

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:

> The Netherlands

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

> 22/10/2008

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

> The public bodies of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba located in the Carribean

Report Compiler

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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)

> All positive advances within the Netherlands are mainly a result of implementing the EU Birds Directive. The MoU did result in the EU's strategic Approach to Raptor Conservation in december 2019 which contributes to underlining the priority actions that need to be taken for conservation of migratory birds of prey in the EU member states, through the existing EU frameworks

In comparison to non EU-countries, the MoU framework has less added value within the Netherlands due to the presence of the Birds Directive and other related instruments. It does however have value by contributing to the protection of migratory birds of prey outside of the Netherlands, i.e. outside of the European Union, that visit the Netherlands as part of their range.

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

(List up to five items)

> There are no significant difficulties in the implementation itself. The implementation of the MoU and Action Plan is integrated in our national legislation by its adoption of the contents of the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds).

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

(List up to five items)

- > - Combat the illegal killing of birds of prey in specific regions of the Netherlands
- A heightened degree of awareness for raptor conservation and issues such as wind energy, persecution, habitat degradation (including due to forest management) affecting them
- Investment in research related to issues that affect raptors, such as poisoning, forest management and collisions with wind turbines.

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.

> Effective raptor conservation requires a flyway-approach and co-operation between national authorities, international bodies, environmental NGOs and stakeholders. The Netherlands adheres to a regional EU-strategy: EU's Strategic Approach to Raptor Conservation, published in december 2019 (see link attached). The document describes how raptor conservation within the EU is being implemented through the existing EU frameworks, particularly through the EU Birds Directive. Most measures foreseen in the MoU have already been implemented in The Netherlands through the Birds and Habitats Directives.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[EU's strategic approach to raptor conservation, dec 2019](#)

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:

>

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

>

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

>

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:

> BWBR0037552/2021-07-01 Chapter 3 - Article 3.1 & 3.2. All species of migratory birds of prey are granted full legal protection from deliberate killing and taking from the wild.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

URL

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

>

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:

> There is EU legislation on Plant Protection Products (REGULATION (EC) No 1107/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009) and on biocides (REGULATION (EU) No 528/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 May 2012). These EU regulations are implemented in national legislation (BWBR0021670 - see attachment). The task of the Dutch Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb) is to assess whether plant protection products and biocidal products are safe for humans, animals and the environment before these products can be sold and used in the Netherlands. Aside from allowing products to the market is also dictates regulations on usage. The precautionary principle is applied, resulting in the fact that products can not be used unless its safety has been demonstrated through assesment by CTGB.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Law on plant protection products and biocides - Law on plant protection products and biocides

Please state why not:

>

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.

>

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.

>

Please state why not:

> The general approach to the conservation of species in the Netherlands is holistic in which plans focus on the protection and restoration of habitats (also conform Birds and Habitat Directive) benefitting a multitude of species. Migratory birds of prey benefit from these efforts. The use of single or multi-species action plans for migratory birds of prey does not fit with the general approach to the conservation of species in The Netherlands.

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:

> Reintroduction projects would be considered if species were unable to reach the Netherlands from other parts of the distribution range, which is currently not the case.

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:

> The Netherlands has no breeding populations of raptors that are obligate carrion feeders.

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.

> With the implementation of conservation measures in the protected area's of the Natura 2000 network we continuously work on improving and restoring natural habitats which contributes to the conditions for birds of prey.

Montagu's Harrier has a small but stable population which profits from specific measures aimed at improving food availability in arable land, such as with fallow land; locally species such as kestrel, marsh harrier, and common and rough-legged buzzard profit too. The general improvement of water quality has improved habitat conditions for osprey, which are now breeding in very small numbers. The habitat quality for most other species, notably those breeding in forest, is declining due to habitat deterioration and management (of forest).

PM. Mogelijk (gebieds)specifieke maatregelen / projecten voor bijv. visarend, zeearend, grauwe kiekendief uitlichten.

Please state why not:

>

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

>

- 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:

> There have been a number of studies on the threats facing birds of prey, which include persecution, poisoning, habitat deterioration, and decline of food resources particularly in cultivated land. These were conducted by individuals, NGOs that focus on the conservation of raptors, Sovon Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology, The Dutch Raptor Working Group, and universities. From these, measures to maintain a Favourable Conservation Status have been identified, and these include improvement of habitat management (forest, reedland, arable land), and maintenance of food resources in arable land.

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.

