



RAPTORS
MOU

MOS 3

A stylized graphic of a bird in flight, rendered in white and light blue, set against a circular background with a blue and green watercolor-like texture. This graphic is positioned between the letters 'M' and 'S' of the 'MOS 3' title.

Dubai | 3-6 July 2023

**Coming together for the
conservation of birds of prey**



12.3 Conservation Status Assessment Report (CSAR)

3rd July 2023

Technical Advisory Group

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12.3 Introduction

- MOU Agreement text outlines the fundamental principle:
*‘5. The Signatories will aim to take co-ordinated measures to **achieve and maintain the favourable conservation status** of birds of prey throughout their range and to reverse their decline when and where appropriate’*
- For MOS to have the overview of whether a favourable conservation status is being achieved and maintained for the species on Annex 1 of the MOU throughout their range, a report valuable **summarising what is known about the conservation status of Annex 1 species and highlighting any knowledge gaps**
- As part of their workplan TAG assess parameters relating to conservation status of Annex 1 species ahead of every MOS in order to propose amendments to the Annexes, but not previously synthesised into a report for Signatories – trial run

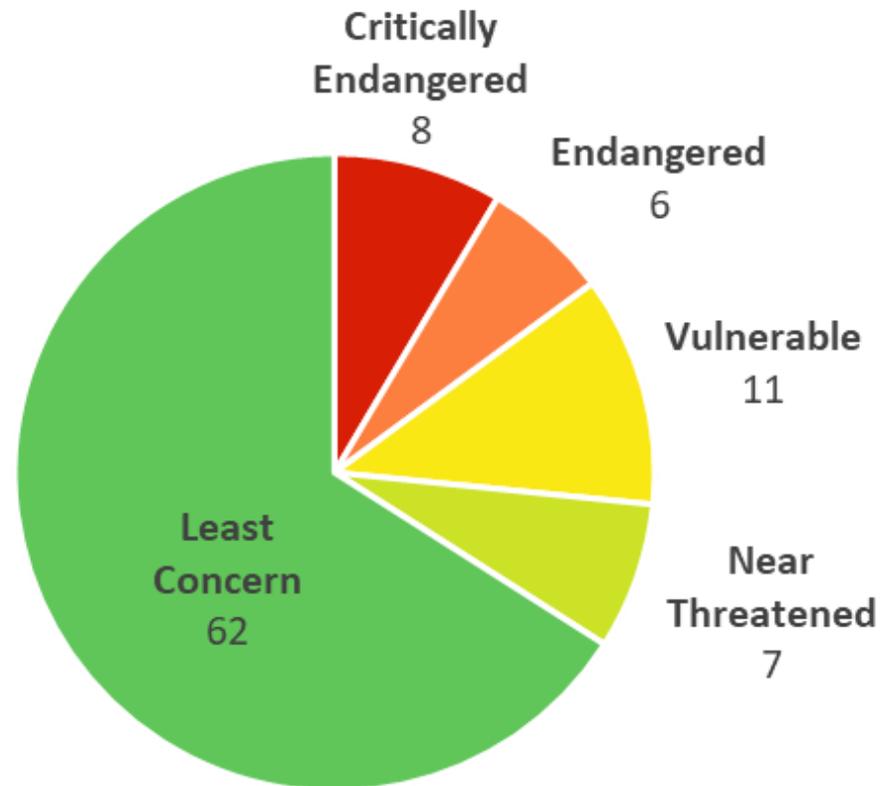
12.3 The first Raptors MOU CSAR

- Based on list of 94 species proposed by TAG as Annex 1 for MOS3
- Summarises information on:
 - Conservation Status and trends
 - Threats
 - Habitats
 - Conservation actions needed
 - Knowledge gaps
 - Comparison of Raptors MOU Annexes with CMS Appendices
 - Gaps in international species action planning



- No analysis of status of sites of importance for these species, but this would be an important component of any future CSAR
- Further regional analysis could also potentially be useful

