

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:

> Switzerland

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

> 01.12.2014

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

> No

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)

- > 1. Adoption of the "Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland: Strategic Guidelines and management Priorities": The strategic guidelines and management priorities fulfill the aim of Paragraph 12 of the Raptors MoU to prepare a national strategy or an equivalent document. The overall aim of these strategic guidelines is to obtain and maintain a favorable conservation status for all breeding populations and migrating species that regularly pass through Switzerland. The strategic guidelines review the current situation of 21 raptor and nine owl species regularly occurring in Switzerland. Of these, four are CMS Category 1 species (Bearded Vulture, Red Kite, and the scarce migrants Pallid Harrier and Red-footed Falcon) and nine CMS Category 2 species (6 breeding species). 13 of the 30 raptor and owl species were designated as CMS flagship species of Switzerland.
2. 30 years ago, on 5 June 1991, the first Bearded Vultures were released into the wild in the Swiss National Park. This marked the beginning of the successful return of the Bearded Vulture to the Swiss Alps. Since then, the National Park region has become a Bearded Vulture hotspot in the Alps, much to the delight of locals and visitors alike. In the rest of Switzerland, too, the Bearded Vulture population is developing very positively thanks to the reintroduction programme of the Pro Bearded Vulture Foundation. In 2020, the highest number of Bearded Vultures hatched in the wild increased to 13 in 2020, a new maximum recorded for Switzerland.
3. The full content of the "Swiss Breeding Bird Atlas" is available online. The atlas includes information on:
 - Species - detailed distribution and population trends for each species;
 - Focus - exploring topics and trends relevant to several species;
 - Background - a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the atlas; and
 - Methods - from data collection to final results.

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

(List up to five items)

- > 1. Pressures on habitats / land use changes / spatial planning
2. Effort to inventory important sites for migratory birds and define measures for improved protection were stopped because of the rejection of the revision of the Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds by a referendum on 27.09.2020.
3. Conflicts / trade-offs, e.g. on agriculture, ban on lead. A partial ban on national level for bullet ammunition was stopped because of the rejection of the revision of the Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds by a referendum on 27.09.2020.

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

(List up to five items)

- > 1. Maintenance and remediation of existing protected areas as well as of areas that are achieving the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside of protected areas (OECMs).
2. Design of the countrywide ecological infrastructure with special emphasize on securing the ecological connectivity.
3. Revision of the Nature and Cultural Heritage Protection Act with the following key points: Anchoring of a concrete area target in the law; increased restoration of national biotopes as well as revitalization of floodplains, networking of water and migratory bird reserves or Ramsar sites, improved species protection in urban areas and agglomerations. Increase of financial support.
4. Consideration of ecosystem services in spatially relevant decisions.
5. Analysis of the need for action for Switzerland resulting from the post2020 global biodiversity framework

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.

> Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland: Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities

This report by the FOEN on raptor and owl conservation fulfills the aim of Paragraph 12 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU) to prepare a national strategy or an equivalent document. The report on the strategic guidelines and management priorities of raptor and owl conservation in Switzerland defines national objectives, the relevant activities and their prioritisation to mitigate significant threats to these fascinating groups of birds. The overall aim of these strategic guidelines is to obtain and maintain a favourable conservation status for all breeding populations and migrating species that regularly pass through Switzerland. The strategic guidelines review the current situation of 21 raptor and nine owl species regularly occurring in Switzerland. Of these, four are CMS Category 1 species (Bearded Vulture, Red Kite, and the scarce migrants Pallid Harrier and Red-footed Falcon) and nine CMS Category 2 species (6 breeding species). 13 of the 30 raptor and owl species were designated as CMS flagship species of Switzerland.

