

Raptors MOU Cooperating Partners Report Form

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

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

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

Reporting period

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

Instructions

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

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

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

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

Deadline for submission: 31 October 2021

I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Cooperating Partner:

> BirdLife International

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

> 4/12/2008

Report Compiler

Name and title:

> Dr Vicky Jones

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> BirdLife International, Global Secretariat, Cambridge, UK

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> vicky.jones@birdlife.org

Designated Contact Point for the MOU

Name and title of designated Contact Point:

> Nicola Crockford

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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 area of operation and the areas of greatest concern.

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

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

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

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

(List up to five items)

> The MoU has been very successful in laying out clearly what needs to be done for raptor conservation, there has been some very positive conservation action for specific species covered by Annex 1, bringing a clear plan and stakeholders together for Saker Falcon is a great success and some actions under it are starting to bear fruit (such as efforts to address electrocution). The Vulture MsAP is another successful beginning, bringing together a variety of stakeholders to agree an overarching framework covering all the major issues facing vultures. The recent meeting on the roadmap to address IKB in the Arabian peninsular was very successful and the Raptors MOU input to that was very important.

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

(List up to five items)

> One of the biggest issues is limited government engagement in implementation across many countries, partly through lack of political will, partly lack of capacity, partly lack of funds for the relevant authority to implement measures nationally. Many governments focus more of their efforts on CBD and more focus may be needed on delivering raptor relevant measures in NBSAPs. Too much relies on the individual interest of the focal point otherwise reliant on individual interest of the focal point. Very few national strategies have been produced and even many of these are not being actively implemented. In many countries there is weak enforcement of environmental law and legislation regulating the protection of birds. The Vulture MsAP is not yet being implemented by national authorities in the majority of vulture range states and on the NSAID issue unfortunately lessons decades old from Asia have been very slow to be learned by Europe and many countries globally require national proof that this is an issue before taking measures to ban these drugs. In that sense the potential for international cooperation and lesson sharing is not being fulfilled. The Saker GAP also needs greater implementation to achieve conservation impact.

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

(List up to five items)

> -A focus on getting paid coordinators in place to push implementation of the Vulture MsAP and Saker Global Action Plan; these are solid frameworks, but they need someone to drive them, engage authorities, organise workshops to address challenges, capacity gaps etc.
-Concerted effort is needed, to get to the bottom of what is constraining national authorities from taking more action for raptors, perhaps using individual interviews or focus groups asking what could help them deliver
-Continue to improve links between the Raptors MOU and various CMS Task forces on issues affecting raptors - IKB, energy, poisoning etc. and encourage Signatory engagement in these to share experience and take advantage of tools to assist them and assist authorities with mainstreaming raptor needs into other sectors eg/ energy, chemical regulation, vet medicine licensing
-Achieving more effective protection of sites of international importance for raptors and working with authorities where there are significant threats emerging to sites
-Focused capacity building through workshops and training events and supporting the cooperation and collaboration between the authorities and NGOs

III. RAPTOR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTS

A central provision of the MOU (paragraph 12) is for Signatories to prepare national or regional (e.g. EU) strategies or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for category 1 and, where appropriate, category 2 species in Table 1 in the Action Plan. The Action Plan itself foresees its listed actions being addressed by these strategies / equivalent documents.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

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

> Engagement by BirdLife partners in a few national/ regional strategies and many other plans addressing multi-species of raptors or issues of significance of raptors eg/

Bulgaria: National Anti-poisoning Action Plan (2021-2030); geographic scope: Bulgaria; status: endorsed; Link: <https://lifeneophron.eu/back2/public/files/documents/national-action-plan-to-combat-the-illegal-use-of-poisons-in-the-wild-bulgaria-618e4e486070c.pdf>

Czechia: Národní strategie ochrany dravců a sov České republiky 2018–2027 (National Conservation Strategy for Birds of Prey and Owls in the Czech Republic 2018–2027); the proposal is complete, not yet approved formally

Greece: Multi-species Action Plan for three vulture species: Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)/ Reverse the negative trend and achieve an increase in population size and range. Greece. The MsAP was endorsed in August 2021.

https://edozone.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LIFE_IP_Action_Plan_Vultures_FEK.pdf

EU: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/Raptor_conservationreport.pdf

Switzerland: Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities for the Conservation of Raptors and Owls in Switzerland. (Document published. Implementation more or less pending as far as we know).

Spain: Scavenging bird national task force

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

> Yes BirdLife partners are involved in implementation and helping to drive implementation in a variety of ways in different countries: eg/ in:

Greece HOS is cooperating with the Ministry of Environment and Energy on the implementation of the National MsAP for 3 vulture species (Griffon, Cinereous and Bearded Vultures) under the LIFE IP 4 Natura Hungary MME is working on Anti-poisoning, winter counts (<https://www.parlagisas.hu/>) Counts and conservation of migratory roost sites (<http://falcoproject.eu/en/node/>)

Spain: SEO/BirdLife, including with other CSO, is playing an essential role on the completion of the actions of the Action Plan. In many cases, encouraging the administrations to act, in some cases even contributing to training of law enforcement bodies

Switzerland: Official implementation has not started yet. However, BirdLife in Switzerland has been working for several years on topics included in the strategy, for example on threatened raptors species and on persecution

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

Please select only one option

- Fully complete
 Partly complete/some gaps

Incomplete/serious deficiencies

Please state the nature of the gaps/deficiencies:

> Some are complete according to their scope, but do not attempt to tackle all the relevant issues in Table 2, some are complete but not really implemented.

