



NDF WORKSHOP
WG 6 – Birds
CASE STUDY 5 SUMMARY
Falco cherrug
Country – **United Arab Emirates**
Original language – English

CASE STUDIES – SAKER FALCON (*FALCO CHERRUG*)

AUTHOR:

Frederic J. Launay

Falco cherrug occurs in a wide range across the Palearctic region from eastern Europe to western China, The global population has declined an estimated 61% from 8,500-12,000 pairs in 1990 to 3,600-4,400 pairs in 2003 with the greatest reductions in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. While other estimates suggest the population may be higher, it is still listed as Endangered by IUCN. Threats to the species include habitat changes and other impacts of changes in agricultural practice across much of its range, and harvesting for falconry.

Management in the United Arab Emirates, which is part of the migratory but not the breeding range, has been implemented in order to control illegal trade and manage legal trade. The species is under strict protection, and meeting CITES requirements constitutes a central feature of management, particularly for import, export and re-export. Live-trapping of wild birds is only permitted under special circumstances.

Since the implementation of federal laws it is estimated that 90% of the 6-9000 saker falcons imported into UAE are from legal sources and very few of them are wild caught. Because there are presently no exports of wild individuals from UAE, NDFs are not currently undertaken.

In some cases the UAE has refused imports of birds when the NDF information available to them has not been able to be validated. However, generally, the importing country does not know whether and NDF has been done or how to assess its validity. This case study illustrates the value of the details of NDFs being known and available to the importing countries.