In Switzerland, most breeding populations of raptors and owls are currently stable or increasing. However, for some species, the good state of their populations is susceptible to additional mortality (e.g. Bearded Vulture). Some national flagship species such as the Peregrine Falcon have only survived and recovered due to conservation efforts (protection of nest sites, DDT ban). Other species like the Little Owl, the Eurasian Scops Owl, the Common Kestrel and the Barn Owl receive supporting measures that affect their population trend positively. Nevertheless, raptors and owls face many different threats that can be categorised in the following main groups: targeted and unintentional poisoning, electrocution, collision, decline of food availability, habitat loss, and disturbances from human activities. Lacking or ineffective legislation should be complemented in the cases of electrocution and collision, food supply and unintentional poisoning. Necessary actions and activities are described and a time frame is set for implementing the measures in order of priority. The strategic guidelines also name potential sources of funding.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Swiss Guidelines on Raptor Conservation - Species Account 20190912 Annex II.pdf](#) - Species Account
[Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland - Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities - 12 July 2019.pdf](#) - Herzog, S. (2019): Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland: Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities. Report of the Swiss Focal Point of the Raptors MoU under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). 70 pp.

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 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:

> All species of migratory birds of prey present in in Switzerland - including those listed in Annex I of the Raptors MOU - are granted full legal protection by virtue of the Federal Act on Hunting (article 7(1)).

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

Loi fédérale sur la chasse et la protection des mammifères et oiseaux sauvages - La loi vise à: a. la conservation de la diversité des espèces et celle des biotopes des mammifères et oiseaux indigènes et migrateurs vivant à l'état sauvage; b. la préservation des espèces animales menacées; c. la réduction à une proportion supportable des dégâts causés par la faune sauvage aux forêts et aux cultures; d. l'exploitation équilibrée par la chasse des populations de gibier. Elle fixe les principes selon lesquels les cantons doivent réglementer la chasse.

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:

> A comprehensive overview of Switzerland's legislation was submitted under the CMS National Legislation Programme. Please consult the respective reports. Further, the guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds were fully taken into account and addressed in "Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland: Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities" (see chapter 4).

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

Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland: Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities - This report by the FOEN on raptor and owl conservation fulfils the aim of Paragraph 12 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU) to prepare a national strategy or an equivalent document. The report on the strategic guidelines and management priorities of raptor and owl conservation in Switzerland defines national objectives, the relevant activities and their prioritisation to mitigate significant threats to these fascinating groups of birds. The overall aim of these strategic guidelines is to obtain and maintain a favourable conservation status for all breeding populations and migrating species that regularly pass through Switzerland. In Switzerland, most breeding populations of raptors and owls are currently stable or increasing. Nevertheless, raptors and owls face many different threats that can be categorised in the following main groups: targeted and unintentional poisoning, electrocution, collision, decline of food availability, habitat loss, and disturbances from human activities. Lacking or ineffective legislation should be complemented in the cases of electrocution and collision, food supply and unintentional poisoning.

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.

> The Swiss species recovery programme for birds was established by the Swiss Ornithological Institute and BirdLife Switzerland in 2003, in close cooperation with the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). It aims at intensifying specific conservation actions for 50 bird species of national priority - including seven species of raptors and owls: the Bearded Vulture, the Red Kite, the Common Kestrel, the Barn Owl, the Little Owl, the Eurasian Eagle Owl and the Eurasian Scops Owl. To date, specific action plans have been developed for six bird species; the SAP for the Little Owl is the first for a bird of prey (see attachment below).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Aktionsplan_Steinkauz_Schweiz.pdf](#) - The Swiss Action Plan for the Little Owl describes the framework (i.e. the aims, strategies, measures, protagonists and their roles, etc.) for the protection and conservation of this threatened farmland species in Switzerland. This means supporting the recovery of the small populations remaining in the lowlands and enabling them to spread into new areas that should be interconnected. The action plan reviews the present situation of the Little Owl in Switzerland and the actions that have already been undertaken or are underway to favour the species. It describes the necessary measures to save the Little Owl and to foster a population increase, specifically by means of improving habitats and by targeted increase in the offer of nest boxes. The action plan also sets the underlying organisational and financial principles.

