



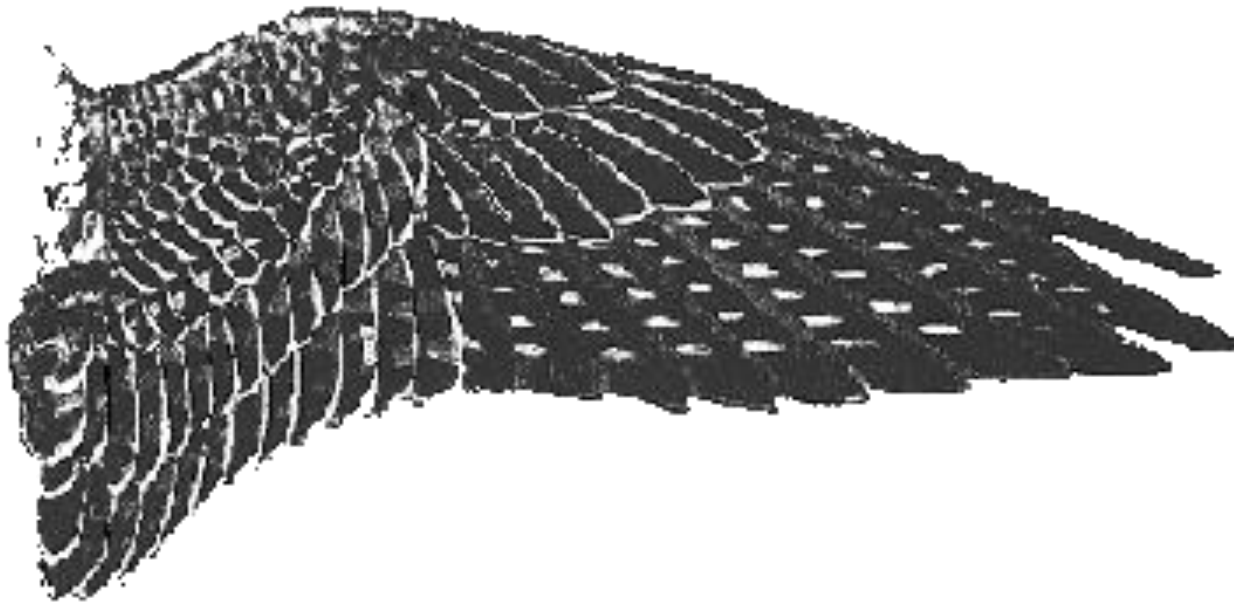
Saker Falcons in trade: a case study

Saker Falcon Task Force
Stakeholders' Action Planning workshop
9-11 September 2013, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



International trade in falcons

- All species of the Family Falconidae are included in the CITES Appendices
- International trade is regulated accordingly



CITES

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Purpose: ensure that wild fauna and flora in international trade are not exploited unsustainably

178 Parties



CITES CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA		IDENTIFICATION		Date	
1. NAME OF THE PARTY		2. SPECIES		3. DATE	
4. AUTHORITY		5. TRADE		6. COMMENTS	
7. SPECIES		8. TRADE		9. COMMENTS	
10. SPECIES		11. TRADE		12. COMMENTS	
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85. SPECIES		86. TRADE		87. COMMENTS	
88. SPECIES		89. TRADE		90. COMMENTS	
91. SPECIES		92. TRADE		93. COMMENTS	
94. SPECIES		95. TRADE		96. COMMENTS	
97. SPECIES		98. TRADE		99. COMMENTS	
100. SPECIES		101. TRADE		102. COMMENTS	

35,000 species



CITES and falcons

Appendix I

3%

- Species threatened with extinction
- International **commercial trade generally prohibited**
 - *Falco araeus*
 - *Falco jugger*
 - *Falco newtoni* (Seychelles population)
 - *Falco pelegrinoides*
 - *Falco peregrinus*
 - *Falco punctatus*
 - *Falco rusticolus*

Appendix II

92%

- Species not necessarily threatened with extinction but requiring trade controls
Look-alike species
- International **commercial trade permitted and regulated**
 - All other falcons, including *Falco cherrug*



How CITES works for Appendix II

- Export, re-export and import of live and dead Saker Falcons, and their parts and derivatives, is regulated through a system of permits and certificates
- Trade in Saker Falcons requires **CITES export permits** or **re-export certificates**
- The most important conditions for delivery of export permits are that trade:
 - Must be in **legal** specimens *[Management Authority]*
 - Must **not be detrimental** to the survival of the species in the wild *[Scientific Authority]*
 - *Transport conditions for live animals in trade [MA]*

The image shows a CITES Form for Export, Re-export, or Import of Specimens of Wild Fauna and Flora. The form is titled "FORM FOR CERTIFICATE No." and includes a "CITES" logo. A blue circle highlights the "SPECIES OF WILDLIFE" section, which contains a dropdown menu with options: "EXPORT", "RE-EXPORT", "IMPORT", and "OTHER". The form is divided into several sections for providing details about the specimens, including their origin, management authority, and scientific authority. It also includes a table for recording specimen details and a section for signatures and dates.



