

# 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:

> Croatia

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

> 11/11/15

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

> /

## 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)

> Conservation objectives and measures for migratory birds of prey, as well as related monitoring obligations, are continuously being integrated in the 10-year management plans for the forestry sector.

Promoting, as far as possible, high environmental standards, including through Environmental Impact Assessments, in the planning and construction of structures to minimize their impact on species, particularly by collision and electrocution, and seeking to minimize the impact of existing structures where it becomes evident that they constitute a negative impact for the species concerned.

Building capacity for conservation actions (in relevant institutions) to combat illegal poisoning by raising knowledge.

Raising awareness about birds of prey, their current plight and the threats that they face, and defining and implementation of the measures that need to be taken to conserve them.

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

(List up to five items)

> Mainstreaming of conservation measures for birds of prey in other sectors, particularly agriculture, due to insufficient institutional capacities, advice and training, and no buy-in from stakeholders and the local community.

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

(List up to five items)

> 1.5 Strengthen the application of legal protection, and reporting of persecution, for birds of prey by ensuring appropriate penalties, training law enforcement authorities, and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities

2.1 Develop and implement management plans for nationally important sites for birds of prey

3.2 Where feasible, take necessary actions to ensure that existing power lines that pose the greatest risk to birds of prey are modified to avoid bird of prey electrocution

5.2 Design and undertake a coordinated monitoring programme and develop monitoring protocols based on the monitoring network established under 5.1

5.1 Establish flyway-scale monitoring networks comprising a representative range of sites where systematic and coordinated monitoring of breeding populations, reproductive success and migration numbers (spring and autumn) can be undertaken

### 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.

> The EU's Strategic Approach to Raptor Conservation

Document describes how raptor conservation is implemented within the EU, through the existing EU frameworks, particularly through the Birds Directive. As the Directive protects all naturally occurring wild birds in the EU, this document covers all raptor species within the EU.

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

[The EU's Strategic Approach to Raptor Conservation](#)

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:

> Nature Protection Act (OG No. 80/13, 15/18, 14/19, 127/19) - NPA  
Ordinance on strictly protected species (OG No. 144/13 and 73/16)

Killing and taking from the wild is prohibited by national legislation (article 153 of the NPA). However, there is a possibility for the exceptions to the prohibition. Extraordinary circumstances under which an exception may be granted are possibility of serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fishponds, waters and other forms of property; protection of public health and safety, air safety or other overriding public interests. In this case it is necessary to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The permit shall be issued if it is determined that there are no other suitable possibilities and that the use of the exception will not harm the viability of populations of strictly protected species in their natural range of distribution and will not have negative effect on their favourable conservation status. The permit prescribes conditions and deadlines for carrying out activities, as well as monitoring and reporting obligation.

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

[NPA consolidated text \(Croatian only\)](#)

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:

> Article 66 of the NPA bans the use of poisons as well as poisonous and stupefying baits for catching and/or killing of birds.

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.

> Draft Action Plans for *Gyps fulvus* and *Aquila chrysaetos* have been developed and are currently in the process of adoption.

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:

>

Please state why not:

> Recent analyses in the process of development of Action Plans for priority migratory species have not recognized the need for reintroduction or restocking as conservation measures.

### 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:

> Feeding and observation facility on the Bodaj locality in Nature Park Učka regularly provided food, as well as feeding facility Strganac, on the island of Cres, although in small quantities.

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.

> Under the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2014-2020 Measure 10 "Payment for Agri-environment-climate commitments" comprises 16 types of operations. The aim of the type of operation 10.1.3 "Preservation of high nature value grasslands" is to maintain high nature value grasslands, contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, and prevent further loss of habitats.

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:

> Not specific, but mentioned as pressures and threats within reports on annual monitoring results.

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.

> Since 2017, HEP Distribution system operator (HEP DSO) has been systematically monitoring the medium voltage electricity power lines on the island of Cres, due to the significant negative impact on the Griffon vultures population. During the reporting period, a plan for the implementation of griffon vulture protection activities in Kvarner area in cooperation with JU Priroda (June 2020) was adopted, by which HEP DSO committed to protect all dangerous lines on Cres, Krk and Rab islands by the end of 2025. In 2020, protection measures were implemented on the island of Cres with a total length of 4,5 km by using insulation equipment and setting up safe runways at more than 60 potentially dangerous poles. Additionally, three-post substations have been reconstructed in such a way that they no longer pose a danger to electrocution. In the second half of 2020 and the first half of 2021, more than 11 km of overhead medium voltage lines on Cres (Punta Križa and Ivanje area) were replaced by an underground cable.

