



To Shrimati Mrs Jayanthi Natarajan,
Minister of Environment and Forests,
Government of India, Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, India

29 November 2012

Dear Shrimati Minister Natarajan,

The Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) is a non-profit scientific society whose primary goal is the accumulation and dissemination of scientific information about raptors (hawks, eagles, falcons and owls). This information is used to inform the public (both scientific and lay) about the role of raptors in nature, and to promote the conservation of raptors whose populations are threatened by human activities. The RRF's membership consists of academic researchers, government agency employees, students, and others interested in birds of prey. The RRF was organized in 1966 and started publishing a scholarly journal, The Journal of Raptor Research, in 1967. Based in the United States, the RRF is an international organization with nearly 1,000 members, currently including members throughout the United States and in over 50 countries worldwide.

The Raptor Research Foundation would like to sincerely thank you and your staff for your Ministry's swift action in curtailing the illegal killing of Amur Falcons in North-eastern India. We were concerned to read about the scale of the killing. Falcons are revered all over the world and have a special place in the ancestral heritage of Indian history. By acting rapidly to stop this illegal action, your Government has once again demonstrated to the world that it is deeply committed towards conserving India's biological diversity. For that, we applaud you.

The Raptor Research Foundation fully supports and highly commends your actions towards ensuring the future survival of Amur Falcons and other raptors in India. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and commitment and look forward to seeing improved protection measures for Amur Falcons.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Tingay, PhD
President, Raptor Research Foundation
www.raptorresearchfoundation.org