



# 14.1 Proposed Amendments to Annex 1 (Species List) and Annex 3 Table 1

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**Technical Advisory Group**

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# 14.1 Background

- Proposed species-relevant updates to Annex 1 and Annex 3, Table 1 derive from tasks set at MOS2 in the workplan of the Raptors MOU Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
- Activity 1.1.a calls for the TAG to consider the amendments adopted by MOS2 to Annex 1 (Species List) and amend Table 3 (Site List), and in particular to consider further possible candidate Annex 1 species in light of changes to their status as placed under Categories 1, 2 and 3 on basis of global population trends, and categorisation of existing Annex 1 species.
- Furthermore, activity 1.2 of the Workplan calls for the TAG to consider any further changes in raptor taxonomy and nomenclature in relation to species listed under the MOU

# 14.1 Background

- Annex 1 -the species list also provides the basis for Annex 3 Table 1 and Annex 3 Table 3
- TAG-proposed updates to Annex 1 (the species list) and Annex 3 Table 1 (categorisation of those species by conservation status) since MOS2 use the IUCN Red List related datasets updated by BirdLife International in its role as the IUCN Red List authority for birds
- Individual Signatories can put forward proposals for migratory raptor species in the MOU area to be considered for Annex 1 (evidence provided is reviewed by TAG) by contacting the Coordination Unit and using the new species proposal form
- Proposed changes were discussed at TAG meetings 3, 4 and 5 and approved to be put forward by TAG to MOS3 for consideration. Doc.14.1 contains details

# 14.1 Potential reasons for changes to Annex 1

- Changes to the species listed on Annex 1 may result from:
  - New information becoming available on the **migratory status** of a raptor species within the area of the MOU – so a species is newly recognised to meet the CMS definition of ‘migratory species’
    - CMS definition – ‘the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries’
  - A **taxonomy/ nomenclature** change which needs to be reflected in Annex 1.
    - Through resolutions (most recently 12.27) the CMS COP adopted del Hoyo & Collar (2014) Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1 and updated date-stamped versions available online <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/taxonomy> as its standard reference for taxonomy/ nomenclature for birds, with this also applying to Raptors MOU

# 14.1 Overview of TAG proposed updates to Annex 1 for MOS3 consideration

- Since MOS2 *Ninox scutulata* (Brown Boobook) (del Hoyo and Collar 2014) -already listed on Annex 1 split into four species: *Ninox scutulata* (Brown Boobook), *N. japonica* (Northern Boobook), *N. randi* (Chocolate Boobook) and *N. obscura* (Hume's Boobook). Only Northern Boobook (*N. japonica*) considered by TAG to meet CMS definition of 'migratory species'
- **Proposal to 'replace' Brown Boobook (*Ninox scutulata*) on Annex 1 with Northern Boobook (*Ninox japonica*)**
- Since MOS2 Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (del Hoyo *et al.* 2014) has been split into *M. migrans* and Yellow-billed Kite *M. aegyptius* resulting in a 'new' raptor species within the MOU area. TAG considered that Yellow-billed Kite appeared to be at least a partial intra-African migrant and therefore appears to meet CMS definition of 'migratory'
- **Proposal to 'add' Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* to Annex 1**

# 14.1 TAG deliberations on other candidate Annex 1 species

- As well as the two species arising as candidates for Annex 1 because of taxonomic changes, ahead of TAG3 TAG looked at current evidence for movements of:
  - 10 raptor species identified by TAG, the movement behaviour of which warranted closer attention
  - One species, *Aquila fasciata* (Bonelli's Eagle) proposed by a Signatory (see document UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/4.1a) for consideration
  - For all 11 of these species TAG considered that there was not enough evidence at the time of TAG3, from movements of wild individuals, that they met the CMS definition of 'migratory species'
  - As with any candidate species, TAG could make a re-assessment in future if new evidence re: the movements of any of the species emerges

Addendum 8



# 14.1 Overview of TAG proposed updates to Annex 1 for MOS3 consideration

- These changes would take Annex 1 from 93 to 94 species
- Annex 1 lists species under their orders and the relatively new order Accipitriformes (now recognised by the taxonomic reference for the MOU) and this is proposed to be reflected in Annex 1

# 14.1 Annex 3 Table 1 Categorisation

- Annex 3 Table 1 of the MOU divides Annex 1 species into 3 categories depending on their global and regional conservation status:
  - **Category 1** Globally threatened and Near Threatened species as defined according to the latest IUCN Red List and listed as such in the BirdLife International World Bird Database
  - **Category 2** Species considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the Range States and territories listed in Annex 2 to the MOU
  - **Category 3**—all other migratory species