### 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:

> Ecological Network Impact Assessment (ENIA) is carried out for strategies, plans, programs and projects. When it comes to strategies, plans and programmes, ENIA is performed within the SEA for strategies, and when it comes to projects, it is performed either as an independent procedure, or within the EIA in the case of projects for which EIA is obligatory. ENIA is implemented for projects or for parts of projects that may have a significant negative impact, either independently or in combination with other projects, on conservation objectives and on the integrity of areas of the Natura 2000 ecological network. If the ENIA concludes that the negative impact is significant, project mitigation measures are prescribed in relation to conservation objectives for the areas of the ecological network where the project is implemented or where the project may have an impact.

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:

> With the purpose of improving management of ecological network sites, new Ordinance on the conservation objectives and main measures for bird conservation in the area of the ecological network (Official Gazette 25/20 and 38/20) has been adopted, which, besides conservation objectives and main measures, defines administrative sector that is responsible for implementation of the measures. As regards agriculture sector, Under the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2014-2020 Measure 10 "Payment for Agri-environment-climate commitments" comprises 16 types of operations. The aim of the type of operation 10.1.3 "Preservation of high nature value grasslands" is to maintain high nature value grasslands, contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, and prevent further loss of habitats. As regards forestry sector, conservation measures for migratory birds of prey are part of their 10-year management plans. As regards energy sector, measures and guidelines against electrocution (bird-safe insulation of electricity pylons, bird exclusion device, artificial bird safe perch, medium voltage lines placed underground) are integrated in the internal working documents of HEP-Distribution system operator.

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

[Correction - Ordinance on the conservation objectives and main measures for bird conservation in the area of the ecological network](#) - Croatian text only

[Ordinance on the conservation objectives and main measures for bird conservation in the area of the ecological network](#) - Croatian text only

### 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:

> Due to insufficient human and financial resources.

## 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:

> Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive requires Member States to report every six years about the progress made with the implementation of the Directive. The progress reporting under the Birds Directive is streamlined with the Habitats Directive and integrated into the State of Nature of the EU report. Following this obligation, Croatia prepared an assessment of conservation status and trends of all regularly occurring bird species in 2019, assessing the data for the period 2013-2018. Among others, the Report included 35 populations of 31 raptor species (for some species more than 1 population was evaluated - for example besides breeding, wintering population was evaluated too).

Due to the lack of long term monitoring data population size trend (as an indicator of the conservation status of the population) for 26 populations was evaluated as unknown, 5 populations are evaluated as stable, 2 as increasing (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Falco naumanni*) and 1 as decreasing (*Aquila heliaca*).

*Aquila heliaca* was rare breeding species and the last known pair was cross-border pair breeding around the Croatian border with Serbia - nest site was in Serbia and part of the feeding range was in Eastern Croatia. Due to different pressures pair disappeared from this breeding area. Since 2016 project PannonEagle Life dedicated to the conservation of the eastern imperial eagle by decreasing human-caused mortality in the Pannonian Region is being implemented and some preliminary results indicate the return of the Eagles on mentioned cross-border site.

The population of *Haliaeetus albicilla* is increasing owing to conservation measures such as protecting breeding sites from forestry operations. The increase of *Falco naumanni* population cannot be explained by any specific conservation measure, except that only breeding colony is situated on an isolated and human uninhabited island.

Stable are breeding population of *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Falco eleonora*, *Falco cherrug*, *Gyps fulvus* but since most of them are quite low in numbers or/and localized on several breeding sites they are highly sensitive and dependent on adequate site (colony) management and preventing illegal activities especially illegal killing, poisoning and disturbance. Prevention of the burning of old reedbeds is crucial for the conservation of the *Circus aeruginosus*.

Most of the species with unknown population trends are common raptor species with widespread and numerous populations. Their population trends reflect the overall quality of the environment (especially urban and agricultural habitats) so it is important to start long term monitoring of those species.

