

THIRD MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

(Dubai, 3-6 July 2023)

UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS3/Doc.12.4

STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF RAPTOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTS

(Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU)

Summary: Paragraph 12 of the Raptors MOU Text calls for Signatories to prepare and submit to the Coordinating Unit national or regional strategies or equivalent documents for Category 1 and, where appropriate, Category 2 species.

Guidance for developing such documents has been available to Signatories since 2012. However, to date, the Coordinating Unit has only received a total of 16 strategies or equivalent documents from nine Signatories.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the current rate of development of strategies or equivalent documents, and to discuss this with a view to identify necessary steps to strengthen the implementation of the MOU. The Meeting is further invited to take note of the guiding information that is currently available to help Signatories develop the documents in question.

1. Paragraph 12 of the Raptors [MOU Text](#) states that, within two years of the MOU becoming effective, Signatories will aim to prepare and submit to the Coordinating Unit, where appropriate, a national or regional (e.g., EU) strategy or equivalent documents (e.g., Single Species Action Plans) for Category 1 and, where appropriate, Category 2 species of Table 1 of the MOU's Annex 3 (Action Plan).
2. As per paragraph 20 of the MOU Text, "Signatories will endeavour to finance from national and other sources the implementation in their territory of the measures necessary for the conservation of birds of prey. In addition, they will endeavour to [...] seek assistance from other sources for the financing and implementation of their strategies or equivalent measures".
3. The Raptors MOU came into effect on 1 November 2008. To date, however, the Coordinating Unit has only received a total of 16 raptor conservation and management strategies or equivalent documents from 9 Signatories (European Union, France, India, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) out of its 61 Signatories. These 16 documents refer to both single-species and multi-species documents.
4. Five Signatories that are Member States of the European Union communicated to the Coordinating Unit that they considered the European Union's document "[The EU's Strategic Approach to Raptor Conservation](#)" as their fulfilment of the commitment to prepare raptor conservation and management strategies or equivalent documents. The Coordinating Unit draws the attention of Signatories to the fact that the mentioned European Union's document encourages Member States "to develop their national strategies and action plans to further identify and establish the required activities at the necessary detail at national and regional levels".
5. As per paragraph 16 of the MOU Text, the Coordinating Unit has made available to all Signatories the strategies and equivalent documents it has received from Signatories. These documents are accessible on the Raptors MOU website, under "[National/Regional Strategies and Action Plans](#)". A list of these documents is also made available in Annex 1 to the present document, where information is also provided on the validity of each such document and the species it covers.
6. In addition to the documents referred to in paragraph 3 above, the Coordinating Unit is aware that strategies or equivalent documents are under preparation by Chad, Guinea, Lebanon, Finland, Hungary, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.
7. The Coordinating Unit reminds Signatories that guidance has been available since June 2012 to support the development of national or regional raptor conservation and management strategies (see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS3/Inf.3](#), on "Guidelines for Preparing National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies", and document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS3/Inf.4](#), a template that Signatories can build on).
8. Those Guidelines propose a standardised format for Signatories to develop their strategies or equivalent documents. They set out the principal activities to be undertaken and specific issues to be addressed by Signatories in order to implement the general provisions of the MOU. More specifically, the Guidelines aim to:
 - (a) Encourage implementation of the MOU's Action Plan through effective strategic planning;
 - (b) Provide general guidance and a standard format for strategic planning activities;
 - (c) Promote partnerships and alliances to improve international collaboration in planning and effective implementation of the Action Plan;
 - (d) Provide a uniform international framework for raptor conservation and management strategies, for comparative analysis and to reveal national and regional trends.

9. Furthermore, the Guidelines have been developed to ensure that planners with different capacities are able to develop high quality and effective strategies, and that national or regional planning teams are given the necessary space to determine what activities and level of detail would be most appropriate for their specific national or regional contexts.
10. In addition to those Guidelines, the following documents provide a framework for Signatories to consider when developing their strategies or equivalent documents:
 - (a) [Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures](#) (Vulture MsAP), including its annexes;
 - (b) [Strategic Implementation Plan for the Vulture MsAP \(2020-2023\)](#); and
 - (c) [Saker Falcon Global Action Plan](#) (SakerGAP).
11. Other documents that can be used as guidance on how to address specific threats to raptors include:
 - (a) CMS Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (document [UNEP/CMS/PPWG2/Inf.2](#));
 - (b) Documents produced or made available by the CMS [Energy Task Force](#); and
 - (c) Documents produced or made available by the CMS [Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean](#) (MIKT).
12. To further assist Signatories in developing their strategies or equivalent documents, Annex 2 to the present document provides a list of the MOU's Category 1 and Category 2 species that occur in each Signatory's territory, according to the information available on the [BirdLife International Data Zone](#) in December 2022. Signatories may wish to use the information contained in Annex 2 as guidance on the species that their respective conservation and management strategies or equivalent documents should cover.

