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 40-100°F; access to temperature-regulated heated nest when housed outside, nest box temperature should maintain an average of 70°F

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

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

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

Please see Disclaimer on Page 5
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**MULTI - SPECIES EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES**
- none identified

**NON - SSP SPECIES THAT COULD BE SUBSTITUTED BY AFRICAN PYGMY FALCON**
- none identified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES BIOLOGY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity pattern:</td>
<td>Diurnal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risk to humans:</td>
<td>Sharp bill or beak, Sharp Claws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>skinned/hairless mice, carnivore meat, and insects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Veterinary</td>
<td>Impaction may be caused by eating a mouse with fur</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFSPRING HOUSING and REPRODUCTION</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gestation or Incubation:</td>
<td>31-35 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Offspring Holding:</td>
<td>Institutions are expected to hold for 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning, Fledging or Metamorphosis:</td>
<td>~30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Offspring with Parent:</td>
<td>Up to 1 year, or until next nesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Offspring per Reproductive Event:</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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</table>
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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](image1)

![Figure 2: Age pyramid of the AZA African pygmy falcon population. Breeding and Transfer Plan 2016](image2)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHALLENGE</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>NEED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>Increase genetic diversity by importing reproductively viable individuals</td>
<td>Recruit institutions and/or increase SSP participation</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproduction</td>
<td>Improve protocols for natural reproduction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Parent-rearing of chicks is preferred, as hand-rearing has sometimes resulted in imprinting of chicks upon humans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND REINTRODUCTIONS</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imports</strong></td>
<td>An importation from EAZA is planned, pending permit approval. No other import sources are being considered at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exports</strong></td>
<td>There are no plans to export at this time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHALLENGES TO ACQUISITIONS AND TRANSFERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Disease Testing</strong></th>
<th>Highly pathogenic avian influenza may become a hindrance to transfers, imports, and exports in the future.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regulatory</strong></td>
<td>This species is CITES App II, so the required permitting can be burdensome (about 6 months to approve).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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.*