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:

> Monitoring programmes are implemented for *Gyps fulvus*, *Aquila chrysaetos* for breeding populations and reproductive success of *Gyps fulvus*, *Aquila chrysaetos* and *Haliaeetus albicilla*. *Falco tinnunculus* is being monitored within Common Farmland Birds Index (FBI) Monitoring Scheme. Wintering birds of prey (*Aquila clanga*, *Falco columbarius*) are being monitored within Wetlands International wintering waterbirds monitoring (IWC).

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:

>

Please state why not:

> Protocols for systematic and coordinated monitoring of the birds of prey (among other species) are planned to be developed by the year 2023 within the ongoing project "Development of a system for monitoring the conservation status of species and habitat types".

**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:

> Due to insufficient human and financial resources.

**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:

> Although they are not targeted at birds of prey, there are two mailing lists for sharing of relevant information on the work and topics of the nature protection sector. The initial list is used for internal communication between the Ministry of economy and sustainable development (Nature Protection Directorate and Institute for the Environment and Nature), Public Institutions for Management of Protected Areas and County Administrative Departments in charge of nature protection. After many interests and initiatives of colleagues from the non-governmental and private sector, new mailing list intended for professionals in the nature protection sector started to operate in April 2018. The second mailing list includes employees of the aforementioned institutions but also members of non-governmental organizations working in the nature protection sector, independent experts, consultants and employees of private companies operating in the sector, as well as employees and associates of scientific or educational institutions whose scientific or educational work is related to nature protection sector.

Also, although not targeted at birds of prey, annual meeting of expert services in nature protection sector is providing exchange of information and experiences of employees of expert services related to more efficient management, i.e. protection and preservation of species and habitats as well as promotion and sustainability of the protected areas.

Another useful platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and information related among others to birds of prey is Annual Seminar of Rangers.

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:

> In order to raise public awareness and the level of information about the needs and ways of conserving strictly protected species in Croatia, a brochure on biodiversity in Braille for blind and visually impaired people was prepared as part of the project "Drafting of management plans for strictly protected species (with action plans)" implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (January 2017 - December 2019).

The International Vulture Awareness Day was celebrated in Zagreb Zoo in 2020 and 2021.

In 2020 children were offered a game Carnivores of the World, through which they learned about the species of carnivores, their distribution, lifestyle and reasons for endangerment. In the creative workshop, they made necklaces from different materials intended for recycling. The idea for this was found in feather necklaces on the necks of carnivores.

In 2021 raising awareness activities were offered at educational corner with the theme "Let's meet the griffon vulture and its neighbours!"

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

[International Vulture Awareness Day celebrated in Zagreb Zoo in 2021](#) - Croatian only

[International Vulture Awareness Day celebrated in Zagreb Zoo in 2020](#) - Croatian only

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:

> Students at the Faculty of Science can attend the course "Ornithology" on which they are taught about bird migration, migration systems, flyways etc, mentioning also the international protection of species, including CMS and its agreements.

Beli Visitor Centre and Rescue Centre for Griffon Vultures situated on Island of Cres offers a multimedia exhibition about griffon vultures and educational programmes are carried out through workshops aimed at children, local people, and interested groups of visitors. The Centre occasionally hosts other interesting events such as photo exhibitions and various workshops for children, and also provides visitors with information about the Rescue Centre for Griffon Vultures, which is an integral part of the Centre.

Visitor Centre of Nature Park Kopački rit offers educational programs on wetland and the White-tailed Eagle conservation. The White-tailed Eagle is a symbol of this protected area.

NGO "Sokolarski centar/ Falconry center" offers an educational programme about birds of prey to visitors. This NGO runs falconry center and specialized rescue center for birds of prey.

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

[NGO "Sokolarski centar/ Falconry center"](#) - Croatian only

[Visitor Centre of Nature Park Kopački rit](#)

[Beli Visitor Centre and Rescue Centre for Griffon Vultures](#)

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:

> In July 2021, representatives of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, the Center for Forensic Research "Ivan Vučetić" and the Biom Association participated in the first in Europe training "Wildlife Crime Academy", prepared and organized by the Spanish government of the Andalusian region with the support of the international non-governmental organization for carnivores - Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF). The course was organized for representatives of 9 countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Northern Macedonia, Serbia and Spain. Participants were trained how to investigate crimes against the wild animals - from the rules of investigation (CSI - Crime Scene Investigation) and forensic analysis to the final procedure before the court.

