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

35,000 species
CITES and falcons

Appendix I

- 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

- 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]
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
Exports of live *Falco cherrug*
Change in source of *Falco cherrug*

**Major source C:** RU, DE, KZ, AT, UK

**Major source W:** MO, PA, IR, RU, SY (KU, CI, UA)
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 advise 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)
Addressing illicit trade in Saker Falcons

• International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)
  – 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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