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

[Swiss Species Recovery Programme for Birds](#) - "Swiss Species Recovery Programme" is a programme set up in 2003 by the Swiss Association for the Protection of Birds SPAO/BirdLife Switzerland and the Swiss Ornithological Institute in close cooperation with the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN. The objectives of the programme are to identify the factors responsible for the decline and to improve the conservation status of the 50 "priority species for targeted conservation" by means of action plans and tailor-made projects. This website provides information on the 50 priority species for targeted conservation as well as a selection of relevant documents and publications produced within the framework of the Programme.

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:

>

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:

> The Bearded Vulture went extinct in the late 19th century. In 1986, a reintroduction programme was launched in the Alps. 30 years ago, on 5 June 1991, the first Bearded Vultures were released into the wild in the Swiss National Park. This marked the beginning of the successful return of the Bearded Vulture to the Swiss Alps. Since then, the National Park region has become a Bearded Vulture hotspot in the Alps, much to the delight of locals and visitors alike. In the rest of Switzerland, too, the Bearded Vulture population is developing very positively thanks to the reintroduction programme of the Pro Bearded Vulture Foundation. In

2020, the highest number of Bearded Vultures hatched in the wild increased to 13 in 2020, a new maximum recorded for Switzerland.

Additionally, in 2015, a project began at Bellechasse (FR) to reintroduce Ospreys, which have been extinct as a breeding bird in Switzerland for approximately 100 years.

The project consists of moving Osprey chicks (about 6 week old) from where they were born to Switzerland, where they will live in an aviary for about a month, and then, once they are ready to fly, they will be released. Until they are ready to migrate, food is provided for further six weeks.

The project team is collaborating with a number of countries in Europe which have healthy and prosperous Osprey populations to develop a convention to bring about 60 young Ospreys (over a period of five years, that is on average 12/year) to Switzerland for release.

The IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and other Conservation Translocations have been closely adhered to and this project has received the support of numerous conservation organisations and international Osprey experts.

So far, 62 young Ospreys were reintroduced in Switzerland, but no breeding took place in the country.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Strahm_Landenbergue_2020_1MB.pdf](#) - Project report: Cinquième année de réintroduction du Balbuzard pêcheur *Pandion haliaetus* en Suisse

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

[Reintroducing the Osprey in Switzerland](#) - Homepage of the project: Reintroducing the Osprey in Switzerland

[The Foundation Pro Bartgeier](#) - The Foundation Pro Bartgeier was founded in 1999 as a charitable foundation headquartered in Zerne. She walked out of the company that reintroduced Bearded Vultures which had been called by individuals with an interest in the reintroduction of the Bearded Vulture in 1989 to life. The Foundation Pro Bearded Vulture is the only federally legitimised organisation for reintroductions of Bearded Vultures in Switzerland. Bearded Vultures roam extensively and live at a low population density. Due to this, the species relies on conservation efforts being well coordinated internationally. The Foundation Pro Bartgeier works closely together with various partners from the neighbouring Alpine countries. Central to this is the collaboration with the Vulture Conservation Foundation, which campaigns for vulture protection at the European level. To achieve these goals, the Foundation takes all necessary measures and also works at national and regional level with numerous organizations. They also support activities of other institutions or individuals that serve the purposes of the foundation.

Please state why not:

>

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:

>

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.

> The reporting period is characterized by the implementation of major projects on habitat conservation, restoration and improvement. This includes for instance measures and projects implemented through the Action Plan Swiss Biodiversity Strategy:

- Maintenance and remediation of existing protected areas (measure 4.1.1)
- Creation and maintenance of forest reserves (measure 4.1.2)
- Specific promotion of national priority species (measures 4.1.4, 4.3.4)
- Design of the countrywide ecological infrastructure (measure 4.2.1)
- Avoiding the electrocution of birds throughout Switzerland (pilot project A4.1)
- Bird-safe medium voltage railway power poles (pilot project A8.1)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Aktionsplan_SBS_final_Englisch.pdf](#) - The Federal Council adopted the Action Plan for the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy on 6 September 2017

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

> The Pre-alpine region of Gurnigel is designated as a regional nature park.

