

VKM assessment:

Non-detriment finding for golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

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Competing interests: VKM Panel on CITES declares no competing interests in relation to this NDF.

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Scientific name: *Aquila chrysaetos* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Scientific synonym: *Falco chrysaetos* Linnaeus, 1758

Common name: Golden eagle

Norwegian name: Kongeørn

Type of permit: CITES Appendix II (Norwegian CITES Regulation Annex I, List B).

Country of Import: United States of America (US).

Country of Export: Norway (NO).

Purpose and source: The proposal concerns the export from Norway to the United States of America (US) of eight feathers originating from the dismantling of an old, prepared specimen (adult individual, 4-6 years old). Purpose-of-transaction code P and source code W.

For Appendix II species (Norwegian Cites Regulation Annex 1, list B) it is required to establish that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species, in compliance with CITES Article IV. In the Norwegian CITES regulation (Lovdata 2018), the criteria for export from Norway are described in Chapter 2, Section 5.

VKM has adopted the definition of detriment, cf. Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) suggested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Scientific Authority (<https://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/archive/workshop-american-ginseng-cites-non-detriment-findings.pdf>):

1. Harvest that is not sustainable.
2. Harvest that harms the status of the species in the wild.
3. Removal from the wild that results in habitat loss or destruction, or that interferes with recovery efforts for a species.

Conclusion

The golden eagle has a large and stable population and is listed as a species of Least Concern, globally, in Europe and in Norway. The feathers for export are taken from a prepared specimen of unknown geographic origin.

VKM concludes that the export of eight *Aquila chrysaetos* feathers from Norway to the US for personal purposes will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

1. Biological information

Distribution

The golden eagle has a wide Holarctic distribution covering latitudes 70°N to 20°S (Birdlife International, 2021a).

Life history

Juvenile birds may disperse up to 1,000 km in their first years, while adults can be sedentary or migrate seasonally (Birdlife International, 2021a). Nesting takes place on cliffs or in trees after a breeding season and normally results in 1-2 nestlings (Birdlife International, 2021).

Role in the ecosystem

The golden eagle is a generalist predator that also feeds on carrion (Birdlife International, 2021a).

2. Population trend

The global population trend is stable, while it is increasing in Europe after historic decline (Birdlife International, 2021a,b). In Norway the population trend is considered stable (Stokke et al., 2021).

3. Conservation status

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Global (Birdlife International, 2021a), Europe (Birdlife International, 2021b): Least Concern (LC); Norsk Rødliste for arter 2021 (Stokke et al., 2021): Least Concern (LC).

4. Threats

The golden eagle has historically been heavily persecuted both in Eurasia and North America (Birdlife International, 2021a). Presently the major threats are habitat destruction, flyways disrupted by power lines (causing electrocution of birds) and increasingly, collisions with wind turbines (Birdlife International, 2021a,b).

5. Conservation and Management measures

International legislation

EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, Annex A. CMS, Appendix II.
EU Birds Directive Annex 1, Bern Convention Annex II.

National legislation

The golden eagle has been protected by law in Norway since 1968 (Folkestad, 2018).

Conservation measures

Breeding is monitored throughout Europe (Derlink et al., 2018).

6. Trade/use

Legal

The legal trade of wild caught specimen (source code W) mainly concerns feathers (<https://trade.cites.org/>).

Illegal

Some illegal trade has been revealed in the USA (The Wildlife Society, 2018).

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