

ELEMENT DER REPRÄSENTATIVEN LISTE

Bitte füllen Sie alle nachstehenden Punkte für jedes Element des immateriellen Kulturerbes aus, das im Hoheitsgebiet des Staates vorhanden ist und in die Repräsentative Liste eingetragen wurde. Beziehen Sie sich auf das bereits eingetragene Formular als Grundlage für die Berichterstattung über den aktuellen Status des Elements und berichten Sie nur über relevante Änderungen seit dem Datum der Eintragung in die Liste oder seit dem letzten Bericht. Frühere Formulare sind unter <https://ich.unesco.org> oder auf Anfrage bei Cristina Biasetto (biasetto@unesco.at) verfügbar.

Nach Möglichkeit beziehen Sie in das Element involvierte Gruppen, Einzelpersonen oder Vereine in den Prozess mit ein. Diese Beteiligung ist ggf. im Bereich C.7. zu beschreiben.

Name des Elementes

FALCONRY

Jahr der Aufnahme in das internationale Verzeichnis

2012

C.1. Soziale und kulturelle Funktion

Falconry is the traditional activity of keeping and training birds of prey to take quarry in its natural state. It has been practised for more than 4000 years. Falconry has been an integral part of Austrian culture for centuries and is expressed in multiple cultural domains, in particular social practices, rituals and festive events, as well as transferring knowledge. Modes of transmission include education of falconers and the general public about traditional skills, knowledge about the biology and behaviour of birds of prey and the environment, traditional craftsmanship related to the production of traditional falconry equipment, as well as linguistic and artistic expressions. Since falconry has been inscribed in the Representative List, there is more cultural awareness and falconry plays a larger role in other cultural aspects like art and literature.

Regular meetings between members of associations that are concerned with falconry, allow a lively exchange as well as the safeguarding of this ancient tradition. For the Austrian falconers, the transmission of this tradition is of great importance and the symbiosis between birds of prey and humans is at centre of the element. Everyone can join the community regardless of age, gender, race, religion, social or linguistic background. The inscription – both on the national as well as the international list – has further contributed to the safeguarding of the element by strengthening the falconers' sense of identity. Since the inscription of the element, communities are more aware of their role as tradition bearers and the cultural element of the tradition is foregrounded. In addition, recognition of falconry as Intangible Cultural Heritage has increased acceptance in society. The safeguarding of knowledge, skills and practices of this ancient form of hunting therefore represents a high priority in falconry as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. The transmission of knowledge, starting with the breeding of birds of prey, through the training of the birds to the practice of hunting, represents a significant contribution of the bearers to the viability of this cultural heritage.

Due to the multinational nomination, there is a regular exchange between the different communities involved. The inscription has also strengthened international cooperation and dialogue on an international level.

C.2. Bewertung zur aktuellen Situation und Risiken

The current state of Austrian falconry is viable and sustainable. There are no apparent threats to the element's continued transmission. As the practice involves animals and their welfare, the bearers have to adapt their mode of practice and transmission to the according laws. In 2015, all falconers had to provide proof of expertise in accordance with a new implemented legislative measure concerning the practice.

All falconers of the member clubs had to participate in this training and examination and received a certificate in accordance of the law.

Different safeguarding measures further ensure the viability of the element. In September 2021 associations like the "Zentralstelle Österreichischer Falknervereine" (ZÖF) organized meetings for young people. Such activities contribute to the transmission of the practice to a younger generation. In order to improve the education even further the Austrian Falconers Association has published a children's book to offer age-appropriate information for children and recreated a source book for apprentice falconers. Furthermore, individual member associations of the ZÖF held workshops for young hunters about falconry. Other than that, singular practitioners organized meetings, where in Carinthia and Styria a total of 140 falconers and interested associations met to exchange information on falconry. So called birds of prey displays in specialized centres (e.g. falconry centres) are an important mode of transmitting the practice and encourage new people to engage with falconry in an ethical way. They are in conformity with the nationally defined falconry-codex for ethical treatment of falcons and in conformity with the contents and goals of the 2003 convention. Falconry takes up a lot of time and falconers are noticing that people sometimes cannot invest enough time. Another problem is the provision of food support for the birds, as it becomes increasingly difficult.

Even though Corona has had a negative impact on the element, the falconers were still able to organize up to 104 hunting days during the hunting season of 2020/2021. About 150 falconers took part in these events. According to the statistics of the ZÖF there have been 125 hunting days per year on average for the past 10 years. Among the falconers there are about 80% male and about 20% female, who play an active part. Among the males the age group is predominantly 45 years upwards, among the female falconers it is 30 years upwards. The number of female practitioners is constantly increasing.

Hunting with the birds of prey, joint activities as well as public relations work ensure that falconry in Austria will be carried on. At the same time, the Austrian Falconers Association and the ZÖF, as the two main organizations concerned with the practice, ensure that all communities, groups and individuals are provided with information about falconry.

C.3. Beitrag zu den Zielen der Listen

Through the inscription on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, falconry has experienced more acceptance as a practice as well as more support among the hunting community and hunting associations. There has already been a strong bond between Austrian falconers across all genders, societies, cultures, linguistic and religious backgrounds. The recognition of the element has managed to further strengthen that bond. The inscription and the subsequent media coverage have contributed hugely to raising awareness about the cultural value of the element.