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

Training of experts at "Wildlife Crime Academy" - Croatian only

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:

>

Please state why not:

> Due to COVID-19 pandemic and insufficient financial resources.

### **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:

> The subject of the Call financed under the European Union Cohesion Fund and cofinanced with national public funding was to contribute to the provision of appropriate accommodation and care for animals that are cared for in rescue centers and which are:

- strictly protected native species of animals found in nature exhausted, sick, injured, wounded or poisoned;
- confiscated or confiscated strictly protected animals;
- animals of wild species confiscated in accordance with a special regulation governing cross-border trade and trade in wild species.

The purpose of the call was to improve pre-existing and establish new rescue centers to accommodate and care for the animals.

As regards birds of prey following beneficiaries and activities are supported:

Public Institution for protected area management Priroda - Improving and increasing the capacity of the Griffon Vulture Rescue Center in Beli Visitor Center through activities of adaptation and arrangement of space for conducting intensive care through multi-phase recovery; procurement of instruments, equipment and

medical supplies; procurement and installation of equipment for storing large quantities of food for griffon vultures; raising public awareness of the need to preserve a strictly protected griffon vulture species; organizing training of the employees of the Recovery Center with the aim of expanding the adopted and acquiring additional knowledge and skills on the care of griffon vultures.

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Zagreb - The new 147 square meters of arranged and equipped space with 65 square meters of outdoor spaces will significantly contribute to better intensive care of birds of prey and increase spatial capacities for the care of young birds of prey and owls, among other animals rescued from the wild. The purchase of equipment will improve performance of veterinary procedures, which will reduce mortality, or in the event of an emergency killing, suffering of the animals. Education of employees will enable the transfer of knowledge and awareness on birds of prey to students, and the organization of popularization workshops, materials and websites will raise public awareness in general.

Zagreb ZOO - Building and equipment of the new rescue center of the city of Zagreb that meets high standards of care for animals, including birds of prey and owls; establishment and equipment of a modern veterinary clinic that allows adequate reception and provision of veterinary treatments; building and equipment of aviary for protected birds; procurement of new emergency vehicle for the transport of animals that is equipped and adapted (heated space, cages) for the needs of catching and transport of exhausted, sick, injured, wounded or poisoned, but also confiscated strictly protected animals; conducted training of staff and associates for capturing, handling and providing adequate care to animals in the rescue center; education and training of employees; procurement of equipment (monitoring devices, transmitters) for monitoring the success of the return of animals to nature; development of online and printed manuals on how to treat wild and protected animals; promotional campaign with the purpose of raising public awareness about the conservation of species and the work of the rescue center.

Osijek ZOO - development of fully equipped veterinary clinic and modular areas for housing and quarantine of animals, including birds; reconstruction and adaptation of existing animal accommodation and recovery facilities such as aviaries and recovery shelters; procurement of vehicles adapted to the transport of animals and feed; carrying out a series of activities aimed at raising the awareness of citizens as well as students of secondary schools of veterinary and natural sciences; organization of events and training both for professional staff of the rescue center and for experts on this topic.

Additionally, BalkanDetox LIFE project, co-financed in Croatia by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, is implemented in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia, to tackle illegal wildlife poisoning of by raising awareness and strengthening national capacities.

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

[BalkanDetox LIFE project webpage](#)

[List of beneficiaries](#) - List of beneficiaries with brief description of project activities (Croatian only)

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:

> Since the accession to the European Union in 2013, Croatia is not any more in a position to receive ODA/OOF.

## 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:

> The LIFE SWiPE project (“Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe”) will provide an overall picture of wildlife crime at the European scale, focusing on the 11 target countries of the project with an emphasis on Central and South-Eastern European countries, and will make special reference to cross-border aspects. It will identify the scale and commonality of problems arising along the enforcement chain, gaps in current practices, reasons for successfully investigated cases leading to prosecution and common issues along the enforcement chain leading to failed prosecution. It will profile solutions and best practice approaches from relevant countries, and provide national and EU-level policy recommendations. There will be pilot cases in Spain, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Croatia, with best practice examples regarding monitoring birds, demonstrating sniffer dogs and training existing dog units to detect wildlife crime, using applications for reporting crimes, fostering better inter-agency cooperation, developing a criminalistics education module, and establishing a wildlife crime hub.

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

[LIFE SWiPE project webpage](#)

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:

> /