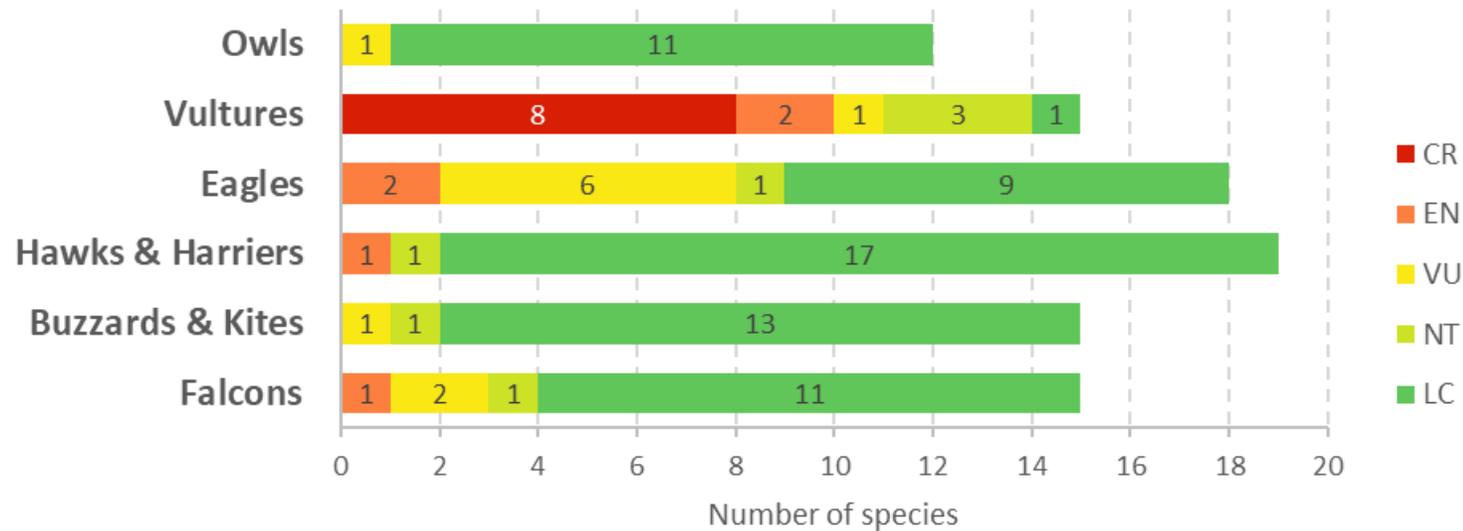
12.3 Current global conservation status



34%

of Annex 1 species are at elevated risk of extinction

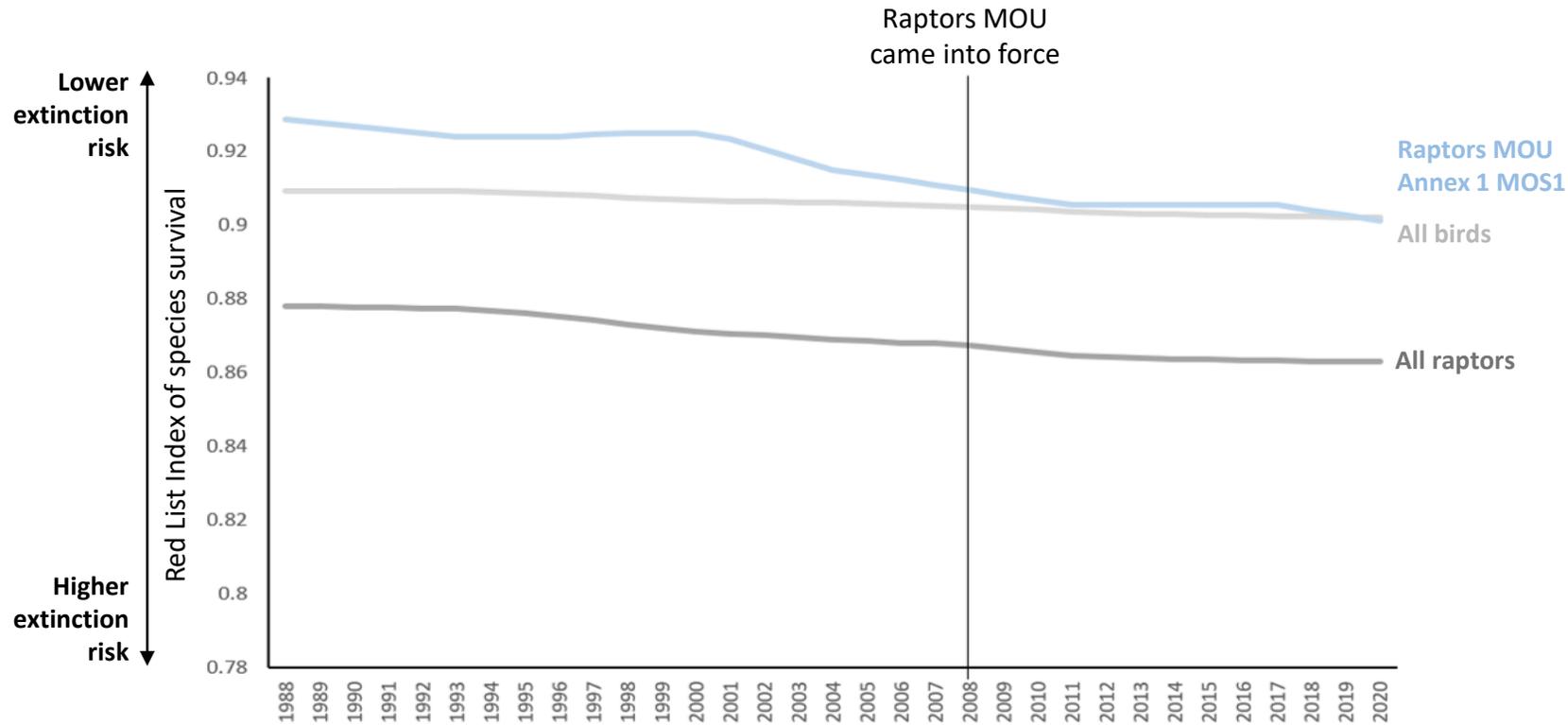
12.3 Current global conservation status



93%

of vulture species are at elevated risk of extinction