- 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:

> A threat assessment is included in Switzerland's "Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland: Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities" (see chapter 4). The assessment can be summarized as follows: In Switzerland, most breeding populations of raptors and owls are currently stable or increasing. However, for some species, the good state of their populations is susceptible to additional mortality (e.g. Bearded Vulture). Some national flagship species such as the Peregrine Falcon have only survived and recovered due to conservation efforts (protection of nest sites, DDT ban). Other species like the Little Owl, the Eurasian Scops Owl, the Kestrel and the Barn Owl receive supporting measures that affect their population trend positively. Nevertheless, raptors and owls face many different threats that can be categorized in the following main groups: targeted and unintentional poisoning, electrocution, collision, decline of food availability, habitat loss, and disturbances from human activities.

A species by species assessment is included in Annex II of the Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities.

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)

> targeted and unintentional poisoning, disturbance by leisure activities like e.g. rock climbing, paragliding and photography.

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.

> Actions in response to habitat destruction/degradation as well as electrocution are introduced in section VI of the report.

The use of lead ammunition for hunting is a major source of poisoning of birds of prey in Switzerland. Golden Eagles, Bearded Vultures, Common Buzzards ingest the highly toxic heavy metal when they eat the entrails left behind by hunters or the carcasses of shot and dead animals that have not been found.

Major efforts are implemented to replace lead ammunition for hunting in many cantons, with the Canton of Grisons and the Canton of Valais having prohibited the use of lead ammunition on their territories.

(Note: national legislation prohibits the use of lead ammunition for waterbird hunting)

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:

> Legal base: The Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (1983, SR 814.01) protects people, animals and plants, their biocenosis and their biotopes against harmful impacts. Further, the Act stipulates the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular regarding biological diversity and the fertility of soils. The Act imposes environmental impact assessment and a precautionary approach regarding the handling of organisms, metabolites and waste within the environment. The environmental impact assessment (EIA) is carried out as part of the authorization procedure and aims to examine whether a planned installation complies with environmental protection provisions. The Ordinance on the Environmental Impact Assessment (1988, SR 814.011) includes a list of installations subject to environmental impact assessment and stipulates the decision-making process.

The EIA requirements are set down in a manual that depicts the legal foundations of the EIA, explains which installations are subject to one and what the EIA report must contain. It also describes the EIA process and the procedures involved.

The EIA manual is a federal directive and is authoritative in the following cases: when the planned installation must be licensed by a federal authority, when the EIA concerns an installation that is subject to a hearing by the FOEN or when the installation is situated in a canton that has not issued its own directive.

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

[Office fédéral de l'environnement \(OFEV\): Thème Étude de l'impact sur l'environnement \(EIE\) - L'étude de l'impact sur l'environnement \(EIE\) est effectuée dans le cadre de la procédure d'autorisation et vise à examiner si une installation projetée respecte les dispositions relatives à la protection de l'environnement.](#)

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:

> Sustainability is a fundamental principle anchored in the Federal Constitution (art. 73, SR 101, 1999) and guiding Switzerland's actions. Therefore, sustainability is reflected in Switzerland's legal framework as well as in the programmes and strategies, including the conservation of species. See below for additional information.

Please state why not:

>

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:

> Coordination platforms to exchange information among government departments are introduced in Section IX of the report.

Programmes taking into account conservation needs of birds of prey include:

- Forestry:

The Forest Policy 2020 sets the goal of forest biodiversity conservation and targeted improvement. Based on the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and the Forest Policy 2020, the FOEN has formulated concrete goals and measures aimed at conserving forest biodiversity. The Confederation supports the cantons with program agreements to promote forest biodiversity. Measures are principally aimed at creating forest reserves and old-growth islands, retaining biotope trees, enhancing edges and forest habitats and conserving species. The measures are substantiated in the enforcement guidelines "Biodiversité en forêt: objectifs et mesures".

