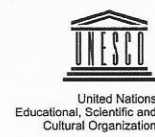




Convention on Biological Diversity



Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity UNESCO-SCBD Programme



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE

**GESAAF**  
LABORATORIO PER IL PAESAGGIO E I BENI CULTURALI



MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI



REGIONE TOSCANA



*1st European Conference for the Implementation of the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity*

# Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity in Europe

8-11 April 2014,

*Istituto degli Innocenti and Palazzo Budini, Piazza Santissima Annunziata, Florence, Italy*

## ABSTRACT BOOK



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE



Ministero dei beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo



Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic



GIAHS  
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems



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**Biography:** Falconer currently active. Geologist, Master in Environmental Management, PhD Extraordinary Award by his doctoral thesis about Falconry in Spain. Falconry Delegate of the Ministry of Culture of Spain for UNESCO. Consultant (public and private entities) at local, national, and international level. Author (three books, TV documentaries, dozens of articles...), Lecturer and visitant teacher at university. Avium's Director, specialized company in ornithology & falconry. For 22 years Coordinator in 42 editions of ADAJA's Summer Camp, environmental education program developed in Spain.



**Title:** Falconry's Heritage; pioneer in both the sustainable use of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity

**Keywords:** Biodiversity, conservation culture, falconry, game, hawking, heritage, hunting, international, International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, IAF, landscape, ornithology, raptors, sustainability, sustainable use of natural resources, tradition, UNESCO Implementation of international, regional and national agreements dealing with cultural and biological diversity.

**Abstract:** Falconry constitutes the most international of all Intangible Cultural Heritage in UNESCO's history. In this traditional hunting art, man keeps and trains raptors to hunt wild prey in the natural environment. For over four thousand years, the falconer has been integrated in nature. This changes his status from spectator into participant. Thus he knows the wild, allowing him to "think like a bird, think like quarry" and think like a human. We find examples of this alliance in art, ancient manuscripts, literature or poetry, in the cultures of different countries and in their religions. Over four museums are solely dedicated to the Art & Culture of falconry. Academic disciplines as significant as ornithology, veterinary medicine, the psychology of learning, ethology; all have their roots in medieval treatises written by falconers. The conservation of birds of prey began as a result of falconry. Moreover, falconry techniques are applied successfully in recovery, management and breeding of raptors. The requirement to go to the field daily to train and hunt with the bird of prey, remains in the modern urban man an almost forgotten link with Nature. International, national and local regulations regarding raptor conservation are addressed by the IAF which has a global role (member countries >60) and which is associated with IUCN, UNESCO and CBD and the Bern Convention amongst other international organizations and conventions.