Action requested

13. The Coordinating Unit invites Signatories to take note of:
 - (a) The current rate of development of national or regional raptor conservation and management strategies;
 - (b) The guidance currently available to support Signatories in developing those documents, mentioned in paragraphs 7 to 11 above; and
 - (c) The guiding information on species occurrence per Signatory's territory, mentioned in paragraph 12 above.
14. Given that only a limited number of strategies or equivalent documents has been developed by Signatories to date, the Coordinating Unit suggests that the Meeting identifies necessary steps to strengthen the implementation of the MOU on this front by discussing the pertinence of the requirement to develop such documents and the reasons and challenges behind the current development rates. To this end, the Meeting may wish to consider the following guiding questions:
 - (a) Paragraph 12 of the MOU Text reads "[...] Signatories will aim to prepare and submit to the [...] Coordinating Unit where appropriate a national or regional [e.g. EU] strategy or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for category 1 and, where appropriate, category 2 species in Table 1 in the Action Plan."

Do Signatories still consider paragraph 12's ambition of having Signatories develop strategies or equivalent documents a desirable and pertinent means for ensuring the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats?

- (b) If the answer to subparagraph 14(a) is “yes”:
- i. What specific challenges are preventing Signatories from developing their strategies or equivalent documents?
 - ii. In what ways could Signatories, the Coordinating Unit and/or others help Signatories overcome those specific challenges so that strategies or equivalent documents are delivered?
- (c) If the answer to subparagraph 14(a) is “no”:
- i. What alternative requirement would be more desirable and pertinent?
 - ii. What potential challenges could prevent Signatories from implementing that alternative requirement?
 - iii. What specific support would Signatories require to implement it?
 - iv. How could the Coordinating Unit best support its implementation?

ANNEX 1
List of strategies or equivalent documents prepared and submitted by Signatories
to the Coordinating Unit, as per paragraph 12 of the MOU Text
(also available at <https://www.cms.int/raptors/en/documents/national-regional-strategies>)

Signatory	Title of Strategy or Equivalent Document and Short Summary	Species covered	Validity of the Document
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EU's Strategic Approach to Raptor Conservation 	All migratory and non-migratory raptors (including owls) that regularly occur in the EU	Open-ended
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action Plan for Vulture Conservation in India 	All nine species of vulture occurring in India (<i>Aegypius calvus</i> , <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> , <i>Gyps bengalensis</i> , <i>Gyps fulvus</i> , <i>Gyps himalayensis</i> , <i>Gyps indicus</i> , <i>Gyps tenuirostris</i> , <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> , <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>)	2020 - 2025
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plan for the Lesser Kestrel (<i>Falco naumanni</i>) 	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	2011 – 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plan for the Cinereous Vulture (<i>Aegypius monachus</i>) 	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	2011 – 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plan for the Bonelli's Eagle (<i>Aquila fasciata</i>) 	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	2014 – 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plan for the Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>) 	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	2015 – 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plan for the Griffon Vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>) 	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	2017 – 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plan for the Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) 	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	2018 – 2027
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Action Plan for Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>) 	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2008 – 2012
Luxembourg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Conservation Species Action Plan for Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) 	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	2013 – 2020
Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Madagascar (Sooty Falcon and Eleonora's Falcon) 	<i>Falco concolor</i> , <i>Falco eleonora</i>	2011 – 2014
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Vulture Conservation Strategy & Action Plan 	The eight species of vulture occurring in Pakistan (<i>Aegypius monachus</i> , <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> , <i>Gyps bengalensis</i> , <i>Gyps fulvus</i> , <i>Gyps himalayensis</i> , <i>Gyps indicus</i> , <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> , <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>)	2016 – 2025
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action Plan for the Montagu's Harrier, 2011-2015 (extended until 2021) ▪ Updated Action Table for the Montagu's Harrier, 2016-2021 	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	2011 – 2021
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland - Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities 	All raptor and owl species that regularly breed and migrate through Switzerland	2019 – 2035
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Conservation Framework for Hen Harriers in the United Kingdom 	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Open-ended

ANNEX 2

Category 1 and Category 2 species contained in Table 1 (Species Categorisation) of the MOU’s Annex 3 (Action Plan) that occur in each Signatory’s territory, according to the BirdLife International Data Zone

Table A – Occurrence of Raptors MOU Category 1 species by Signatory, according to the data available on the [BirdLife International Data Zone](#) in December 2022. Occurrence as “Vagrant”, “Extinct” or “Possibly Extinct” is not reflected.