Exemptions

- If a Management Authority is satisfied that a specimen of an Appendix-II species has been **captive-bred**, it can certify this in permits and certificates (source code 'C') (*no NDF for 'C'!*)
 - *False declaration of source "bred in captivity" is one of the most common and persistent types of CITES fraud*
- **Personally owned live animals** that undergo frequent trans-border movements, such as Saker Falcons for falconry, and that are based and registered in the owner's State of usual residence can travel to other countries with a **passport** issued by MA
 - *Only if live bird is **legally acquired** and possessed*
 - *Bird needs secure **mark or identification**, included in passport*
 - *Valid for maximum **three years***
 - *Owner can **not sell or transfer** bird when abroad*

CITES
 CONVENTION ON
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN
 ENDANGERED SPECIES OF
 WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

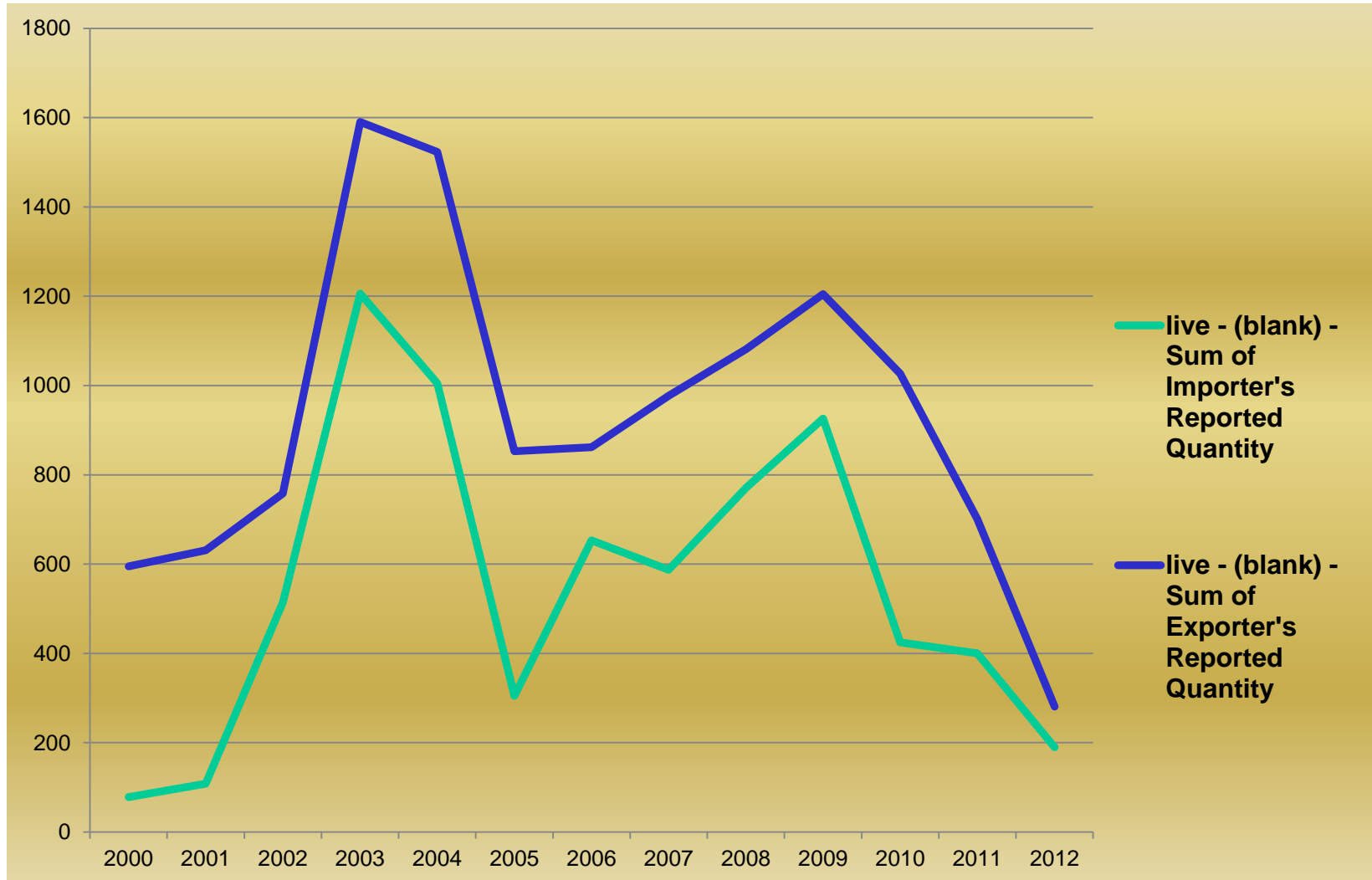
PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No.