# 14.1 Overview of proposed Table 1 changes since MOS2

2021 Scientific name	2021 Common name	Table 1 Category (2015)	Table 1 Category (2021)	Table 1 Category change since MOS2?	Reason for Category change
<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	Scissor-tailed Kite	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to VU
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard	CAT2	CAT3	YES	Global population trend now stable
<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Global population trend now declining
<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	Brown Snake-eagle	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Global population trend declining
<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	Mountain Hawk-eagle	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to NT
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to VU
<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>	Ayres's Hawk-eagle	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Global population trend now declining
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Qualifies as SPEC
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Buzzard	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Qualifies as SPEC

2021 Scientific name	2021 Common name	Table 1 Category (2015)	Table 1 Category (2021)	Table 1 Category change since MOS2?	Reason for Category change
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Buzzard	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Qualifies as SPEC
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	CAT1	CAT3	YES	Global RL status downlisted from NT to LC, global population trend now increasing, no longer qualifies as SPEC
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	CAT2	CAT3	YES	No longer qualifies as SPEC
<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>	Forest Buzzard	CAT3	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to NT
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Now qualifies as SPEC
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyrfalcon	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Qualifies as SPEC
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Qualifies as SPEC
<i>Bubo scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to VU

Addendum 9

# 14.1 Proposed update Annex 3 Table 1 categorisation

- If MOS3 agreed with the TAG-proposed Annex 1 changes: Addendum 2
  - Brown Boobook removed from Table 1
  - Northern Boobook in Category 3
  - Yellow-billed Kite in Category 2
- 16 species would move category within Table 1
  - 13 species would move to a category that would reflect worsening conservation status
  - 3 improving conservation status
- This would result in 94 proposed Annex 1 species being split as follows in Table 1:
  - **Category 1:** 31 species
  - **Category 2:** 29 species
  - **Category 3:** 34 species

Addendum 5



# 14.1 Proposed amendments to the MOU's Annex 3, Table 3 (Sites List)

4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Technical Advisory Group

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# 14.1 Annex 3- Table 3 site list background

TAG workplan set at MOS1 (2012)

- Activity 1: Task 1.1 asked TAG to ‘make recommendations as to the updating of Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Action Plan listing internationally important sites for raptors’
- The original Table 3 site list is entitled “Provisional list of Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia”
- Prefaced “This indicative list should be treated as a minimum list of internationally important areas” it comprises 135 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) that qualified according to global and regional criteria for globally threatened species and congregations of Annex 1 species

## 14.1 Annex 3- Table 3 site list background

### **TAG recognised:**

- Original Table 3 only listed 135 sites in 36 territories, did not cover all sites of international importance for raptors across the area of the MOU
- Many Signatories had none of the internationally important sites for raptors in their country represented on Table 3

## 14.1 Annex 3- Table 3 site list background

### **TAG proposed for consideration of MOS2:**

- A more comprehensive updated list of internationally important sites, which covered all stages – breeding, passage, non-breeding areas and comprised IBAs and SPAs and could incorporate any other sites meeting criteria of international importance across all range states of the MOU
- Signatories were consulted on this draft Table 3 ahead of MOS2 and any proposed amendments from Signatories were reviewed by TAG and incorporated where appropriate in advance of MOS2

## 14.1 Annex 3- Table 3 site list at MOS2

- At MOS2, the EU signalled that they felt the draft site list was in need of correction in places and Signatories also requested further review by TAG of the proposed List of Sites, taking into consideration the amendments to Annex 1 (List of African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey) of the MOU and the list of Range States in Annex 2 (including a map of the geographic area covered by the MOU), adopted at MOS2
- At MOS2 it was decided that TAG would be given the task to make the amendments requested by MOS2 which would then be submitted for consideration at MOS3 and meantime Signatories could make use of the provisional list when devising their national strategies

## 14.1 Annex 3- Table 3 site list between MOS2 and MOS3

- In the resulting TAG workplan set for the period between MOS2 and MOS3 (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/18), Activity 1.1 was to “Consider amendments adopted by MoS2 to Annex 1 (species) and amend Table 3 (sites) of the Action Plan, and in particular in relation to sites: b) consider further comments from the Signatories, make recommendations as to the updating of Table 3 of the Action Plan”.
- Between MOS2 and TAG3 TAG received more specific details about the site list changes requested by the EU

## 14.1 Annex 3- Table 3 site list between MOS2 and MOS3

Following the instructions of MOS2 TAG has made the following proposed amendments to draft Table 3 for consideration of MOS3:

- Adding new sites of international importance and new qualifying populations at existing sites for the 18 raptor species newly listed in Annex 1 at MOS2
- Making the amendments requested by the EU to the SPA component of the draft Table 3
- Updating draft Table 3 country names to mirror those in Annex 2
- Making minor amendments to ensure nomenclature used is consistent throughout draft Table 3