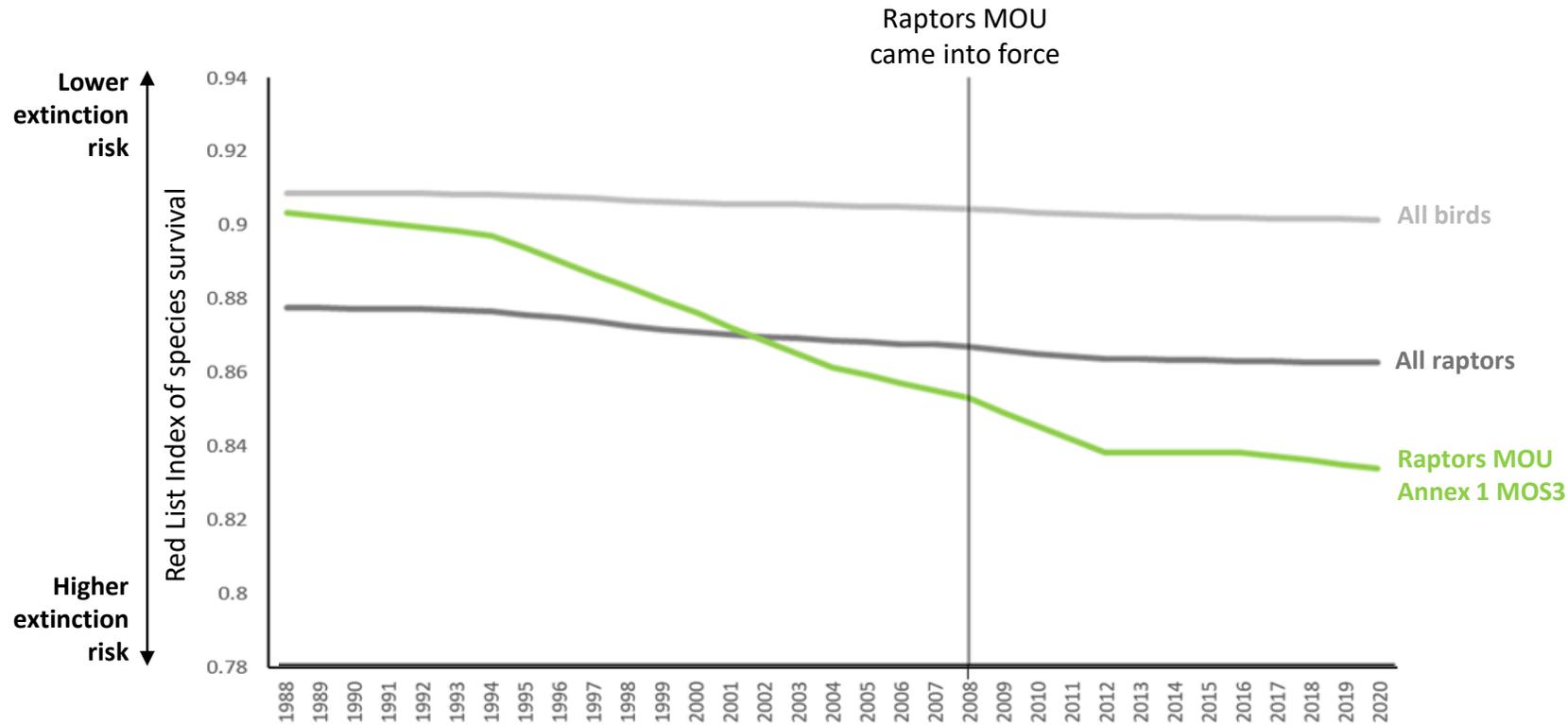
12.3 Trends in global conservation status



The deterioration in conservation status for the subset of 76 Annex 1 species consistent from MOS1 to MOS3 appears to have slowed after the Raptors MOU came into force...



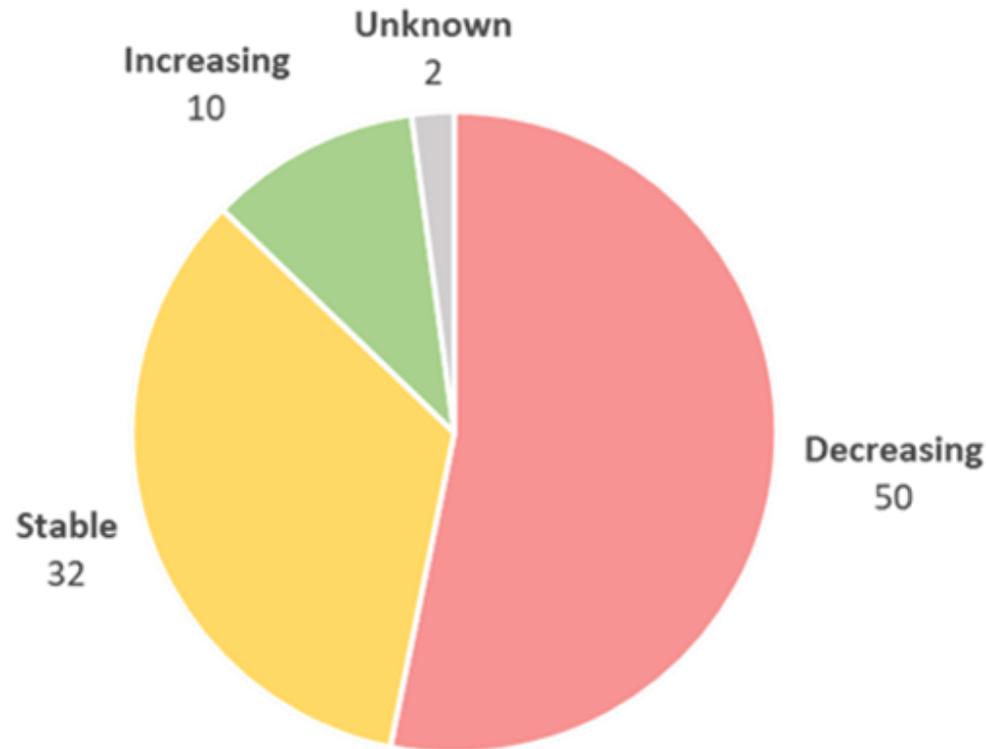
12.3 Trends in global conservation status



...but the wider set of 94 proposed Annex 1 species (93 from MOS2) are in poorer conservation status when compared with all bird or all raptor species and their conservation status is deteriorating more rapidly