EXPORT
 RE-EXPORT
 IMPORT
 OTHER:

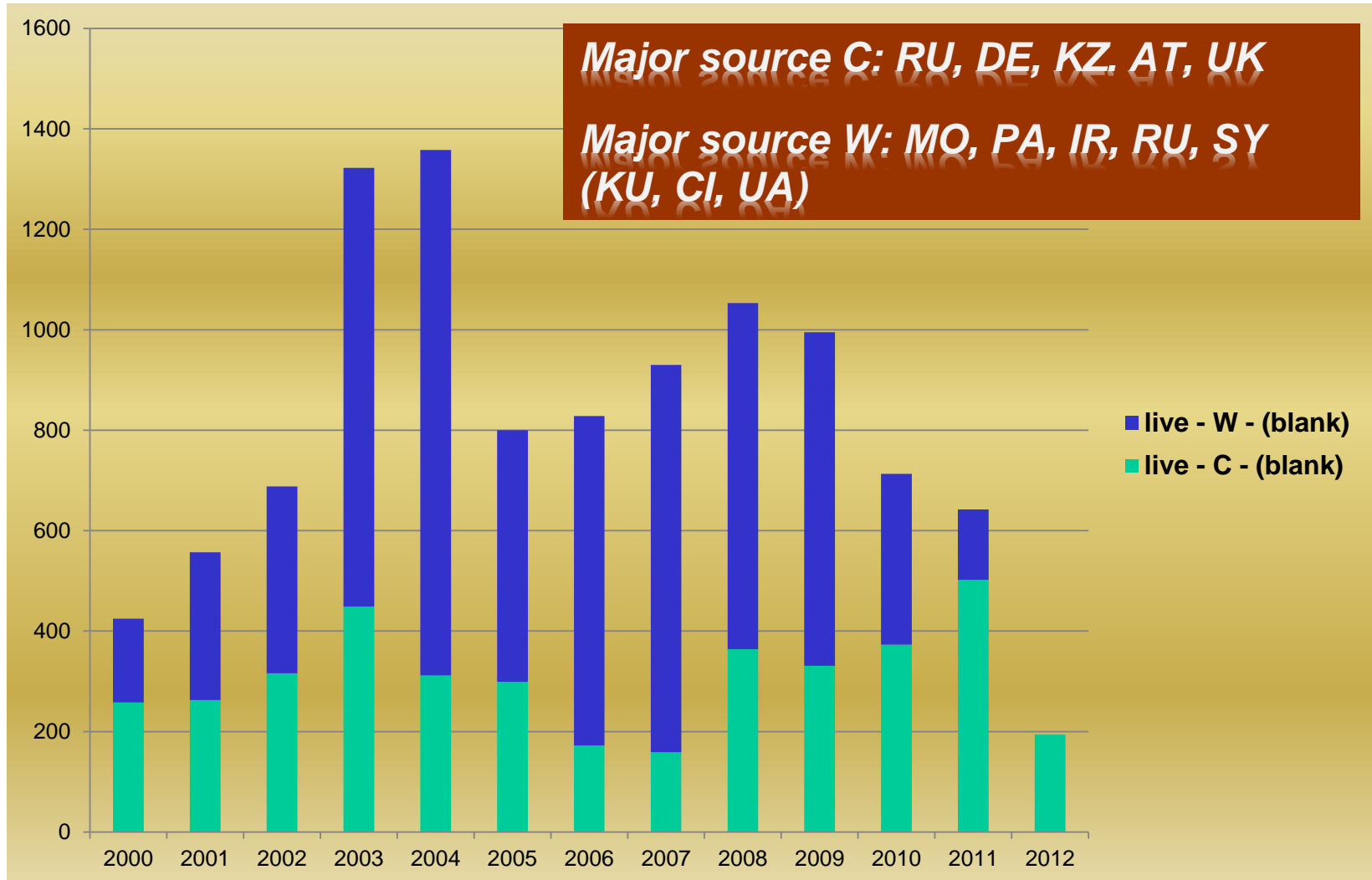
4. Expedient details (name, address and other)