The inscription made people see the element with different eyes. New cooperations and projects have been established in the past years. In 2015, for example, Birdlife Austria, the only nationwide and internationally active bird protection organization in Austria, nominated the northern goshawk "Bird of the Year", including a symposium at the Rosenberg in September 2015 that highlighted the relationship of falconers with their birds. In 2018 the Falconry Archive of the Austrian Falconers association was participating in a project by the University of Vienna. Librarians in training documented the inventory and integrated the material into a modern database, making it accessible online.

Through these and other measures the falconers showcase their intention, to safeguard their cultural heritage and to share it with other people, practices and to be open for new dynamics and dialogues. National and international exchange both with falconers, hunting associations, animal welfare organizations as well as other institutions are crucial for the long-term viability of the element.

C.4. Erhaltungsmaßnahmen und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

The bearers are continuously working on new safeguarding measures, as well as continuing approved ones. Here are some further examples not mentioned in the previous sections:

Transmission and Training

- The Austrian Falconry Association (ÖFB) has established a Falconry Academy – which was founded 2010 after inscription on the National Inventory – where people can learn about Falconry in a professional and historically accurate environment.
- The ZÖF is using audio-visual media to inspire young people for the falconry and transmit the tradition. For this purpose a video has been made as well (for more information visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtzSpQA2Z-Y> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hl55rOVwHms>).

Enhancement

- The ÖFB publishes the magazine "Der Falkner" every year, where current topics are presented as well as articles about ICH and the 2003 convention. The ÖFB wants to draw attention to the meaning of ICH in and outside the falconer community.
- The ÖFB works together with a scholar on subjects of hunting to evaluate all birds of prey displays in Austria and ascertain where there are possibilities for improvement
- Networking opportunities like conferences and symposia are organized on a regular basis.

Documentation

- The ÖFB has founded and opened the Austrian Archives of Falconry. The archives are located in the historical setting of Castle Waldreichs in Lower Austria.
- Furthermore, the homepage of the Central Office of Austrian Falconry Associations is kept up to date and provides important information about traditional falconry (<https://www.falknerbund.com/>). A brochure on traditional falconry in Austria was produced in 2015.

C.5. Beteiligung der Gemeinschaft

Falconry remains a popular heritage element, with about 450 Austrian falconers in Austria. The ÖFB is one of the world's oldest Falconry Associations and a founding member of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), an accredited NGO since 2010. Several NGOs are directly supporting Austrian falconry, for example the CIC, the IAF and the FACE. Another umbrella organization is the Zentralstelle Österreichischer Falknervereine (ZÖF). The regional hunting associations being part in the ZÖF are responsible for the implementation of the respective hunting laws, which are different in each federal state. The members of the ZÖF are therefore also members of the regional hunting associations. The local associations are important as contact points for questions regarding the practice of falconry. Furthermore, they play an important part when birds of prey are injured and need recovery: Authorities and veterinarians are provided with specialised information or practical support. Each year falconers provide care for fledgling or injured birds, which are released again after recovery or are taken care of as long as necessary if release is not an option.

In Austria numerous safeguarding measures – including several breeding, scientific research and bird release programmes – are initiated, planned and promoted. The practical implementation is carried out by the members of the falconry communities themselves in close cooperation with other institutions, centres and associations.

Each falconer contributed to the safeguarding of the practice by attending falconry events, carrying the message of the importance of falconry into the regions and therefore making a significant contribution to maintaining the tradition.

Zwischen 150 und 250 Wörter

C.6. ZUSTÄNDIGKEIT

The two organisations mainly responsible for the management and safeguarding of Falconry were: the Austrian Falconry Association ("Österreichischer Falknerbund", ÖFB) the Zentralstelle Österreichischer Falknervereine (ZÖF) including

- Falknerverein Austria

- Österreichischer Falknerverband
- Burgenländischer Falknerverband
- Oststeirischer Falknerverein
- Österreichischer Falknerorden
- Oberösterreichischer Landesfalknerverband
- Steirischer Falknerverein

To practice falconry, a special exam is currently only mandatory in 3 out of 9 *Laender*, but efforts are made to implement these exams in all 9 federal states of Austria.

C.7. Beteiligung der Gemeinschaften an der Erstellung dieses Berichts

The organisations mentioned above have been involved in preparing this report. The member associations of the ZÖF were informed of this report in different manners (mail, phone). The report was then prepared by the board-members of the ZÖF. Since the board is composed of different falconry clubs, the report reflects the situation of all member clubs. Furthermore, the members of the ZÖF regularly report to the board about the current situation in the federal states. The annual general meeting of the ZÖF also ensures that the concerns and current events in the individual member associations are discussed and documented. All members of the umbrella organizations as well as local organizations were asked to contribute to this report.

Similarly, the ÖFB informs the community members about the implementation processes of adopted safeguarding measures and other developments in the course of formal correspondence and informal meetings on a regular basis. The Austrian Falconry Association and the Austrian Commission have been in touch and provided them with the documentation and outcome of their activities and exchanges with falconers and other stakeholders.