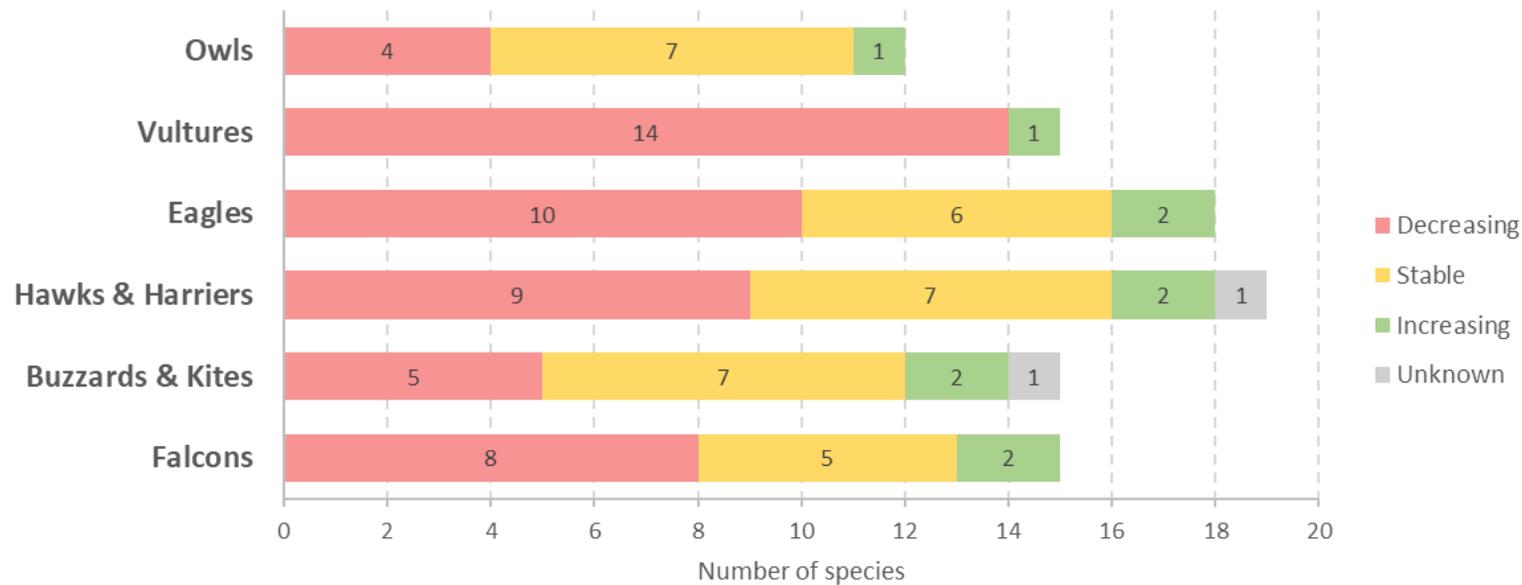
12.3 Global population trends



53%

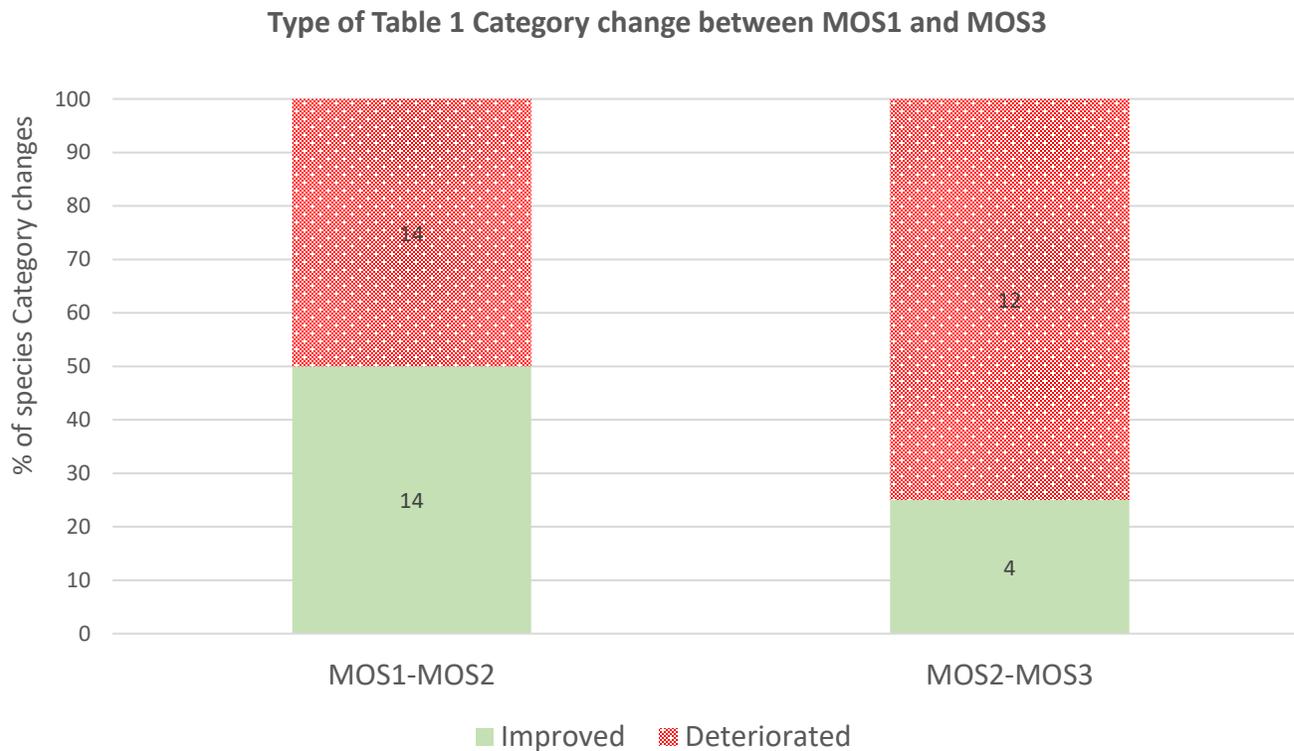
of migratory raptor species in
Africa-Eurasia have declining
populations

12.3 Global population trends



Vultures and eagles have the highest percentage of decreasing populations (93% and 56% respectively) closely followed by falcons, and hawks and harriers