Category 1 species contained in Table 1 of the MOU’s Action Plan	Bearded Vulture, <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Egyptian Vulture, <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Beaudouin’s Snake-eagle, <i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>	Red-Headed Vulture, <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	White-Headed Vulture, <i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	Hooded Vulture, <i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Himalayan Griffon, <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	White-Rumped Vulture, <i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	White-Backed Vulture, <i>Gyps africanus</i>	Indian Vulture, <i>Gyps Indicus</i>	Slender-Billed Vulture, <i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Cape Vulture, <i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	Rüppell’s Vulture, <i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	Cinereous Vulture, <i>Aegyptius monachus</i>	Lappet-Faced Vulture, <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle, <i>Clanga clanga</i>	Steppe Eagle, <i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle, <i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle, <i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Black Harrier, <i>Circus maurus</i>	Pallid Harrier, <i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallas’s Fish-Eagle, <i>Haliaeetus leucorhynchus</i>	Red Kite, <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red-Footed Falcon, <i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Sooty Falcon, <i>Falco concolor</i>	Saker Falcon, <i>Falco cherrug</i>
	Angola		1			1	1			1			1			1		1				1			1	
Armenia	1	1												1		1	1		1		1		1	1		1
Belgium		1														1					1		1	1		
Burkina Faso		1	1		1	1			1				1		1						1			1		
Burundi					1	1			1				1		1		1				1			1		1
Chad		1	1		1	1			1				1		1	1	1				1			1	1	1
Comoros																										
Congo																										
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the		1	1		1	1			1			1	1		1		1				1			1		
Côte d’Ivoire		1	1		1	1			1				1		1						1			1		
Croatia	1	1												1		1	1		1		1		1	1		1
Czech Republic	1	1												1		1	1		1		1		1	1		1
Denmark		1														1	1		1		1		1	1		1
Djibouti	1	1			1	1							1		1	1	1		1		1			1	1	1
Egypt	1	1											1	1	1	1	1		1		1		1	1	1	1
Equatorial Guinea															1											
Ethiopia	1	1			1	1			1				1		1	1	1		1		1			1		1
European Union	1	1											1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
Finland		1														1	1		1		1	1	1	1		1
France	1	1											1		1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1
Gambia		1	1		1	1			1				1		1						1		1	1		
Germany	1													1		1	1		1		1		1	1		1

Ghana		1	1		1	1			1								1			1			
Guinea		1	1		1	1			1								1						
Hungary		1								1		1	1		1		1		1	1	1		
India	1	1		1			1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1				1		
Iran, Islamic Republic of	1	1					1			1		1	1		1	1			1	1	1		
Israel	1	1								1	1	1	1		1			1		1	1	1	
Italy	1	1								1		1	1		1				1	1		1	
Jordan	1	1								1	1	1	1		1					1	1	1	
Kenya	1	1	1		1	1			1		1	1	1		1					1	1	1	
Lebanon	1	1								1		1	1		1				1	1		1	
Libya		1									1	1			1					1	1	1	1
Luxembourg												1								1	1		
Madagascar																						1	
Mali		1	1		1	1			1		1	1	1							1	1	1	1
Monaco																							
Mongolia	1	1				1				1		1	1		1			1					1
Morocco	1	1			1					1	1	1	1		1	1					1		1
Nepal	1	1		1			1	1		1	1	1		1			1						1
Netherlands										1		1	1					1	1	1			
Niger		1	1		1	1			1		1		1								1	1	1
Norway		1																1		2			
Pakistan	1	1		1			1	1		1		1	1		1			1			1	1	1
Portugal	1	1								1	1		1		1					1	1		1
Romania	1	1								1		1	1		1					1	1		1
Saudi Arabia	1	1								1	1	1	1	1		1				1	1	1	1
Senegal		1	1		1	1			1		1										1		1
Slovakia		1								1		1	1		1					1	1		1
Somalia	1	1			1	1			1		1		1								1	1	
South Africa	1	1			1	1			1	1		1	1	1		1	1				1	1	
Spain	1	1								1	1		1	1	1		1			1	1		1
Sudan	1	1	1		1	1			1	1	1	1	1		1	1					1	1	1
Sweden		1										1	1		1		1			1	1		1
Switzerland	1	1								1		1					1			1	1		
Syrian Arab Republic	1	1								1	1	1	1		1		1				1	1	1
Togo		1			1	1			1		1				1	1					1		
Tunisia		1								1		1	1				1				1		1
United Arab Emirates		1				1					1	1	1		1		1	1			1	1	1
United Kingdom		1								1	1		1		1					1	1		1
Yemen	1	1									1	1	1	1		1	1				1	1	1

Table B - Occurrence of Raptors MOU Category 2 species by Signatory, according to the data available on the [BirdLife International Data Zone](#) in December 2022. Occurrence as “Vagrant”, “Extinct” or “Possibly Extinct” is not reflected.

