

# Raptors MOU National Report Form

This is the National Report form for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU).

The purpose of the National Report is to provide information on your country's implementation of the Raptors MOU including the Action Plan (Annex 3). The MOU's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was tasked with developing a suitable format for reports, covering implementation of the MOU and its Action Plan as a whole. The proposed format provided here has been designed to generate information that can be synthesised in a comparable way for each future Meeting of Signatories; to give a meaningful picture of progress and reflect the achievements of Signatories and other stakeholders, but also to be as streamlined as possible to keep the work involved in reporting to a necessary minimum.

A formal proposal to adopt the format will be considered by the third Meeting of Signatories (MOS3) in 2022. In the meantime we are taking the opportunity to launch it in its provisional form, so that up to date information on national implementation can be available for MOS3. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU will compile and analyse the reports for this purpose.

## Reporting period

To enable proper analysis, it is important that all respondents relate their answers (throughout this form) to the same reporting period. On this occasion we are asking you to report on the period between **July 2019 and the present**. (July 2019 was the date of the previous implementation survey, the results of which can be found in the first Review of the Action Plan). Future reporting cycles are likely to cover periods between one Meeting of Signatories and the next.

## Instructions

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as you can. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information used to answer the question, particularly if a published reference or report is available. For each question there are blue icons that can be used to attach a document and/or provide a weblink.

When working on the online version of the report, save your information by clicking on the "Save all" button inside each section. An auto-save feature also saves any changed responses every 30 seconds, and whenever you move between sections.

Guidance notes are provided throughout the format to assist you in answering the questions.

**Please Note:** Before clicking on any hyperlink contained within this form, please press and hold the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

**Deadline for submission: 31 October 2021**

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Signatory State:

>

Date of entry into effect of the MOU in your country (DD/MM/YY):

>

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the MOU:

>

### Report Compiler

Name and title:

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**Designated Contact Point for the MOU**

Name and title of designated Contact Point:

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Full name of institution

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Mailing address:

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## II. HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

This section invites you to summarise briefly the most important positive aspects of Raptors MOU/Action Plan implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern.

Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into some very brief and simple “high level” messages for decision-makers and for wider audiences.

Although keeping it brief, please try also to be specific where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 2020 doubled penalties for poisoning birds of prey” is more informative than “stronger laws”; “50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on vultures” is more informative than “lack of funding”. Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only. For this present round of reporting, the period is from **July 2019 to the present**.

### **In your country, in the reporting period, what does this report reveal about: The most successful aspects of implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan?**

(List up to five items)

- > - follow up the update of the Hunting Law with the Higher council for Hunting (HCH) and the inclusion of the protection of many species of importance including Raptors within the drafted law and its regulations.
- provide commitment to give feedback about the national involvement for the assessment and protection of targeted species according to the needs and requests.
- carry out a pilot survey to assess the threat of power lines and related infra structures on the Egyptian Vulture in particular as well as other migrating raptors in general
- continue to restrict all trades in raptors (live or dead)

### **The greatest difficulties in implementing the MOU and/or Action Plan?**

(List up to five items)

- > Restricted financial support and funding
- Lack of support for technical assistance.
- Low priority due to the current economic situation and sanctions on Syria and taking other issues as more important to tackle

### **The main priorities for future implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan?**

(List up to five items)

- > -Develop National Action Plan for the conservation of Raptors
- Issuing the Hunting Law and its regulations
- Issuing the CITES National Law
- More awareness and capacity building for staff and other stakeholders.

### III. RAPTOR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTS

A central provision of the MOU (paragraph 12) is for Signatories to prepare national or regional (e.g. EU) strategies 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. The Action Plan itself foresees its listed actions being addressed by these strategies / equivalent documents.

#### **Does a national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document exist in relation to your country?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- In preparation
- No

Please state the title and scope of the strategy or equivalent document, and summarise the current status of its implementation:

Please use the icons below to provide a copy of the document(s) concerned, and/or provide a website link that will give access to the relevant text.

>

Does the strategy or equivalent document address all of the activities listed in Table 2 of the Action Plan?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- Partly
- No

Please state the reasons why all of the Table 2 activities are not addressed:

>

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>

Please state the title and scope of the strategy or equivalent document, and summarise the current status of its preparation:

>

Does the strategy or equivalent document address all of the activities listed in Table 2 of the Action Plan?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- Partly
- No

Please state the reasons why all of the Table 2 activities are not addressed:

>

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>

Please state the reasons why a national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document has not been developed:

> Action Plan is not being developed so far in the country. It is on the list of items that the Ministry is aiming to develop in the near future when the right technical and financial support is available to develop this important document among the other priorities for conservation in the country.

Restricted financial support and funding such as the exclusion of supporting Syria within Migratory Soaring Birds Project due to restrictions imposed by GEF on supporting its activities within some countries such as Syria back in 2017. Lack of other dedicated external and internal national funding as well.

## IV. LEGAL PROTECTION OF SPECIES AGAINST KILLING AND UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

### Are all species of migratory birds of prey (present in your country) listed in Annex I of the Raptors MOU granted full legal protection from deliberate killing and taking from the wild?

Follow this link to see the species listed in Annex 1.

If you are answering "yes, please make sure the statute(s) concerned is/are clearly identified by giving details of title, date, etc.

If you are answering "only partly", please be clear whether this is because legal protection only applies to some aspects, or because only some species are covered (please identify the species) or because only some areas are covered - (or any combination of these types of partial coverage); and give the reasons for this.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not known

Please indicate the statute(s) concerned, and summarise the provision:

>

Please state why all species are not (yet) fully covered:

> Currently there is no inclusion of the species in the protection process in one comprehensive list. However, the list of protected species is included in the draft hunting Law as protected species at all areas of the country. This Law is being under revision since 2019 and it is currently in the final process of formal issuance.

Please state why all species are not (yet) fully covered:

>

### Is there legislation in place which bans the use of exposed poison baits and other toxic chemical methods of predator or pest control?

The CMS Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds provide further background on legislative (and other) means of reducing harm to migratory birds (including raptors) from toxic chemicals.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please indicate the statute(s) concerned, and summarise the provision:

>

Please state why not:

> All the National legislations regulate the overall use of poisons and baits and any chemicals of effects on wildlife. However, these need some update according to the international standards and guidelines that govern this practice.

## V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

### Have any Single or Multi-species Action Plans been published for any species of migratory bird of prey in your country?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- In preparation
- No
- Not known

Please list the species involved and the status of each Plan:

Please use the icons below to provide a copy of the document(s) concerned, and/or provide a website link that will give access to the relevant text.

>

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Please use the icons below to provide a copy of the document(s) concerned, and/or provide a website link that will give access to the relevant text.

>

Please state why not:

> Syria contributes to the revision of any of the regional APs when contacts are made with the authorities and relevant stakeholders to give feedback about the national involvement and status for the targeted species.

### Have any reintroduction or restocking projects been implemented involving migratory birds of prey in accordance with prevailing international guidelines?

One of the most relevant international guidelines documents for this question is the IUCN publication "Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations".

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary, and indicate whether or not captive breeding is involved:

>

Please state why not:

> It is not a priority, However, there is lack of funding for this work when it becomes as a target work.

### Have any supplementary feeding initiatives been established and maintained for necrophagous birds of prey?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

> This is not a priority

## VI. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HABITATS AND SITES

### Have any measures been implemented to improve or restore the habitats of species of birds of prey?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary:

Please indicate what habitat type, where, and (broadly) what type of measures were involved. Comments on success (or otherwise) would also be valuable.

>

Please state why not:

> this improvement (of adopting needed measures) is not currently needed as within the list of priorities

### Which sites in your country listed in Table 3 of the Action Plan are designated as protected areas, or are otherwise appropriately managed taking into account the conservation requirements of migratory birds of prey?

Please indicate in **this online excel file (link)** for each of the relevant sites listed in Table 3 of Annex 3 of the MOU whether the site is (a) fully designated as a protected area or covered by an instrument ensuring proper management, (b) partially so designated/covered, or (c) not so designated/covered.

**NOTE:** It is acknowledged that Table 3 is currently incomplete. A revised Table 3, following the inputs received at the 2nd Meeting of Signatories, is being finalised, and following comments by the Technical Advisory Group it will be circulated alongside the 'Form to propose internationally important sites for addition to Table 3 of the Raptors MoU'. Signatories will be asked to comment on the list and invited to propose new sites of international importance. The list, including any comments received as per the Rules of Procedure, will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group and circulated for the 3rd Meeting of Signatories to consider.

In the meantime, if your country is covered in the current Table, please answer this question in relation to the sites that are listed there. Please provide your answers in the excel file on google drive by following the link above. The file will automatically save your answers.

*Please select only one option*

I have added the relevant information for my country's sites

> Jabal Slenfeh is an officially declared Protected Area under the management by the Forestry Department at Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) since 1990s

My country does not have sites listed

>

## VII. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO THREATS AND PRESSURES

### Have any assessments been made of the nature, likelihood, severity or potential consequences of threats facing birds of prey, and measures identified to maintain their Favourable Conservation Status?

“Favourable Conservation Status” should be interpreted for this question in accordance with the definition provided in Article I (1) (c) of the Convention on Migratory Species. (Link to text here).

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary:

> With small funds through EU LIFE Project for the Egyptian Vulture, it was possible to survey some areas of the country to assess if the power-lines are safe or dangerous for soaring birds. Few incidents were observed about the severity of these lines for electrocution, but not considered as of a regional priority with the small funds available from EU LIFE Project.

As hunting and killing and taking of birds in Syria was amongst the highest in the region, more focus was needed to tackle this threat in the country. Hence, the Hunting Law was revised and an update was proposed and advocated for to be more comprehensive and update. This will ensure the protection of the raptors as well as other endangered species within the country and during passage and migration. Awareness was needed also to change the perception of hunters and locals for protecting the birds when the new law is being issued. This will be in line with the national commitment of the country within the MIKT in particular.

Please state why not:

>

Based on the assessment referred to above (or if none, on your own knowledge and judgement) please identify (tick) the **three most important** categories of threat affecting birds of prey in your country:

This question asks you to identify the important pressures that are reliably known to be having an actual adverse impact on migratory birds of prey at present. Please avoid including speculative information about pressures that may be of some potential concern but whose impacts have not yet been demonstrated.

- Direct killing and taking  
 Collisions and electrocution  
 Other mortality  
 Alien and/or invasive species  
 Disturbance and disruption  
 Habitat destruction/degradation  
 Climate change  
 Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.  
 Other (please specify)

>

Add comments here on any particular actions in response to these threats:

You may find it helpful here to refer to actions assisted by relevant existing response tools and initiatives in the framework of mechanisms such as the CMS. Examples could include the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), the CMS Energy Task Force, and the adopted Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds.

> No Comment

### Are requirements in place to ensure that proposals for activities that may have significant effects on birds of prey or their habitats are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)?

Helpful pointers on this subject (and reference to sources of further guidance) are given in CMS Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP12) on “Impact assessment and migratory species”. Comments on the general standard and quality of EIAs/SEAs that are undertaken would be valuable. Any use that has been made of “sensitivity mapping” techniques in this context should be mentioned here.

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary of the requirements and their implementation, including the extent to which

the results of these assessments are used to inform relevant consent decisions and associated mitigation measures:

> Yes, this is noticed in the Environment Law of 2012 as any project or activity in and around areas important to birds and Protected Areas should have a proper EIA according to the guidance from the MLAE to assess any effects on birds of prey and other soaring birds . The Sensitivity Mapping Toolkit of BirdLife is often referred to for any assessment of such prospect and to guide and direct official permits for such activities. Permits of licensing any project need to have an EIA/SEA as a pre requisite to confirm there is no impact on wildlife, birds and the environment in general.

Please state why not:

>

## VIII. ACTION / INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS

**Is the conservation of migratory birds of prey integrated within the policies of sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste, tourism and others?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

> Conservation of such species is being vaguely mentioned to be a point of concern in Agricultural Sector and for trading with some pesticide. Further work is still needed to include this in other sectors (currently stressing on Energy and Tourism sectors) and in the future concentration will be on the Industry and also on more details on the Pesticides especially the Veterinary Medical Products (VMPs) for the conservation of birds of prey which needs some stress on and focus in such policies at the time

These will be developed when the proper funding and technical assistance is available to include them in the national policies with the right support to the ministry or the stakeholders dealing with any of these issues.

Please give a brief summary:

>

**Have any programmes been implemented during the reporting period among government departments (other than the department that has lead responsibility for the Raptors MOU) to inform decision makers of the conservation needs of migratory birds of prey?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

> no direct programmes are being implemented for the conservation of Migratory raptors.

## IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Please use the icons below each question to provide a copy of any relevant documents, and/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material.

### **Have any overall assessments been made of the status and trends of any populations of migratory birds of prey in your country, during the reporting period?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary, and highlight any particularly significant declines or increases that have been revealed for relevant species:

> Assessments were carried out for the Egyptian Vulture migrating population within the country as part of the EU LIFE Egyptian Vulture Project with some random provisional studies and surveys by the Syrian Society of the Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW) at some areas of Syria.

Please state why no such assessments have been made:

>

### **Are any systematic and coordinated monitoring programmes operated in your country in relation to breeding populations, reproductive success or migration counts of birds of prey?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

> Only random counts by birders and other members of the SSCW within its activities in collaboration with the Ministry

### **Have any guidelines or protocols been published concerning systematic or coordinated monitoring programmes for migratory birds of prey?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give the source reference(s) and a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

> no such protocol is being developed for Syria.  
General monitoring protocol for migrating species is being used by SSCW

### **Does any process exist for establishing multi-stakeholder agreement about priorities for research on issues of relevance to the conservation of birds of prey?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

> No Comments

### **Are suitable platforms in place in your country to exchange knowledge, experience and information about the conservation of birds of prey?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes

- No
- Not known

Please identify the relevant platform(s) and summarise its/their scope and function:  
>

Please state why not:

> only some facebook pages for NGOs and individuals provide such information.

## X. RAISING AWARENESS

**Have any public awareness programmes been implemented during the reporting period to promote the importance of birds of prey, their migrations and their conservation needs?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary including comments on the impact and success (or otherwise) of these programmes:

> Some awareness events by SSCW in collaboration with the Ministry at targeted sites and events.

Please state why not:

>

**Have any education programmes or teaching resources been provided during the reporting period to inform young people and students about migratory birds of prey and their conservation needs?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

>

## XI. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

**Have any training or other support programmes been implemented during the reporting period to strengthen the capacity of agencies responsible for the application of relevant laws and regulations?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

> No such activities being implemented Yet.

However, there are some ideas and plans to include such training for the enforcement authorities once the new Hunting Law is being issued and the suitable funds are secured.

**Have any training or other initiatives been implemented during the reporting period to support activities undertaken by local communities or voluntary groups in relation to birds of prey surveys, monitoring, site protection work or related outreach?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

> Plans to include such training for the Voluntary Conservation groups and other stakeholders and NGOs in collaboration with SSCW are being discussed to be developed in details once suitable funds are secured.

**During the reporting period, has your country provided any new financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey?**

“Other resources” in this context could include, for example, “in-kind” forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure, loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities or technology transfer. (Do not include training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building however, as these are covered separately in the preceding two questions).

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please state the beneficiary/ies concerned and the activities supported:

>

Please state why not:

> No funds were allocated for such dedicated conservation work. all financial support are now being directed towards supporting the livelihood of locals being affected by the current situation in the country.

**During the reporting period, has your country received any new financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey?**

See guidance on interpretation of “other resources” provided in relation to the preceding question.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please state the source(s) concerned and the activities supported:

>

Please state why not:

> No funds were received for any conservation work.

## **XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**During the reporting period, has your country participated in any international cooperation activities as provided by paragraph 8 of the MOU?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary:

> Participated partially in the MIKT4 meeting and committed to follow the outcomes of this meeting as needed to support conservation work for RAPTORS and other species from prescribed threats.

Please state why not:

>

**During the reporting period, has your country taken any steps to support or encourage any other Range State(s) to sign the Raptors MOU?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please identify the Range State(s) concerned, and the nature of the support or encouragement given:

>

Please state why not:

> No Comment