



Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources
PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE BUREAU

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January 16, 2009

Mr. Willem Winjnstekers
 Secretary General, CITES Secretariat
 15, Chemin de Anemones
 Case postale 456
 CH-1219 Chatelaine-Geneve
 Switzerland

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^{mailed}
^{John}

16 JAN 2009

REPLY . . . FILE

SUBJECT: Philippines' Objection to CITES Notification No.2008/063

Dear Sir,

We have reviewed the application for registration of Pacific Northwest Falcons in the United States of America under CITES Notification No. 2008/063 dated 24 October 2008. This application seeks to register a commercial captive-breeding operation of Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) and Peregrine-Gyrfalcon hybrids (*F. peregrinus* x *F. rusticolus*). The CITES Management of the Republic of the Philippines opposes the registration of this operation for the abovementioned bird species for the following reasons, to wit:

- a) We noticed that some of the forms (e.g. Form 3-186A) provided by the applicant bear no initials and date(s) received by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the space provided under "USFWS Use Only". However, other submitted forms (Form 3-186A) have the visible stamp of USFWS.
- b) It was shown that specimen RX 080453 was certified captive-bred by Cal Sandfort with Peregrine Fund's Special Purpose permit # MB 693645-0. However, when it was acquired by the applicant on January 21, 1994, the name indicated under Transfer was James Willmarth with FWS Permit No: 703654.
- c) Likewise, we noticed that specimen RX 081183 was certified captive-bred by Mr. Robert Berry on March 15, 2007, or about fifteen (15) years after it was Purchased by Mr. Danny Ertsgaard. Additionally, the certification of captive-bred status was from the breeder only, and we did not encounter validation of the certificate by the USFWS. There were also a number of certified captive-bred Gyrfalcons by different bird breeders, but without any confirmation/validation from the CITES-MA of USA.

Therefore, we are unable to support the approval of this operation for these bird species. On the other hand, we would be willing to reconsider our position if the USA can provide satisfactory details and clarification of the abovementioned observations.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to comment on the USA proposal.

Sincerely,


DR. THERESA MUNIDITA S. LIM
 Director