- Agriculture:

In 2008, the FOEN and the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) formulated environmental goals for agriculture. These were derived from existing laws, ordinances, international agreements and Federal Council decisions. Accordingly, agriculture should "make a considerable contribution to the conservation and promotion of biodiversity" as well as using natural resources sustainably. To achieve this goal, qualitative and quantitative targets were set in 2013 for the various agricultural zones and five main regions, which were chosen based on the potential spread of the target and index species. In addition to biodiversity priority areas with environmental quality goals, specific promotional measures are required in all regions for target species and national priority index species.

- Tourism, sport and leisure:

Intact biodiversity and beautiful landscapes are important assets for tourism, sporting and recreational activities. However, they have multiple impacts on the environment. The FOEN seeks to impose the principle of sustainable development on the use of biodiversity, landscape and ecosystem services for tourism and sporting purposes. It examines the impact of federally licensed cable way projects, encourages users to become more respectful, and supports and advises the cantons in delineating areas of tranquility for wildlife.

- Transport:

The FOEN has been given a legal mandate to study the effects of transport on the environment, to propose solutions to limit them and to implement them within the framework of its competences.

- Renewable energies:

Climate protection and the exit from nuclear power lead to increased production of energy from the sun, biomass, wind and hydraulic power. The exploitation of renewable energies may conflict with the objectives of biodiversity conservation if it causes the destruction or degradation of natural environments. The energy strategy 2050 plans to build in priority installations which maximize the production of electricity while minimizing the impact on nature. By approving the revision of the Energy Act in May 2017, Swiss voters gave the go-ahead to a first series of measures to restructure the country's energy system. According to the "Konzept Windenergie" no windfarm within 5 km surrounding of Bearded Vulture nest sites will be allowed.

- Sites, building and facilities in federal ownership:

The Confederation is in possession of many properties, buildings and facilities, either directly or through participations. The Swiss Federal Department of Defense, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS), as well as the national roads, with their central lane and embankments, make the Confederation the largest landowner in Switzerland. The Confederation can therefore make an important contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and ecological infrastructure, and must set an example. In order to best reconcile the respective interests of national defense and nature protection, the DDPS has developed the "Nature, Landscape and Army" program. At large sites such as exercise place, shooting range or air bases, it has referenced the natural values as well as the activities of the army or third parties, identified conflicts of interest, then defined and applied measures to defuse them. Corresponding records are updated periodically or during major changes.

- Production, services/trade and consumption

Without sufficient biodiversity, there can be no dynamic and sustainable economy in the long term. The Confederation seeks to include biodiversity conservation and development in the areas of the production of goods and services, trade and consumption. The Green Economy action plan provides an important contribution to the development of production and consumption patterns respectful of resources and therefore of biodiversity. To successfully transition to a sustainable and forward-looking economy, the FOEN focuses on the efficient use of resources, the promotion of innovation, better market transparency and the use of economic instruments. The DETEC's Green Economy Action Plan, explicitly recognizes the need for action to promote biodiversity. It was approved by the Federal Council at its meeting on 8 March 2013. The Action Plan includes 26 measures to conserve natural resources, encourage greener consumption and strengthen the circular economy. Implementation of the measures will contribute to the preservation of biodiversity.

Please state why not:

>

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:

> Migratory birds of prey are part of the monitoring programmes implemented by the Swiss Ornithological Institute (see link below). At one particular site in the Valaisan Alps, a monitoring of autumnal raptor migration was financed in 2020.

An overview of the findings for relevant species is included in Annex II of the "Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland - Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities".

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

[Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland - Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities](#)

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:

> The Swiss Ornithological Institute implements the following monitoring programmes for birds:

- Monitoring of common breeding birds: Since 1999, the populations of about 150 breeding bird species are surveyed in 267 1-km squares laid out as a representative grid across all of Switzerland.

