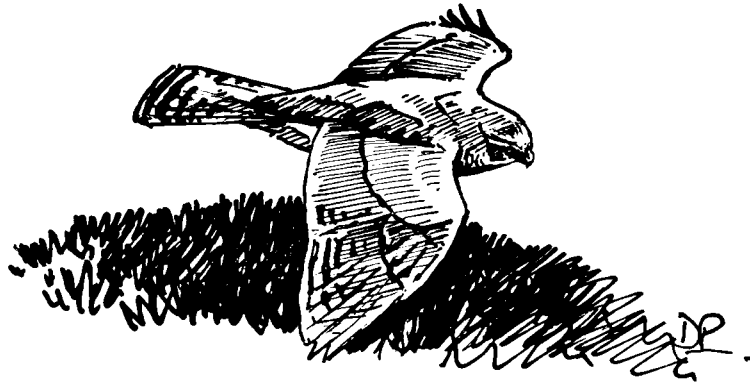


Management Statement

Macaronesian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus granti*



Final Draft, December 1999

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

Management Statement for Macaronesian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus granti*

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Timetable

First draft: 15 July 1999

Workshop: 6-7 November 1999

Final draft: 15 December 1999

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 to be actively implemented in Canaries (Spain) and Madeira Archipelago (Portugal).

Current status

1.1 Distribution

Endemic subspecies of the Canaries and Madeira archipelagos (Snow & Perrins, 1998). In the Canaries, the species is present in Tenerife, La Palma, La Gomera, El Hierro and Gran Canaria Islands. Possible breeding on the eastern islands and islets was suggested in the past (Thanner, 1905 *fide* Several authors 1988; Polatzek 1908 *fide* Several authors 1988), but there are no recent confirmed records. Currently it is possible to see it in winter and during migration.

The population has been estimated at 200 pairs (Several authors, 1988). The main portion of the population can be found in Tenerife and La Palma islands (75 and 50 pairs respectively). La Gomera and El Hierro has around 25 to 20 pairs respectively. In the same study no birds were observed in Gran Canaria Island, but breeding was recorded in 1994 (Rodríguez & Moreno, 1995). Expansion of the Sparrowhawk in the last year has been detected on Gran Canaria Island. It has been recorded in a minimum area of 17 5 x 5 km squares (F. Rodríguez, *com. pers.*).

The species in the Madeira Archipelago is only present at Madeira Island. Although, no census has been carried out, it is considered abundant in this island (Oliveira, 1999).

1.2 Population and trend

There are no specific studies on the species in the Canaries after the 1987 census. The population seems to maintain a good conservation status, and even increases in some sites. For example, at Garajonay National Park, Emmerson (1993) found the Sparrowhawk distributed across the whole park. In Gran Canaria Is., F. Rodríguez (*com. pers.*) has found it in most of the 5x5 km square that are occupied by adequate forest.

In addition, it is important to take into account that most of the forested area in the Canaries Islands, to which this species is closely linked, is currently protected.

In Madeira, the species has a favourable conservation status.

1.3 Habitat requirements

In the Canaries its presence is linked to forestry habitats, represented there by Laurel Forest and pinewood. The species shows a special preference to Laurel Forest and to mixed pinewood, mainly located in the northern slopes of the islands. It is also present in the xerophytic pinewoods and even in small copes close to crops (Quilis *et. al.* 1993). It can also be observed in habitats partially altered by the presence of alloctonous species such as Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus sp.*) and *Cupresus macrocarpa*, but those constitute potential laurel forest (Martín, 1987).

In Madeira, the species occupies both *autochthonous* and exotic forest with a good vegetation coverage (Oliveira, 1999).

1.4 Conservation Status

The species *Acipiter nisus* is included in Annex II of the Bonn Convention and in Annex II of Bern Convention, as well as in Annex II of the National Catalogue of Threatened Species (of Special Interest). The endemic subspecies (*A. n. granti*) is included in the Annex I of Birds Directive.