Category 2 species contained in Table 1 of the MOU’s Action Plan	Scissor-Tailed Kite, <i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	European Honey-Buzzard, <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Jerdon's Baza, <i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	Black Baza, <i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	Mountain Hawk-Eagle, <i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	Tawny Eagle, <i>Aquila rapax</i>	Hen Harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Pied Harrier, <i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Montagu's Harrier, <i>Circus pygargus</i>	Shikra, <i>Accipiter badius</i>	Chinese Sparrowhawk, <i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	Besra, <i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Black Kite, <i>Milvus migrans</i>	Grasshopper Buzzard, <i>Buteo rufipennis</i>	Grey-Faced Buzzard, <i>Buteo indicus</i>	Lesser Kestrel, <i>Falco naumanni</i>	Common Kestrel, <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Eurasian Hobby, <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	African Hobby, <i>Falco cuvierii</i>	Oriental Hobby, <i>Falco severus</i>	Lanner Falcon, <i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Brown Boobook, <i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Eurasian Scops-Owl, <i>Otus scops</i>	Pallid Scops-Owl, <i>Otus brucei</i>	Northern Long-Eared Owl, <i>Asio otus</i>	Short-Eared Owl, <i>Asio flammeus</i>	Snowy Owl, <i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	
	Angola		1			1				1				1			1	1	1	1		1						
Armenia		1				1		1	1				1			1	1	1			1		1	1				
Belgium		1				1		1					1				1	1					1	1	1	1	1	
Burkina Faso	1	1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1					
Burundi		1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1					
Chad	1	1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1			1		
Comoros													1															
Congo		1			1			1	1				1			1	1		1		1							
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the		1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1					
Côte d'Ivoire	1	1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1					
Croatia		1				1		1					1			1	1	1			1		1		1	1	1	
Czech Republic		1				1		1					1				1	1			1		1		1	1	1	
Denmark		1				1		1					1				1	1					1		1	1	1	
Djibouti	1	1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1			1		1					
Egypt		1			1	1		1					1			1	1	1			1		1	1	1	1		
Equatorial Guinea		1											1			1			1				1					
Ethiopia	1	1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1			1		
European Union		1			1	1		1					1			1	1	1			1		1		1	1	1	
Finland		1				1		1					1				1	1							1	1	1	
France		1				1		1					1			1	1	1			1		1		1	1	1	
Gambia	1	1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1					
Germany		1				1		1					1				1	1					1		1	1	1	
Ghana	1	1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1					
Guinea		1			1			1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1			1		
Hungary		1				1		1					1				1	1					1		1	1	1	
India			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1		1		1		1	1	1		
Iran, Islamic Republic of		1			1	1		1	1				1			1	1	1			1		1	1	1	1	1	

Israel		1				1	1		1	1			1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	
Italy		1				1	1		1				1	1	1			1	1		1	1	
Jordan		1					1		1				1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	
Kenya	1	1				1			1	1			1	1	1	1		1	1				1
Lebanon		1					1		1				1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	
Libya		1					1		1				1	1	1			1	1				1
Luxembourg		1					1		1					1	1					1		1	1
Madagascar										1													
Mali	1	1				1			1	1			1	1	1	1		1	1				1
Monaco																							
Mongolia					1		1	1		1			1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1
Morocco		1				1	1		1				1	1	1			1	1	1	1		
Nepal			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1		1			1	1	
Netherlands		1					1		1					1	1					1	1	1	1
Niger	1	1				1			1	1			1	1		1		1	1				1
Norway		1					1		1					1	1						1	1	1
Pakistan					1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1					1	1	1	1	1
Portugal		1					1		1				1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1
Romania		1					1		1				1	1	1			1	1		1	1	
Saudi Arabia		1					1		1	1			1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	
Senegal	1	1				1			1	1			1	1	1	1		1	1				1
Slovakia		1					1		1				1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
Somalia	1	1				1			1	1			1	1	1	1		1	1				
South Africa		1				1			1	1			1	1	1	1		1					
Spain		1					1		1				1	1	1			1	1		1	1	
Sudan	1	1				1			1	1			1	1	1	1		1	1				1
Sweden		1					1		1				1		1	1				1		1	1
Switzerland		1					1		1				1	1					1	1	1		
Syrian Arab Republic		1							1				1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	
Togo	1	1				1			1	1			1	1	1	1		1	1				
Tunisia		1				1	1		1				1	1	1			1	1		1	1	
United Arab Emirates		1					1		1	1			1	1	1				1	1	1	1	
United Kingdom		1				1	1		1				1	1	1			1	1		1	1	1
Yemen	1	1				1			1	1			1	1	1			1	1	1			1