



RAPTORS
MOU

Saker Falcon Task Force

Objective 6: Knowledge Gaps

Stakeholders Action Planning Workshop

Abu Dhabi, 9 September 2013



CMS



UNEP

Objective 6 Working Group

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Huge knowledge problems because:

- Very large range, across very remote areas
- Lack of long-term, systematic monitoring and scientific study in most of range
- Trade exploitation appears very significant but is undocumented

CMS Appendix I listing commits Parties to:

1. Conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore key habitats
2. Prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize activities that impede or prevent migration
3. Prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger the species

Gaps in knowledge concern:

1. Distribution
2. Population sizes and trends
3. Ecological issues
4. Trade effects
5. Other (non-trade) anthropogenic impacts – both positive and negative

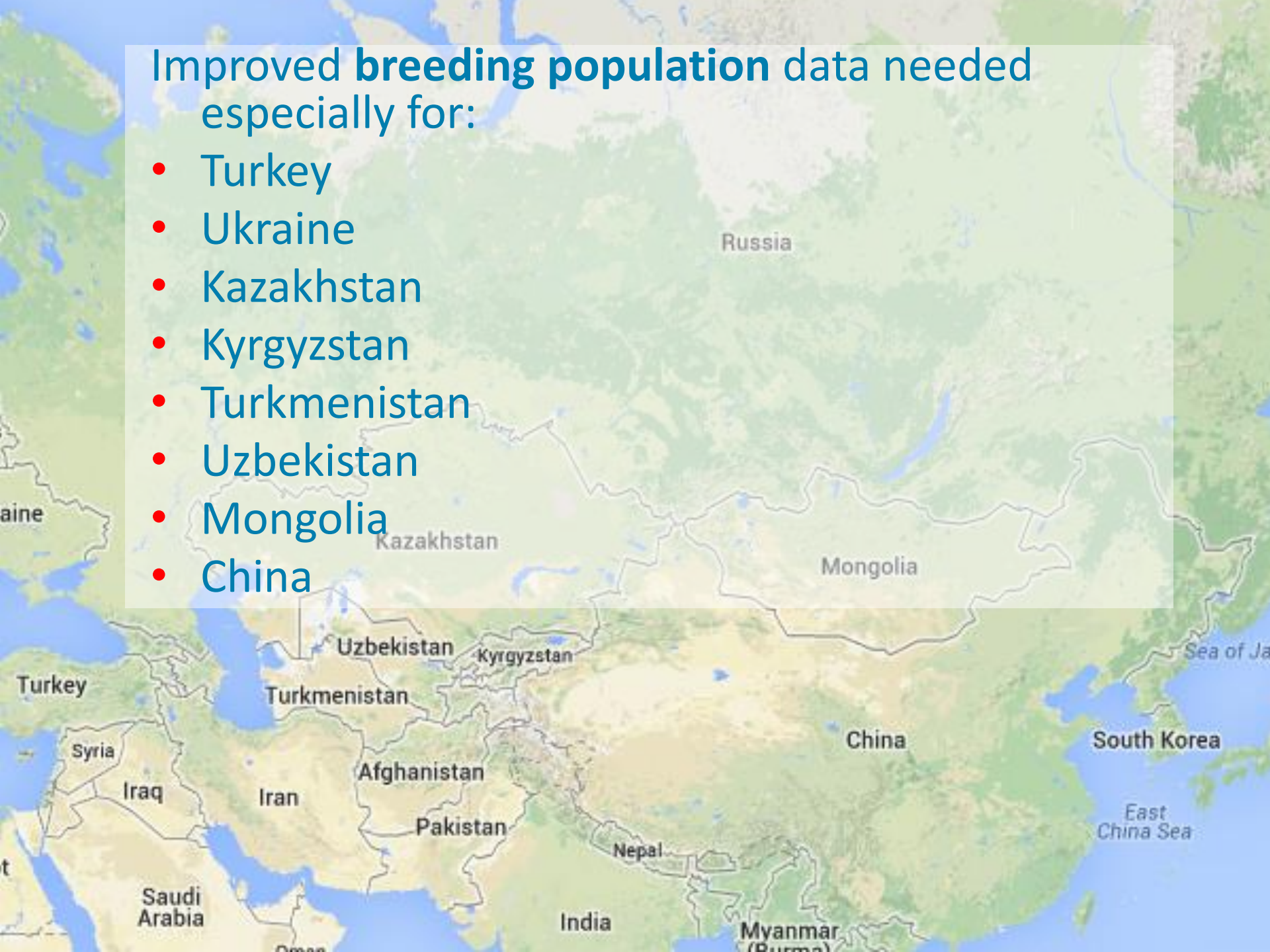
Improved **breeding distribution** data needed especially for:

- Turkey
- Russian Federation
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- China



Improved **breeding population** data needed especially for:

- Turkey
- Ukraine
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Mongolia
- China



Need for information on size of **migrant population** in:

- Iran
- Afghanistan




Key questions for field research - I

- **Scale and extent of trapping of wild Sakers outside breeding range?**
- **Sexes and age-classes affected?**
- **Short-term effects on breeding performance?**
- **Long-term effects on dispersive and restocking ability?**

Key questions for field research - II

- **Main migration routes and wintering grounds for different populations? Effective boundaries (geophysical, genetic) between them?**
- **Age-specific survival rates (especially in first and second years)? Causes of variation in these?**
- **Relationships of performance variables (e.g. survival, productivity) with nest availability and food supply? Direct and indirect human impacts?**
- **Vulnerability of habitats to declines in food availability? Remedial steps?**

Key questions for field research - III

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- Seriousness of impacts of grassland conversion, undergrazing, overgrazing, rodent eradication, afforestation, tree-felling, infrastructure development and mining on breeding populations?
 - Impacts of powerlines and best ways to reduce electrocutions and collisions?
 - Mitigation of climate change effects on lowland grasslands in western part of range?
 - Threat of genetic pollution of wild populations by escaped hybrids, and how to minimise it?

Key questions for field research - IV



- Which populations migrate and winter in particular areas where marker-recording techniques could provide indicators of population sizes and hence trends?
- Funding needed to improve marking and tracking technologies for effective future monitoring and conservation?

Management and Policy - I



- Costs and benefits of managing landscapes for Sakers?
- Effectiveness of protected areas and options for maximising their contribution?
- Target population levels for individual countries?
- Current and potentially sustainable harvest levels from different populations?

Management and Policy - II



Conditions, practices and protocols for

- successfully establishing new populations of Sakers using artificial nests?
- harvesting from a network of artificial nests?
- successfully reintroducing Sakers to parts of the former range?

Management and Policy - III



- How to police territory and trade routes effectively?
- How can falconers contribute to ensuring sustainable future supplies of Sakers – including helping to establish a legal supply chain?
- Feasibility of setting up and sustaining a system for education, monitoring, regulation and conservation based on training wild Saker falcons?