In the Canaries the subspecies appears in the Red Book of Terrestrial Vertebrates (Martín *et. al.* 1990), classified as follows:

Tenerife:	Out of danger
La Gomera:	Rare
La Palma:	Out of danger
El Hierro:	Rare

In Madeira, the species is catalogued as Out of danger.

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

The distribution range of the subspecies is protected by several protection figures, such as Protected Sites (EENN) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and also included in Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

Threats and limiting factors

Habitat destruction

In the Canaries, destruction and degradation of the habitat must have been the most important threat factor for the species. The intense exploitation of the forests that took place in the Canary archipelago, resulted in a large loss and deterioration of the laurel forest and also of pinewoods.

In islands such as Gran Canaria, the laurel forest has been reduced to less than 1% of the original surface. Several authors who visited the archipelago at the beginning of the 20th century detected the reduction of the Sparrowhawk population on this island (Thanner, 1910 *fide* Several Authors, 1988; Bannerman, 1912 *fide* Several Authors, 1988). Currently exploitation has decreased significantly except in the laurel forest.

In Madeira, this factor has a low incidence on the Sparrowhawk population.

Importance: low

Illegal hunting.

Hunters prosecuted this raptor, as many others, in the past. Currently, the increased awareness of the population and the statutory protection, together with the species' elusive behaviour, all seem to have contributed to the decrease in hunting, in both the Canaries and in Madeira.

Importance: low.

Current conservation action

A variety of conservation actions have been carried out in the Canaries so far:

1987: The Census of Raptors of the Canaries Archipelago is undertaken including, among other species, the Sparrowhawk. This census reveals species distribution in the Islands, and also estimates population levels.

The designation of SPAs for Annex I species under the Birds Directive begins this same year. So far, 10 SPAs for Sparrowhawk have been designated, namely Ojeda, Inagua y Pajonales in Gran Canaria; La Caldera de Taburiente and Monte de Los

Sauces, Puntallana and Pinar de Garafía in La Palma; Garajonay in La Gomera; Tigaiga, Teno, Corona Forestal de Tenerife and Anaga in Tenerife; and Parque Natural de El Hierro and Garoé in El Hierro.

1989: Approval of the Spanish Nature Conservation Act (Ley 4/89 de Conservación de los Espacios Naturales y de la Flora y Fauna Silvestres). The Sparrowhawk is classified as species of Special Interest (Royal Decree 439/90).

1994: Approval of the new Canaries' Countryside Act (Ley de Espacios Naturales de Canarias), which includes several protected areas for Sparrowhawk.

1998: SEO/BirdLife publishes the review of the Spanish inventory of IBAs (Viada, 1998). 19 IBAs are of particular importance for the Macaronesian Sparrowhawk. These include: In Gran Canaria (354: Pajonales, Ojeda, Inagua and La Data, 355: Tamadaba); in Tenerife (357: San Andrés, Pijaral and Anaga, 358: Monte de Las Vueltas, Aguas Negras and Quebradas, 359: Monte de Las Mercedes, Mina and Yedra, Aguirre, La Goleta and Pedro Álvarez Quebradas, 362: Monte Verde de Santa Úrsula and La Victoria, 363: Ladera de Tigaiga, 366: Monte del Agua, Barranco de Los Cochinos and Barranco de Cuevas Negras, 368: Barranco de Tágara, 369: Pinar de Vilaflor, 370: Pinar de Arico); in La Gomera (375: Riscos de Hermigua y Agulo, 376: Parque Nacional de Garajonay); in La Palma (379: Monte Verde de La Palma, 380: El Canal and Los Tiles, 383: Parque Nacional de Taburiente); and in El Hierro (385: Macizo de Ventijís, 386: Llanos de Nizdafe, 387: Monte Verde de Frontera).

Aim and Objectives

Aim

The aim of this plan is to maintain the current protection status for the subspecies and its habitat.

Since the Sparrowhawk shows a clear favourable conservation status in its area of distribution (Canaries and Madeira), special conservation measures for the subspecies are not needed at the European Union level.

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