- > 1. Improvement of habitat quality in arable land, for improved nest protection and increased prey resources (harriers, kestrel, buzzard, rough-legged buzzard, short-eared owl),
2. Nest protection including buffer zones around nests for reduced disturbance (White-tailed Eagle)
3. Criminal investigation of poisoning incidents, sites with frequent disturbance (Buzzard, Goshawk, Marsh Harrier)

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:

> Proposals for activities that may have impact on the environment are subjected to Environmental Impact Assessments, as required by Dutch law (BWBR0006788). EIA's also involve an assessment on the impact with reference to the Nature Protection Act (BWBR0037552), including the protection of birds of prey and their habitat. Results of EIA's are used to inform decisions and if relevant to take appropriate mitigation measures.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Regulation on EIA](#)

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:

>

Please give a brief summary:

> Yes, notably in forestry but not successfully. There are general guidelines related to the prevention of disturbance of nest sites in forests, through a code of conduct in forestry. However, for the past two decades, stands of non-native trees have been clear-felled on a grand scale in parts of the Netherlands. Strong local declines of raptors in the forested eastern half of the country was concomitant to the simultaneous clear-felling of non-native trees, because all raptor species had shown a significant preference for nesting in non-native trees, i.e. the tree species specifically targeted for logging. Raptor losses due to logging were also aggravated by the inadequate implementation of the code of conduct adopted by forestry personnel and nature managers, which prescribed a buffer zone of 50 m from raptor nests in stands to be harvested.

It is not integrated in the other sectors' policies though issues do exist:

- Recreation which has increased up to 30-fold in just two decades increasingly conflicts with protection of safe breeding sites for raptors, in forests and elsewhere.
- Agriculture in the Netherlands is among the most intensive in Europe, conflicting with the conservation of raptors in such habitat and those breeding in forests that are dependent on cultivated land for food.
- The rapidly expanding wind energy sector has an increasing but largely unquantified effect on raptor populations.

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:

> The current situation with regards to birds of prey does not yet require for programs to inform decision makers on the conservation needs for migratory birds of prey. The department that has lead responsibility for the Raptors MOU is connected to and informs other government departments, but no programmes have been implemented during the reporting period.

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:

> As part of the Network Ecological Monitoring yearly status and trend updates are made for all birds, among which migratory species.

Population monitoring for active breeding pairs is coordinated country wide by the Sovon breeding bird monitoring, or other monitoring schemes for different/non-breeding species groups. The activities of the Dutch Raptor Working Group focus on the breeding populations of all raptors in the country. There are separate working groups for various species, including Montagu's harrier, White-tailed Eagle, and Little Owl, who organize coordinated monitoring including ringing of nestlings. Close mutual links ensure rapid exchange of information. To monitor the distribution and number of Dutch birds of prey, volunteers of the WRN take the following steps:

- monitoring of territories and nests of birds of prey in fixed areas each year;
- nest checks to gain insight into (a) start of the egg laying, (b) clutch size, (c) number of hatched eggs, (d) number of hatched birds, (e) sex ratios, (f) diet, and (g) nest success;
- ringing of nestlings.

With this monitoring scheme, population studies are standardized and statically reliable nationwide, for analysis of shifts in distribution and trends.

In general, the conservation status of raptors in the Netherlands is a decrease or stable population for most species, with increasing (but still very small or small) populations of Red Kite, White-tailed Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon.

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:

> Yes. This information is also part of the assessments that are made for the Network Ecological Monitoring. See above.

Please state why not:

>

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:

> The systematic and coordinated monitoring programmes are run by the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology (SOVON). SOVON produces guidelines and protocols for the monitoring programs.

Rob Bijlsma/ the Dutch Raptor Working Group published the following book with guidelines and protocols for research on birds of prey that many adhere to: Bijlsma, R.G., 1997. Handleiding veldonderzoek roofvogels. De takkeling, 5(1), pp.5-6.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[SOVON website](#)

Please state why not:

>

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:

> There is no such process for establishing multi-stakeholder agreements on research priorities. The current situation with regards to birds of prey does not urge for a multi-stakeholder agreement. There are such processes with regards to e.g. geese and meadowbirds who have more dominant position in the research agenda's.

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:

> Working Group Birds of Prey Netherlands (WRN) is the main Dutch organisation involved in exchanging knowledge, experience and information about conservation of birds of prey.

Please state why not:

>

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:

>

Please state why not:

> No coördinated awareness raising was conducted in 2019-2021, apart from regular public campaigns by foundations focused on the conservation of raptors, such as the Dutch Raptor Working Group.

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:

> There current situation with regards to birds of prey does not urge for educational programmes or teaching resources.

Many sites however do have visitors centres with educational information and educational programs on the site and the species, including raptors.

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:

>

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:

> These include training on nest monitoring (Dutch raptor working group, Sovon), training on the ringing of nestlings (Dutch raptor working group, the Dutch Centre for Avian Migration and Demography or Vogeltrekstation), and training on nest protection measures (e.g. Grauwe Kiekendief - Kenniscentrum Akkervogels).

Please state why not:

>

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:

> The general approach to the conservation of species in the Netherlands is holistic focussing on protection and restoration of habitats (also conform Birds and Habitat Directive) benefitting a multitude of species. Financial and other resources that benefit Migratory birds of prey are included in conservation activities in protected areas and agricultural lands.

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:

>

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:

>

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:

> Most range states with whom we are in close contact are already signatories of the MOU.