Exports of live *Falco cherrug*



Change in source of *Falco cherrug*



Addressing CITES trade concerns

- **International authorized trade** in Saker Falcons from certain range States seemed significant in relation to the conservation status of the species (*CITES trade may be inadequately managed: ineffective or no Scientific Authority; no robust NDFs; permits issued contrary to advice from SA; no monitoring;...*)
- **Illegal and unreported trade** has been a significant problem for the conservation of the species
- CITES actions to address both these causes of unsustainable trade
 - Review of Significant Trade
 - Cooperation between countries over illicit trade in falcons



Review of Significant Trade - *Falco cherrug*

Falco cherrug selected in 2003

*Information provided by
UAE*

*Concerns: levels of
exports from certain range
States; implementation of
requirements to make
NDFs by these States*

**Consultation with 47 range
States in 2004/05**

**Categorization
For range States where trade
was of 'urgent concern':
recommendations to ensure
non-detrimental trade**

*Many fully protect species or do not
trade – eliminated from Review*

**Implementation evaluated
in 2006, 2009 and 2010**

**Action by Standing
Committee where
insufficient compliance**

**Implementation by range
States of recommendations
2005/09**

*Country-specific, incl.: suspend trade;
implement surveys and monitoring
programmes; make better NDFs; CB;*



Outcome of Review of Significant Trade

- **Bahrain:** Trade suspension
(information on the basis for making NDFs and information on captive-breeding operations have not been made available)
- **Mongolia:** Annual export quota of 300 live wild specimens since 2009
(quota announced in 2010 and 2011)
- **Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan:** Zero export quota for wild specimens
(conditions for change include (i) a status survey and (ii) a science-based population monitoring system with adaptive management harvest programmes)
- **Other range States:** No additional measures required



Addressing illicit trade in Saker Falcons

- CITES Falcon Enforcement Task Force (2004-2008)



**The Illegal Trade in Falcons:
A Guide for Customs, Border Control and
Wildlife Law Enforcement Personnel**
Produced by the CITES Falcon Enforcement Task Force
(Confidential – For Law Enforcement Purposes Only)

and

The CITES Guide to Falconry Species
Produced by the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate, Environment Canada

An initiative of Environment Canada
and

CITES Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland, www.cites.org



CITES GUIDE TO FALCONRY SPECIES - SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

Falco cherrug – Saker Falcon, Appendix II



Adult

Size: TL 45-55 cm
BW male 730-990 g
BW female 970-1300 g

Subspecies: *F. cherrug*, *F. milvipes*,
F. cyanopus, *F. altaicus*

Range: Asia and Africa.

ID:

- large bird
- head streaked with white
- brown upper parts
- white oval spots sometimes forming bars on tail

Similar species: *F. rusticolus* grey morph

Trade: Legal global trade increased in the 1980s, peaking the late 1990s.

Countries of import: UAE is the major country of import. Qatar, Saudi Arabia also significant.

Countries of export/re-export: Major country of export is Pakistan, UAE also significant. European countries.

Purpose: Majority are traded for commercial purposes, also significant trade for personal use.

Source: Main sources are captive bred and wild caught.

For juveniles of this species, see page 12

Addressing illicit trade in Saker Falcons

- International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC)



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



- Established in 2011
- Supports national wildlife law enforcement agencies and sub-regional and regional networks
- Regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)
 - WENs operational in European Union, South Asia and Southeast Asia
 - WENs under various stages of development in West Asia, Central Asia, East Africa



Way forward

- Multiple threats; multiple conservation needs
 - Long-term survival requires the development and implementation of **Saker Falcon Global Action Plan**, involving all stakeholders (incl. CBD, CMS, CITES)
- CITES contribution: to ensure sustainable, legal and traceable trade in Saker falcons
- As agrees at CoP16, focus for CITES for 2013-16 on:
 - Implementation **joint CMS-CITES** work programme
 - Capacity building tools and training for making of **NDFs**
 - Review '**Production systems**' and develop guidance
 - **Enforcement** capacity building (training; forensics; tool kits)



CITES Secretariat Geneva

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