- Monitoring of breeding birds in wetlands: The wetland breeding bird monitoring complements other monitoring projects such as the monitoring programme of common breeding birds and produces estimates of population trends for species not surveyed in a satisfactory manner in these general-purpose schemes.

- Monitoring Selected Species: The programme monitors population trends and distribution in Switzerland of colony-nesting species, rare species, or species originally held in captivity.

- Monitoring rare breeding and visiting birds: The Information service of the Swiss Ornithological Institute receives about 1'500'000 chance observations every year from volunteer birdwatchers all over Switzerland.

For many species this provides reliable information on their spatial and temporal patterns of occurrence as well as on population trends.

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

[Overview of monitoring programmes implemented by the Swiss Ornithological Institute](#)

[Swiss Breeding Bird Atlas](#) - Contents of the atlas: i. Species - detailed distribution and population trends for each species; ii. Focus - exploring topics and trends relevant to several species; iii. Background - a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the atlas; and iv. Methods - from data collection to final results.

[Swiss Breeding Bird Atlas - Focus on: A golden age for raptors and owls?](#)

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:

> See link on the monitoring programmes implemented by the Swiss Ornithological Institute.

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

Swiss Ornithological Institute: Monitoring

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:

> Among others through the platforms listed below.

Please state why not:

>

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:

> There are platforms at all levels including among national focal points of biodiversity related agreements, among federal departments, among the Federal and cantonal administration, among authorities and the scientific community as well as NGOs.

Among all platforms, the Swiss Ornithological Institute is the center of competence on this matter. The Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach is a non-profit foundation supported by the public. It focuses on studies of wild birds and acquires the scientific basis for the conservation of birds and their habitats.

The institute conducts the following activities:

- Monitoring

Birds draw our attention to changes in the environment. Supported by hundreds of volunteers, the populations of breeding birds, migrants and winter visitors is monitored in Switzerland.

Based on the data and recommendations of the Swiss Ornithological Institute, the Swiss Government designated the reserves of international and national importance for waterbirds and migrants in Switzerland.

- Research

The Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI) investigates changes in the populations of wild birds. Their studies evaluate how birds adapt to present-day landscapes influenced by man and what they require to survive. It is studied where birds forage, how widely they range and why and where they die. For this purpose, the SOI developed and used miniature transmitters that are among the world's smallest.

This knowledge is crucial in allowing us to take specific action in agricultural areas and in forests.

- Application

Nature is to benefit by the knowledge of the Swiss Ornithological Institute. To achieve as much as possible for the birds, SOI closely works together with authorities, planners, nature conservancy organisations, farmers and foresters.

In cooperation with farmers, they show that farmers profit by a nature-friendly agriculture as do Yellowhammer, Common Quail, Common Kestrel and many other animals and plants of cultivated land. As for consumers, they receive healthy products.

- Information

SOI disseminates information on birds and their conservation. By means of the media, exhibitions, books, CD-ROMs and booklets SOI would like to arouse interest and joy but also raise awareness about problems.

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:

> Public awareness programmes are implemented by the academic community and NGOs, e.g. Swiss Ornithological Institute, BirdLife Switzerland or NosOiseaux.

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:

> Various teaching resources are available online, including fact sheets on migratory birds of prey, memory games etc.

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:

> Capacity building activities are important to raise awareness on conservation needs, existing legal and strategic bases including instruments to effectively implement activities for migratory birds of prey. The capacity of agencies responsible for the application of relevant laws and regulations is adequate. Training was provided to practitioners, e.g. rangers and protected area managers.

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:

> See previous question.

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:

>

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:

> Switzerland participated in international cooperation activities (e.g. during CMS COP-13 and the ongoing negotiations of a post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework). Activities were, however, limited due to the ongoing Covid pandemic.

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:

>