

**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.13.3

INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR SOOTY FALCON

(Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU)

Summary: This document provides an update on the status of finalisation of an International Single Species Action Plan for Sooty Falcon.

1. In 2013, the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU commissioned the development of a draft International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for Sooty Falcon, also establishing at the time a Sooty Falcon Working Group (SFWG) to support the development of that plan (see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/8](#), paragraphs 16-19).
2. At the Second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2, Trondheim, October 2015), the Coordinating Unit drew the attention of Signatories to the fact that financial resources were urgently needed to organise an action planning workshop that would enable finalising the draft ISSAP initiated in 2013 (see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Report](#), paragraph 174). Such resources, however, did not become available, which impeded the developed draft from being duly reviewed and finalised.
3. Since 2013, the global conservation status of the Sooty Falcon deteriorated further. Its shift from Near Threatened (2008-2016) to Vulnerable in 2017 ([BirdLife International 2021. Falco concolor. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Accessed 9 May 2023.](#)) only reiterated the urgency of putting an ISSAP in place.
4. With financial resources becoming available in 2022, the Coordinating Unit was able to contract a consultant to coordinate the updating and finalisation of the 2013 draft ISSAP. To support the work, the mentioned Sooty Falcon Working Group was revitalised, integrating Range State representatives and independent species experts to contribute technical advice and other relevant expertise. A final ISSAP is now anticipated to become publicly available by the end of 2023.
5. In addition, and as part of the work, the Coordinating Unit also anticipates being able to publish a factsheet and a library of information materials on the species by the end of the present year.

Action requested

6. The Meeting is invited to:
 - (a) Take note of the progress reported above;
 - (b) Encourage Signatories that are Range States of Sooty Falcon to collaborate with the Coordinating Unit in the finalisation of the ISSAP; and
 - (c) Invite the Coordinating Unit to ask the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14; Samarkand, 23-28 October 2023) to request the Scientific Council to review the ISSAP once it becomes available and formulate its recommendations, as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee.