

Raptors MOU Cooperating Partners Report Form

This is the Cooperating Partners 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 Report is to provide information on your organisation'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 Cooperating Partner:

> IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group

Date of signature of the MOU (DD/MM/YY):

> 8th December 2016

Report Compiler

Name and title:

> Andre Botha, Co-chair - IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group

Department/office:

> Not applicable

Telephone

> +27829625725

Email:
> andreb@ewt.org.za

Designated Contact Point for the MOU

Name and title of designated Contact Point:
> Andre Botha

Department/office:
> Not applicable

Mailing address:
> P.O. Box 1457
North Riding, 2162
Gauteng, South Africa

Telephone:
> +27829625725

Email:
> andreb@ewt.org.za

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 area of operation 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 the reporting period, what has your experience of involvement with the Raptors MOU revealed about:

The most successful aspects of implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan?

(List up to five items)

- > - Completion and adoption of the CMS Vulture MsAP at CoP12 in October 2017.
- Establishment of a CMS Vulture Working Group to support the implementation of the MsAP

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

(List up to five items)

- > - Lack of resources to support implementation of the CMS Vulture MsAP in key areas
- Delay in appointing a replacement for the Coordinating Unit manager following his resignation. This has contributed to a loss of engagement and continuity, exacerbated by the transfer of the administrative officer shortly after TAG3.

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

(List up to five items)

- > - Finalisation and adoption of the reviewed MoU Work Plan (Action Plan)
- More engagement with Signatories to promote the drafting of national strategies for the conservation of raptors and their habitats
- Sourcing of funding to support implementation and continued roll-out of key actions with the CMS Vulture MsAP and other relevant conservation plans produced within the framework of the Raptors MoU

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.

Has your organisation cooperated in specific ways with the development of any national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please state the title, scope and country/ies covered by the strategy/ies or equivalent document/s, and summarise the current status of preparation:

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.

- > - VSG was a partner in the drafting and adoption of the CMS Vulture MsAP together with the CMS Raptors MoU CU, BirdLife International and the Vulture Conservation Foundation
- Our members were or are involved in a range of vulture-focused conservation strategies in various parts of the range, e.g.
- The SAVE consortium in south Asia
- Several LIFE Projects focused on the conservation of vultures in Europe
- South African Vulture Task Team that is currently completing a draft National Vulture Conservation Plan
- Similar plans are in process in Botswana, Kenya and Zambia and Zimbabwe published its plan in 2019
- VSG, working with the IUCN CPSG, BirdLife Africa partnership and other stakeholders are currently involved in a planning process to draft a strategy to address the decline in West African vulture populations due to belief-based trade.

Has your organisation cooperated in specific ways with the implementation of any national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please state the title, scope and country/ies covered by the strategy/ies or equivalent document/s, and summarise the contribution made to implementation:

- > - See above
- VSG members are involved in the implementation of a range of projects that contribute towards achieving the objectives of the CMS Vulture MsAP. These activities covers most of the range states in Europe and Asia and at least 17 African countries.

If you have answered “yes” to either of the two questions above, what is your overall view of the completeness (by reference to the activities listed in Table 2 of the Action Plan) of the strategy/ies or equivalent document/s to which your answers refer?

Please select only one option

- Fully complete
 Partly complete/some gaps
 Incomplete/serious deficiencies

Please state the nature of the gaps/deficiencies:

- > - Lack of material and funding support from many range states in terms of implementation of actions, drafting of national plans
- Many signatories are not providing feedback/reports as required with the CMS Raptors MoU agreement with signatories.
- Substantial knowledge gaps exist on the status of raptors from many range states, especially in Africa and central Asia.

Please state the nature of the gaps/deficiencies:

>

IV. LEGAL PROTECTION OF SPECIES AGAINST KILLING AND UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

Has your organisation assisted in specific ways with measures to apply legal protection against deliberate killing, taking, trade or other forms of exploitation that may impact negatively on the conservation status of species listed in Annex I of the Raptors MOU?

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.

Please select only one option

Yes

No

(a) indicate the country/ies concerned:

>

(b) summarise the scope of the statute/s involved:

>

(c) summarise the nature of the assistance provided:

>

V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

Has your organisation been involved with the development or implementation of any Single or Multi-species Action Plans for any species of migratory bird of prey in the geographical area covered by the MOU?

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 select only one option

- Yes
 No

(a) give the title, species and geographical area covered by the plan/s:

> CMS Vulture MsAP that covers 124 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa

(b) summarise the nature of your organisation's involvement:

> - We were one of the four drafting partners with many of our members leading and forming part of the drafting team of the Plan.

- Many of our members are involved in projects/programmes that are contributing to the objectives of the MsAP.

Has your organisation been involved with any reintroduction or restocking projects 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

Please identify the country or countries concerned, give a brief summary and indicate whether or not captive breeding is involved:

> Chris, for you to answer in terms of SAVE activities?

Has your organisation been involved with any supplementary feeding initiatives for necrophagous birds of prey?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please identify the country or countries concerned, and give a brief summary:

> Through the CMS Vulture MsAP, we have promoted the implementation of supplementary feeding sites to provide safe food for vultures and other scavenging birds where appropriate.

Many projects managed by our member across the Vulture MsAP range have used this tool and still does.

VI. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HABITATS AND SITES

Has your organisation assisted in specific ways with measures to improve or restore the habitat of species of birds of prey?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

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

>

Has your organisation been involved in identifying, protecting or managing nationally and internationally important sites for birds of prey (including any of the sites listed in Table 3 of the Action Plan)?

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 you have information relating to countries included in the current Table, please refer to the sites that are listed there.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

(a) give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

>

(b) add any comments on your overall view of the adequacy of protection and management of the important sites to which your answer to (a) relates, taking into account the conservation requirements of migratory birds of prey, and specifying any particularly notable gaps or deficiencies:

>

VII. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO THREATS AND PRESSURES

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any assessments 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

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please identify (tick) the **three most important** categories of threat which, according to your assessment (or informed judgement), are affecting birds of prey in the area(s) you work in:

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.

> - VSG members serve on the CMS Energy Task Force, the CMS Working Group to Prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds as well as the CMS Lead Task Force and contribute to their work.

- VSG members are engaged in a range of programmes/projects that work to reduce the impact of threats such as poisoning and energy infrastructure.

Has your organisation assisted in specific ways with measures 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

(a) indicate the country/ies concerned:

>

(b) summarise the nature of the measures involved:

>

(c) summarise the nature of the assistance provided:

>

(d) add any comments on the extent to which the results of these assessments are used to inform relevant decisions (e.g. permission for a development project) and associated mitigation measures:

>

VIII. ACTION / INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS

Has your organisation been involved in any efforts to ensure that the conservation of migratory birds of prey is integrated within the policies of sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste, tourism and others?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

(a) give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies and sector/s to which this relates:

- > - VSG members and their employer organisations have been engaging with countries in south Asia within the framework of the SAVE consortium to reduce the impact of NSAIDS on vulture populations in south Asia.
- VSG members and their employer organisations are working with a range of stakeholder departments in at least 9 southern and east African countries towards the integration of said policies into their activities.

(b) add any comments on your assessment of the effectiveness or otherwise of the integration instances to which your answer to (a) relates:

- > - SAVE - ban on diclofenac and other NSAIDS? - Chris?
- Drafting, adoption and implementation of a a wildlife poisoning response protocol by the Kenya Wildlife Service in 2018.
- Establishment of the National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group involving at least 5 government departments and a range of NGO's and other stakeholders in South Africa in 2018-19. This includes a Lead Task Team that specifically focuses on this threat to wildlife. VSG members are active and contribute to both these structures.

Has your organisation cooperated in any programmes that have 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

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

- > - Examples from SAVE, Chris?
- A range of interactions by VSG members and their employer organisations with regional governments, law enforcement and other structures in Spain and other European countries in terms of combatting and reducing the impact of wildlife poisoning on raptors and vultures.
- Likewise for 14 African countries where wildlife poisoning prevention and response activities have been initiated.
- VSG members in southern Africa are continuously engaging with national, regional and local government structures to promote the conservation of vultures and other 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.

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any overall assessments of the status and trends of any populations of migratory birds of prey in the geographical area of the MOU, during the reporting period?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

> Populations assessments of all Old World Vulture populations were conducted during the drafting of the CMS Vulture MsAP.

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any systematic and coordinated monitoring programmes in relation to breeding populations, reproductive success or migration counts of any of the birds of prey that are covered by the taxonomic and geographical scope of the MOU?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

> - VSG members are involved in the monitoring of vulture populations at various locations across the Vulture MsAP range

- VSG also promotes the initiation of research and monitoring and known knowledge-gap areas, especially in Africa

Has your organisation assisted with or otherwise been involved with publishing any guidelines or protocols concerning systematic or coordinated monitoring programmes for migratory birds of prey?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please give the source reference(s) and a brief summary, including the nature of your organisation's involvement:

> VSG published a best-practice manual for the safe harnessing of vultures for tracking purposes in 2020.

Has your organisation assisted with any process for establishing multi-stakeholder agreements about priorities for research on issues of relevance to the conservation of birds of prey?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

>

Has your organisation cooperated in any platforms for exchanging knowledge, experience and information about the conservation of birds of prey?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

(a) identify the relevant platform(s):

> IVAD website and related activities every year.

(b) summarise its/their scope and function, including the country/ies involved:

> Creation of awareness of the plight of vultures globally, participation varies annually. In 2020 we had registered participation from 53 countries and more than 160 organisations across 5 continents.

(c) summarise the nature of your organisation's involvement:

> Support and oversee the website that hosts the event and facilitates registration of participating organisations.

X. RAISING AWARENESS

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any public awareness programmes during the reporting period specifically to promote the importance of birds of prey, their migrations and their conservation needs?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

Comments on the impact and success (or otherwise) of these programmes would also be valuable.

> See earlier comments about International Vulture Awareness Day - IVAD which is an annual event.

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any education programmes during the reporting period specifically to inform young people and students about migratory birds of prey and their conservation needs?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

>

XI. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any training or other support programmes 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

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

> In Africa, VSG members have participated in the training of more than 6000 conservation-, law enforcement-, veterinary staff and community members in 14 countries in the identification and management of wildlife poisoning events and the reduction of human-wildlife conflict. Similar training was also conducted in Cambodia in March 2020.

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any training or other initiatives 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

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

> - See above. This training also involves monitoring and data collection to contribute data to the African Wildlife Poisoning Database.
- VSG members have worked and conducted training to establish local capacity in the identification and monitoring of vulture and other raptor nests in Lesotho, South Africa, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi and Mozambique.

During the reporting period, has your organisation 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:

> - VSG secured funding to cover the costs of the drafting of the vulture harnessing manual published in 2020.
- VSG secured funding to support the drafting of the West African strategy to reduce the impact of belief-based use and trade of vultures which is in process.
- VSG has provided letters of support for at least 35 funding proposals submitted by members or their employer organisations for funding to support migratory raptor and vulture conservation.

Please state why not:

>

During the reporting period, has your organisation 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:

> See comments above.

Please state why not:

>

XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

During the reporting period, has your organisation 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:

- > - Many of the initiatives/projects/programmes VSG members are involved in involves international cooperation and engagement across international boundaries.
- The drafting of the CMS Vulture MsAP is an example of such cooperation?

Please state why not:

>

During the reporting period, has your organisation taken any steps to support or encourage any 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:

- > - In presentations and deliberations with colleagues and representatives from government departments in Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Uganda to promote implementation of the CMS Vulture MSAP, during the review-period we also recommended that range states should consider becoming signatories of the Raptors MoU.

Please state why not:

>