

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. 13.7

IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATORY BIRD HABITATS IN AFRICA, EUROPE AND ASIA

(Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU)

Summary:

The document introduces a project concept developed in cooperation with the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP).

The meeting is requested to take note the report and encourage Signatories, Range States, Cooperating Partners and stakeholders to work collaboratively to enable implementation of the key initiatives highlighted in this document.

1. Article 8(b) of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) states that the Signatories will endeavour to “coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, established inter alia where such habitats extend over the territory of more than one Signatory”.
2. The Action Plan (Annex 3) to the MOU lists among the priority actions 4(c) “Conserving bird of prey habitats by encouraging an Ecosystem Approach to sustainable development and sectoral land use practices...” and 4(e) “Taking into account the needs of bird of prey conservation in sectors and related policies such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industries, tourism, energy, chemicals and pesticides”, both of which have a strong habitat conservation aspect.
3. Further, Table 2 to the Action Plan (Activities to be done under paragraph 5 of the Action Plan) contains a set of sub-activities under Activity 3: Habitat conservation and sustainable management which aim at securing appropriate quantity and quality of habitats for birds of prey.
4. The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) equally include clear mandates for the conservation of habitats important for waterbirds and landbirds.
5. Raptors MOU, AEWA and AEMLAP promote three broad approaches to the conservation of migratory species: (a) the identification and protection of key sites; (b) addressing species-specific threats such as unsustainable hunting, illegal killing and poisoning; and (c) the conservation of migratory birds at the wider habitat level. While good progress has been made regarding the first two of these approaches, the implementation of conservation measures at the wider habitat/landscape level is lagging behind.
6. To progress on the conservation of habitats across Africa and Eurasia, AEWA, Raptors MOU and AEMLAP have developed a project concept describing the process toward the identification of priority habitats for the groups of species covered by the three instruments, and the development and implementation of a set of Habitat Action Plans.
7. The first step will envisage the identification of principal habitats for migratory birds based on the IUCN [Red List Habitat Classifications Scheme](#) through a prioritization process based on the number and trend of species using the each habitat.
8. The next step would be to identify, within the priority habitats, priority areas for conservation, management and restoration based on several analyses including: a) habitat needs of the migratory bird species, b) past trends on the extent of priority habitat types c) habitat quality and restorations potential of priority habitats and potential future trends due to climate change.
9. Based on the activities above it will be possible to move to the identification and assessment of threats affecting the priority habitats such as forest and wetland loss, land use change, light pollution, infrastructure development and mining. The information used for such analysis will include remote sensing data and any spatially explicit data.
10. The available policy tools and mechanisms will be analysed taking into consideration the habitat they are relevant to , the potential synergies and opportunities and the existing gaps. The situation analysis will be further developed through case studies on how international policies are mainstreamed into national legislation and policies and recommendations will be developed.
11. The above information will allow the development of Habitat Action Plans for selected habitats through an extensive consultation process addressing both the format and the contents of each

plan as well as the best tools available to support their implementation.

12. The final product will include a set of Habitat Action Plans, the necessary infrastructure for their implementation and monitoring and a set of pilot projects to mainstream the Habitat Action Plans and their recommendations into national policies.

Action requested

13. The Meeting is invited to:
 - a. Note the contents of this document and seek any clarifications, as needed;
 - b. Encourage Signatories, Range States, Cooperating Partners and stakeholders to work collaboratively to mobilize resources, including through voluntary financial contributions, to enable implementation of the key initiatives highlighted in this document.