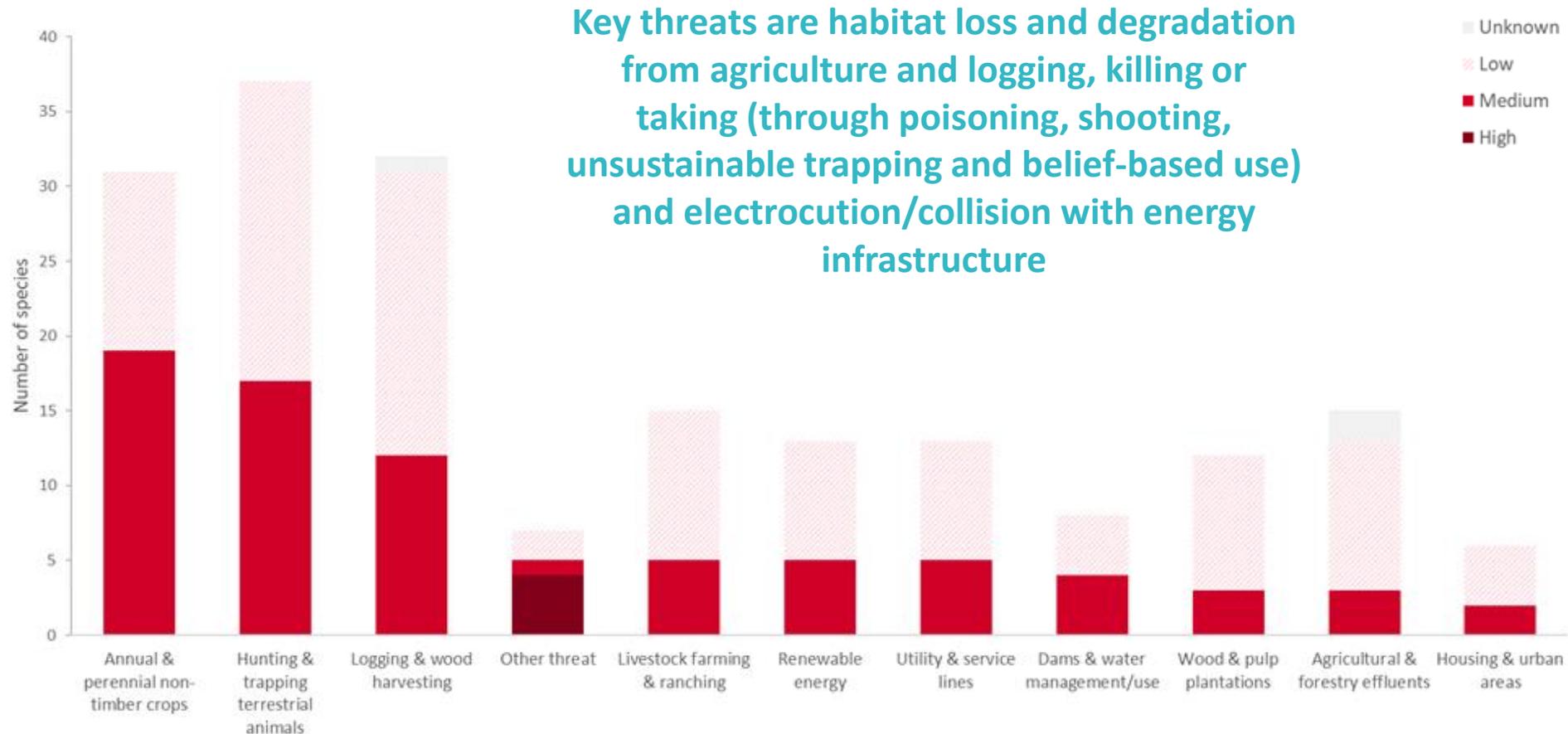
12.3 Table 1 Category changes over time



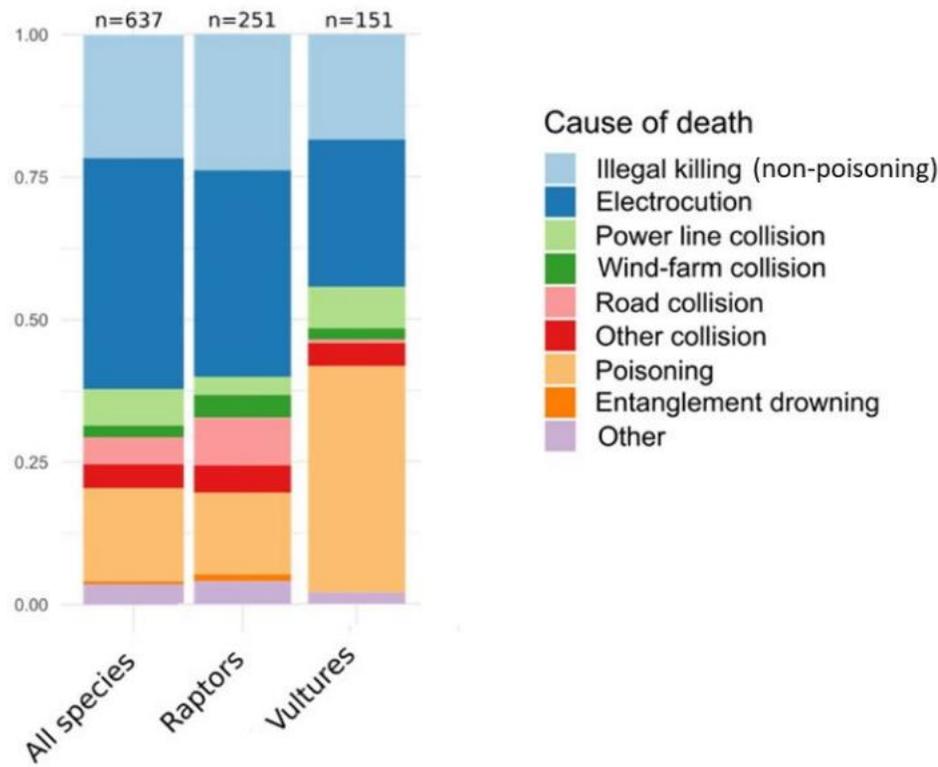
75%

of the Category changes on Table 1 of the MOU between MOS2 in 2015 and MOS3 in 2023 reflected deteriorations in conservation status or population trend

12.3 Threats to species globally



12.3 Satellite tracking mortality



Serratoso *et al.* (in prep)
Electrocution accounts for more than one third of mortality events in migratory (non-vulture) raptors, with illegal killing and poisoning also important.



For vultures, poisoning accounted for almost 40% of deaths followed by electrocution and illegal killing (non-poisoning)

Urgent need to address existing unsafe power infrastructure. No dangerous power infrastructure should be erected



12.3 Comparing Raptors MOU Annexes with CMS Appendices

- Since 11 Raptors MOU Annex 1 listed species were added at CMS COP12 in 2017, CMS Appendix I now provides good coverage of Raptors MOU Table 1, Category 1 species.
- Of the Table 1 proposed Category 1 species, the only species not already listed which could readily qualify at species level for CMS Appendix I is Black Harrier
- There are no owl species listed on CMS Appendices. Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) is on Raptors MOU Annex 1 and is categorised in Category 1 of Table 1 at MOS3 as it has moved from Least Concern to Vulnerable on the global IUCN Red List since MOS2 in 2015.
- It is the only remaining Raptors MOU Annex 1 species that is globally Vulnerable or Near Threatened and that could therefore clearly qualify for CMS Appendix II at the level of the whole species

12.3 Gaps in International Species Action Planning

- Part of TAG workplan Activity 2, Task 2.3 was to review measures needed to address problems facing the most threatened species listed on Annex 1 to the Raptors MOU, and to consider ways in which to prioritise future efforts to develop international Species Action Plans for migratory birds of prey
- TAG3 looked at draft Category 1 of Table 1, compiled information on SAPs existing or expired and conservation actions needed from BirdLife International species database (associated with IUCN Red Listing) assessed for gaps
- Species in poor conservation status (Category 1 of Table 1) without any formal Action Plan and with few proposed conservation actions included Beudouin's Snake-eagle and Tawny Eagle – more information needed.



12.3 Gaps in Species Action Planning

- Other species Black Harrier, Pallas's Fish-eagle, Steller's Sea-eagle and Steppe Eagle had quite a number of conservation actions listed, but appeared to be lacking any formal international Action Plan
- Priority 'gap' species TAG identified for potential international SAP were Steppe Eagle, Black Harrier and Pallas's Fish-eagle
- TAG3 noted that International Action Plan for the Steppe Eagle had been initiated at a meeting in September 2018 of the Russian Raptor Research and Conservation Network and that the MOU could help join up efforts around developing a Steppe Eagle SAP

12.3 Conservation actions needed

- 1 Protect, safeguard and effectively manage important sites for raptor populations
- 2 Communicate, educate and raise awareness to address underlying motivations
- 3 Improve legislation, its implementation and enforcement, and implement policy changes
- 4 Implement or maintain species recovery and ex-situ conservation actions

12.3 Conservation actions needed

1 Protect, safeguard and effectively manage important sites for raptor populations

Recognising, protecting, managing and monitoring the sites of greatest importance for migratory species is a vital contribution Signatories and other stakeholders can make to securing habitats of migratory species.

There is a pressing need for Signatories with migratory bottlenecks within their jurisdiction to prevent and address threats at these vulnerable points in raptor migratory routes.

2

3

4

12.3 Conservation actions needed

2 Communicate, educate and raise awareness to address underlying motivations

In some cases successful approaches will need to bring local communities on board and balance enforcement approaches with education and awareness approaches that help build alternative livelihoods or address the underlying motivations behind human induced threats to raptors.

1

3

4

12.3 Conservation actions needed

For some species or countries, conservation actions that might bring the most immediate change are to improve legislation, its implementation and enforcement, and implement policy changes, such as improved regulation in the use of poisons or mitigation of dangerous powerlines.

3 Improve legislation, its implementation and enforcement, and implement policy changes

1

2

4

12.3 Conservation actions needed

For the most threatened species, targeted actions such as captive breeding may be needed to bring them back from the brink of extinction.

4 Implement or maintain species recovery and ex-situ conservation actions

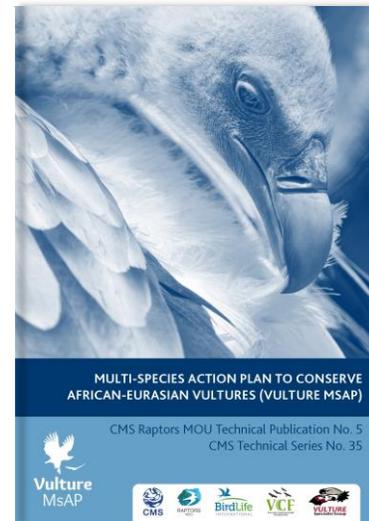
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12.3 Many tools are available

