak forests older than 60-80, 100 years for P. Maritime and 140 for Corsican Pine. In Sardinia plantations older than 30 years and Cork Oak *Quercus suber* plantations are used as well. The territory of each pair can be completely included in a single large forest or cover small woods scattered with open areas.

1.4 Conservation status

Accipiter gentilis is not of conservation concern with a European population of about 160,000 pairs. It is included in Annex II of the Bern Convention and Annex II of the Bonn Convention. The subspecies *Accipiter g. arrigonii* is listed in Annex I of the Bird Directive. French law allows under the taking of young goshawks under licence to be used for falconry, but licences have not been issued recently in Corsica. In Italy the species is fully protected.

1.5 Record key sites for the sub-species by country.

Only about 25% of the Corsican population included in SCA (14 pairs) of which 3 in a SPAs.

Threats and limiting factors

Habitat loss and degradation

Every year in Sardinia and Corsica large forested areas (an average of 1240 ha in Corsica) are destroyed by fire.

The species is confined to forested areas. Intensive forest management such as felling the trees more often than 30 – 40 years and opening of forestry service roads reduces habitat quality for the species

Importance: medium

Disturbance from cork collection

In Sardinia the collection of cork during the breeding season is a cause of disturbance and can lead to the abandonment of the nest.

Importance: low

Disturbance form photographers/birdwatchers

The rarity of this taxa is attractive to unskilled nature-photographers or birdwatcher who may cause disturbance particularly during the breeding season.

Importance: unknown, probably low

Direct persecution

In such a limited population the killing of any individual is a significant loss. Wood pigeons hunters had been responsible of some limited incidents.

Importance: low

Impact against powerlines / overhead structures

The Goshawk hunts in forested areas and its manoeuvring skills are excellent. Nevertheless powerlines and any overhead structure may represent a threat.

Importance: low

Lack of information

The scarcity of detailed information on the species and its biology particularly of any long-term research, is a limiting factor in developing a scientifically sound conservation programme. It is possible that other threats exist which have been not identified yet.

Importance: high

Current Actions**FRANCE - Corsica**

Large part of the population is within the Regional Park. A genetic study aimed at the clarification of the taxonomic status of the population is ongoing. Active collaboration between the Regional Park and the ONF (Office National de Forest) aimed to locate and effectively protect all nests. Protection includes appropriate forestry practices and involvement of private landowners. The Regional Park is carrying out researches on the distribution and biology of the species. The species is protected by law (17 April 1981).

ITALY - Sardinia

The species is fully protected by law n. 157/92.

Aims and objectives

Aims

In the short term the aim is to maintain the current population and distribution of *Accipiter gentilis arrigonii*.

In the long term the aim is to promote an increase in population size and a range within the two islands

Objectives:

1. Policy and legislation

1.1. To promote forest policies that takes into account the ecological needs of the species.

Priority: High
Time scale: Short

1.2 To avoid that forestry practices (e.g. cork collection) performed during the breeding period causes nest abandonment.

Priority: Low
Time-scale: Long

1.3 To reduce the impact of fires on wooded areas.

To increase the fire fighting capacities on both islands improving both the man-power and facilities.

Priority: High
Time-scale: Short

2. Species and habitat protection

2.1 To ensure that all protected areas which host the subspecies develop management plans which take into consideration the need for the protection of this endemic taxon.

Priority: Medium
Time-scale: Ongoing

2.2 To designate SPA all IBAs which host the subspecies.

Priority: High
Time-scale: Ongoing

2.3 To reduce the impact of powerlines by means of a better planning of the lines and signalling the existing ones.

The planning and building of new powerlines should avoid the main breeding areas and all measures against electrocution and collision should be incorporated.

Priority: Low
Time-scale: Medium

3. Monitoring and research

3.1 Investigate the biology.

The biology of the subspecies is poorly known and limiting factor not completely understood.

Researches should be focused on:

- Establishing a monitoring system
- Identify and quantify the threats and limiting factors

Priority High
Time-scale ongoing

3.2 Develop international co-operation on the subspecies

Priority: High
Time-scale: Short

4. Public awareness

4.1 To increase the public awareness on the subspecies.

A very limited number of persons are aware of the existence of this endemic bird subspecies.

Awareness campaigns should be launched on both islands targeted to general public and decision makers.

Priority: High
Time-scale: Short