## 14.1 The 18 species newly listed on Annex 1 at MOS2 for which sites of international importance proposed to be added to Table 3

- *Gypaetus barbatus* (Bearded Vulture)
- *Sarcogyps calvus* (Red-headed Vulture)
- *Trigonoceps occipitalis* (White-headed Vulture)
- *Necrosyrtes monachus* (Hooded Vulture)
- *Gyps himalayensis* (Himalayan Griffon)
- *Gyps bengalensis* (White-rumped Vulture)
- *Gyps africanus* (White-backed Vulture)
- *Gyps indicus* (Indian Vulture)
- *Gyps tenuirostris* (Slender-billed Vulture)
- *Gyps coprotheres* (Cape Vulture)
- *Gyps rueppelli* (Rüppell's Vulture)
- *Torgos tracheliotos* (Lappet-faced Vulture)
- *Circaetus beaudouini* (Beaudouin's Snake-eagle)
- *Circaetus pectoralis* (Black-chested Snake-eagle)
- *Circaetus cinereus* (Brown Snake-eagle)
- *Hieraetus ayresii* (Ayres's Hawk-eagle)
- *Falco cuvierii* (African Hobby)
- *Asio capensis* (Marsh Owl)

Addendum 10

## 14.1 Consequences of listing 18 new species on Annex 1 for the site list

Compared with MOS2 draft Table 3:

- 533 new qualifying populations at IBAs in 34 countries
- 157 new IBAs added
- 150 new qualifying populations at SPAs across 5 countries

## 14.1 Additional amendments requested by the EU to the SPA component of the draft Table 3

Compared with draft Table 3 at MOS2:

- Removal of 1,307 listings for ‘non-significant’ Category D populations\* affecting 39 species in 7 EU countries
- This results in removal of 48 whole SPA sites from 6 countries

\*In the information associated with SPAs:

- Categories A-C are used to indicate relative size or density of the population of a species occurring at an SPA in relation to the national population
- Category D – used for ‘non-significant’ populations, which means they are not appropriate to include in a list of internationally important sites

**Table 3: List of internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey raptors in Africa and**

This list includes internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey<sup>[1]</sup> identified as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)<sup>[2]</sup> (listed in black text) and/or EC Birds Directive Special Protection Areas (SPAs)<sup>[3]</sup> (listed in red text) or other Signatory-recognised sites that meet criteria of international importance<sup>[4]</sup> (listed in purple text). Some sites of the three types may overlap spatially, but different site types are listed separately for clarity.

Sites are ordered alphabetically by region: Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Europe, Middle East and within each region, alphabetically by country. Season refers to the period of the year during which the 'qualifying trigger-species' is present (as documented by the BirdLife International Partnership in the IBA Database).

<sup>[1]</sup> As listed in Annex 1 of the Raptors MoU (<http://www.cms.int/raptors/en/page/agreement-text>)

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/ibacriteria>

<sup>[3]</sup> The Birds Directive: Directive 2009/147/EC. For EU Member States Special Protection Areas (SPAs) listed

<sup>[4]</sup> Equivalent to IBA criteria

Site code	Site name	Qualifying species		Season
<b>Africa</b>				
<b>Algeria</b>				
6178	Djurdjura	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	breeding
6179	Belezma	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	breeding
6184	Parc National de l'Ahaggar	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	winter
6185	Îles Habibas	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	breeding
<b>Benin</b>				
6039	Pendjari National Park	Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>	resident
<b>Botswana</b>				

## 14.1 Format of draft Table 3

## 14.1 Annex 3- Table 3 site list at MOS3

- An explanation of all proposed changes made between MOS2 and MOS3 is provided as part of UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS3/Doc.14.1
- Any changes being proposed since the draft Table 3 shared at MOS2 are shown in track changes in draft Table 3 (Addendum 7 to 14.1) for clarity
- Any amendments to the list of sites of international importance for Annex 1 raptor species for a country can be proposed ahead of any MOS by contacting the Raptors MOU Coordination Unit and completing the site proposal form
- Some comments submitted by Signatories in response to TAG proposals

## 14.1 Action requested from the Meeting on doc 14.1

- **The Meeting is invited to review the following amendments in conjunction with the information reported above, and adopt them:**
  - (a) The proposed amendment to the MOU Text, presented in Addendum 1;
  - (b) The proposed amendment to the MOU's Annex 1, presented in Addendum 2;
  - (c) The proposed amendment to the MOU's Annex 2, presented in Addendum 3;
  - (d) The proposed amendment to the MOU's Annex 3, presented in Addendum 4;
  - (e) The proposed amendment to Table 1 of Annex 3, presented in Addendum 5;
  - (f) The proposed amendment to Table 2 of Annex 3, presented in Addendum 6; and
  - (g) The proposed amendment to Table 3 of Annex 3, presented in Addendum 7.