Species action planning processes and CMS task forces and guidance on key issues such as illegal killing, poisoning, energy are important sources of support to governments



12.3 Conservation action works

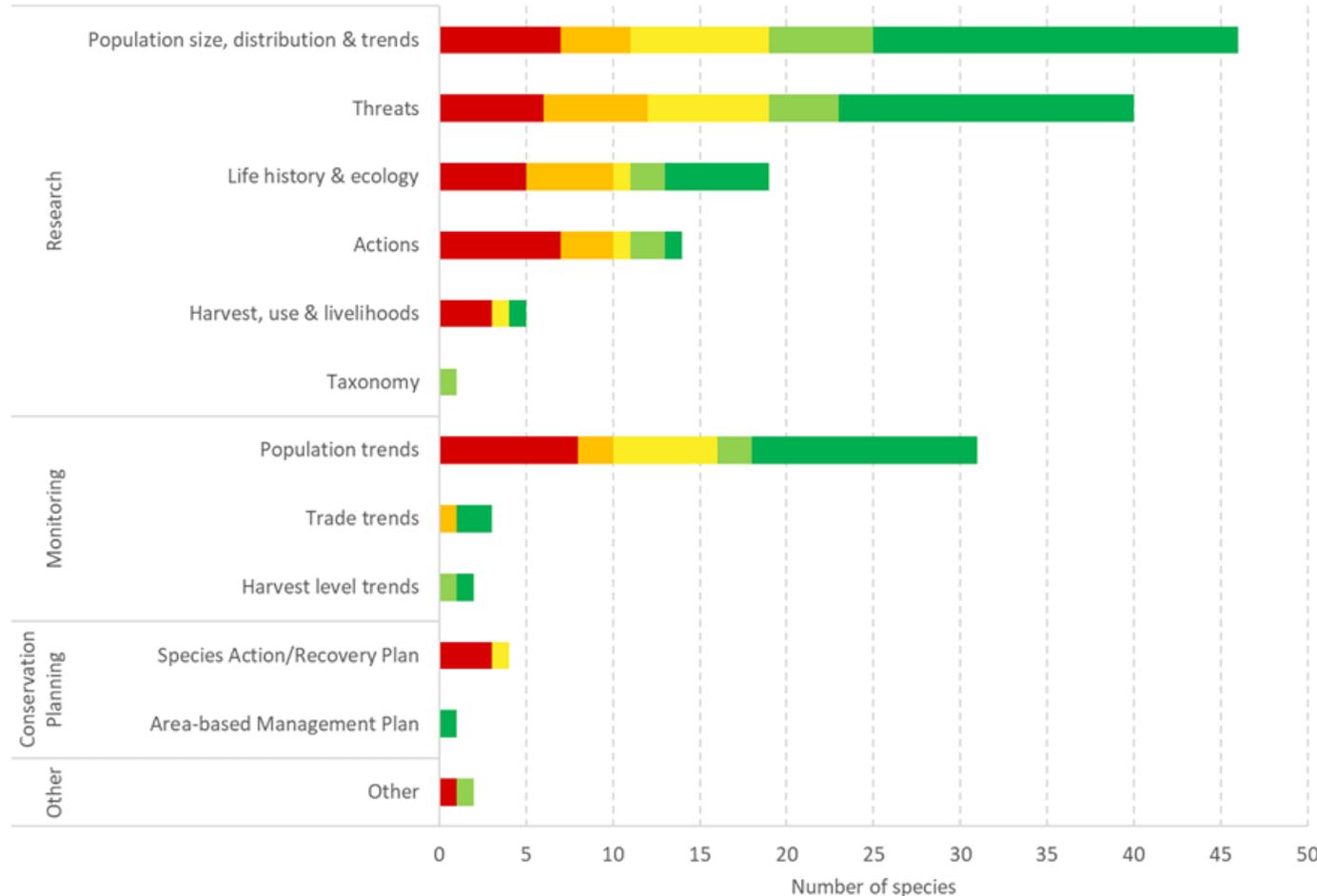


Successful conservation of migratory raptor species like Red Kite or Peregrine Falcon can provide useful examples and demonstrate that species can recover with appropriate measures



12.3 Knowledge gaps

Priority areas of research for Annex 1 species



Major knowledge gaps are hampering conservation of migratory raptors and Signatory support for research and monitoring is a vital contribution



12.3 Conclusion

The urgency of the situation for migratory raptors requires that Signatories and stakeholders **urgently address threats** and **take positive measures for raptors in their country** but also **cooperate effectively internationally** on joint initiatives to share resources, expertise and capacity so that the fortunes of these species improve throughout the flyway

12.3 Actions requested

The meeting is invited to:

- a) Endorse the Conservation Status Assessment Report;**
- b) Ask the Technical Advisory Group, subject to the availability of resources, to produce an updated Report, which will include information on the sites listed in Table 3 of Annex 3, in time for the next Meeting of Signatories**