

African Pygmy Falcon

Polihierax semitorquatus

Mighty mouse



Species Status

IUCN: Least Concern

ESA Status: Not Listed

CITES: Appendix II

TAG: Raptor TAG

AZA SSP DESIGNATION: Yellow

GEOGRAPHIC REGION: Africa

BIOME: Chaparral / Scrubland, Grassland, Savanna

EXHIBIT DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

HUSBANDRY AND CARE

SPECIAL EXHIBIT CONSIDERATION

Outdoor Climate Conditions:	temperature range between 40-100F; access to temperature-regulated heated nest when housed outside, nest box temperature should maintain an average of 70F
Substrate:	variety of substrates possible including concrete, mulch, sand, and DG; be aware of mold if using mulch indoors
Ideal Carrying Capacity:	breeding pair and 2-3 offspring ideal, offspring not meant to be housed with adults indefinitely; may house single bird until mate can be available; not housed in single-sex flocks or family groups
Size of Space:	ideal area 10' x 10'; minimum housing 6' x 6' x 8'
Complexity of Space:	adequate perching and room to fly without interference; naturally roost in weaver nests, nest box available year-round; options of places to hide from public view
Breeding Environment:	breed year round, especially when housed indoors; access to nest box at all times

OPTIMAL EXHIBIT FEATURES

Areas for privacy or hiding, Heat source, Perching area, Small water feature, Sunlight/basking area

SPECIES APPEAL

- Animals typically available for new placement
- Well established husbandry
- Rare in zoos and aquariums
- Unique adaptation/physical characteristics
- Ambassador animal

MESSAGING OPPORTUNITIES

- None

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MULTI - SPECIES EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES

- none identified

NON - SSP SPECIES THAT COULD BE SUBSTITUTED BY AFRICAN PYGMY FALCON

- none identified

SPECIES BIOLOGY	
Activity pattern:	Diurnal
Potential risk to humans:	Sharp bill or beak, Sharp Claws
Diet	skinned/hairless mice, carnivore meat, and insects
Health and Veterinary	impaction may be caused by eating a mouse with fur
OFFSPRING HOUSING and REPRODUCTION	
Gestation or Incubation:	31-35 days
General Offspring Holding:	institutions are expected to hold for 1 year
Weaning, Fledging or Metamorphosis:	~30 days
General Offspring with Parent:	up to 1 year, or until next nesting
Number of Offspring per Reproductive Event:	1-2

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SSP SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE

Current Size: 47 (26.21.0) at 18 institutions (0 non-AZA)

SSP Coordinator: Ms. Nicole Lagreco
(nlagreco@sandiegozoo.org)

CURRENT POPULATION SUMMARY

The Raptor TAG has set a target population size of 70 animals in the African Pygmy Falcon SSP population. The managed population has been stable ($\lambda = 1.08$) historically, and has retained 77.26% of its founding gene diversity.

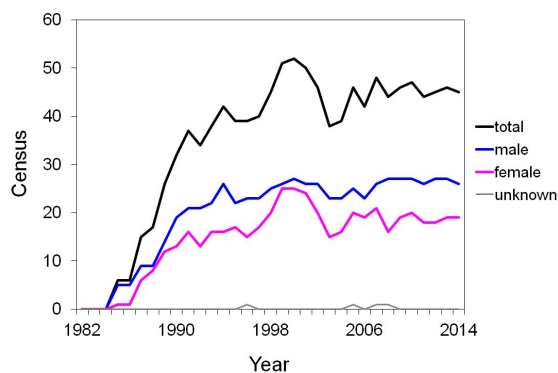


Figure 1: Census of managed African pygmy falcons in the AZA population over time, by sex. Breeding and Transfer Plan 2016

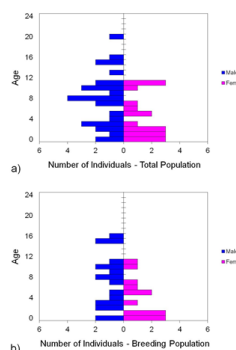


Figure 2: Age pyramid of the AZA African pygmy falcon population. Breeding and Transfer Plan 2016

PROJECTED POPULATION SUMMARY

Population Viability Analysis has not yet been conducted for this population. Estimates indicate the gene diversity is likely to be reduced to 51% over the next 100 years under current management trends.

No Image available

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CHALLENGES TO SSP POPULATION SUSTAINABILITY

CHALLENGE	GOAL	ACTION	NEED
Genetics	Increase genetic diversity by importing reproductively viable individuals	Recruit institutions and/or increase SSP participation	An import of nine individuals from EAZA is planned later this year. This importation will displace some current birds, and subsequent offspring will need housing as well. New institutions are needed to facilitate the growth that this population needs to reach sustainability. Interested institutions are encouraged to consult the SSP Coordinator.
Reproduction	Improve protocols for natural reproduction		Parent-rearing of chicks is preferred, as hand-rearing has sometimes resulted in imprinting of chicks upon humans.

REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE

- Egg sexing
- Artificial incubation
- Artificial insemination

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

- The SSP would like to improve enrichment opportunities by identifying prey items that would more closely align to the natural diet in the wild.

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ACQUISITIONS AND TRANSFERS

IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND REINTRODUCTIONS

Imports	An importation from EAZA is planned, pending permit approval. No other import sources are being considered at this time.
Exports	There are no plans to export at this time.

CHALLENGES TO ACQUISITIONS AND TRANSFERS

Disease Testing	Highly pathogenic avian influenza may become a hindrance to transfers, imports, and exports in the future.
Regulatory	This species is CITES App II, so the required permitting can be burdensome (about 6 months to approve).

*DISCLAIMER: This report was last updated on 11/10/2015. The AZA Species Sustainability Database and SSP Sustainability Reports were developed through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Content is based on Animal Program recommendations and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums or other collaborating institutions. Modeling results and analyses are based on the best understanding of the current population dynamics and should not be regarded as absolute predictions. The use of this report should be in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Some government laws and regulations may be referenced, but these are not all-inclusive nor is this report intended to serve as an evaluation tool. Please consult the SSP Coordinator if you are considering incorporating this species into a zoo or aquarium, or with questions regarding husbandry practices.