Please state the nature of the gaps/deficiencies:

>

IV. LEGAL PROTECTION OF SPECIES AGAINST KILLING AND UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

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

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

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

(a) indicate the country/ies concerned:

> BirdLife engages actively in policy process relating to IKB such as MIKT, Bern, ITTEA, Middle East Roadmap, including the legal elements and we have a number of IKB projects running particularly in the Med with actions related to detection of IKB and enforcement. BirdLife partners regularly report IKB to relevant authorities in their country, give evidence in proceedings or provide training to enforcement authorities.

In relation to vultures: a) Many vulture range states across Africa, Europe, Middle East and Asia, with special attention to: Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Spain, Bulgaria, Greece, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, India, Nepal.

b) National laws on species protection, poisoning and trade (in whole vultures and their body parts).

Sentinel poisoning work

Developed a package of rapid response to poisoning being applied in parts of Africa

c)

- Technical support to understanding of impacts or consequences, mechanisms and drivers of killing, taking and trade, including poisoning, of vultures

- Intelligence to governments to support interventions

- Development of a package of rapid response measures to poisoning incidents in Africa, including support to law enforcement and prosecution through, e.g., crime scene measure and follow up, tested in Kenya and being replicated elsewhere in Africa.

- Specific major threats covered: killing for trade in body parts for belief-based use; 'sentinel poisoning' related to ivory poaching, where poachers target vultures who draw attention to their activities.

BirdLife ECA also works at EU level, to help ensure the implementation of the Nature Directives.

BirdLife partners usually work nationally but also in adjacent countries and sometimes countries further afield.

Some examples below of partner work:

Austria: a) Austria; b) federal statutes/criminal law; c) providing data for the classification of the applicability of criminal law on offenses

Bulgaria: BSPB work on specific cases; capacity building in authorities through work meetings and seminars; expertise and funding provided

Croatia: Biom advocates for improved legislation and its implementation in regards to illegal killing of birds.

Czechia - regularly working dog unit, trainings for state authorities, public awareness raising

Luxembourg: a) Luxembourg, France, Spain, Germany b) EU c) being part of Life Eurokite Project with many Kites, which has GPS Loggers on their back. Killed or poisoned birds are leading to legal proceedings.

Switzerland: Collecting evidence for police inquiries. Directing police towards qualified laboratories for investigating suspicious dead raptors. Deliberate poisoning of Peregrines (and Accipiters) is the main issue in Switzerland.

Jordan: a) Jordan, b) Enforce hunting law, c) law enforcement and technical support

Sweden: BL partner has provided knowledge and engagement in the process of criminalising egg collections etc. that still pose a serious threat to threatened raptor species and are expecting a governmental proposal for new laws in this respect

Switzerland: Collecting evidence for police inquiries. Directing police towards qualified laboratories for investigating suspicious dead raptors. Deliberate poisoning of Peregrines (and Accipiters) is the main issue in Switzerland

Yemen: SFNC has followed up the violations of falcon hunting in the areas of the West Coast - the Red Sea, and the violations were reported and the falconers were seized by the security authorities. Environmental Protection Law: Law No. 26 of 1995 and the executive regulations for the law.

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

> As above: BirdLife engages actively in policy process relating to IKB such as MIKT, Bern, ITTEA, Middle East Roadmap, including the legal elements and we have a number of IKB projects running particularly in the Med with actions related to detection of IKB and enforcement. BirdLife partners regularly report IKB to relevant authorities in their country, give evidence in proceedings or provide training to enforcement authorities.

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(c) summarise the nature of the assistance provided:

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V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

> Yes many, including:-

Vultures: a) CMS Vulture MsAP-CMS Vulture MsAP Strategic Implementation Plan 2020 – completed, with BirdLife input to Raptors MOU consultant

<https://www.cms.int/en/publication/vulture-msap-strategic-implementation-plan-report-implementation-date-cms-technical>

Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) blueprint - revision 2021 completed. BirdLife Partners contributed and coordinated

<https://save-vultures.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SAVE-Blueprint-2021.pdf>

National vulture conservation action plan for Nigeria – in preparation, BirdLife Partner major contributor

India National Vulture Action Plan 2020-25 – completed, BirdLife Partner major contributor

<https://save-vultures.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20-11-India-National-Vulture-Action-Plan-2020-25.pdf>

Multi-species Action Plan for West African vultures – in preparation, early stages, major contributor

National vulture conservation action plan for South Africa – in preparation, BirdLife Partner major contributor

Zimbabwe Vulture Action Plan

<https://www.cms.int/en/document/vulture-action-plan-zimbabwe>

Flyway action plan for Cinereous Vulture

https://www.cms.int/raptors/sites/default/files/publication/cvfap_e.pdf

(this and the next are single species but regional so may be relevant as regional documents)

Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of the Balkan and Central Asian Populations of the Egyptian Vulture

Neophron percnopterus

<https://www.cms.int/raptors/en/publication/flyway-action-plan-conservation-balkan-and-central-asian-populations-egyptian-vulture>

b) Plan development and coordination, consultation, launch promotion

Coordination of plan implementation - in some cases (e.g. SAVE Blueprint)

Plan implementation through research, monitoring, policy and legislation, education and awareness, action on the ground. The main challenge is not deficiencies in the plans, but in their implementation in the absence, or shortage (varies case by case), of resources for coordination

BirdLife partners have worked on a very wide variety of national and international action plans. BirdLife ECA has been involved in the creation of international SAPs too, most recently the Egyptian Vulture, Cinereous Vulture as part of the LIFE EuroSAP project. Some examples of partner work:-

Austria: currently working on the European Species Action Plan for Saker Falcon as part of the workshop team (Saker Falcon; Europe); furthermore involvement with Palatitz et al. 2010. European Species Action Plan for the Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (Red-footed Falcon; Europe)

Bulgaria: # Vulture MsAP - BSPB coordinates the work for Annex 4 (Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan) in Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, North Macedonia, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Niger, Ethiopia, Nigeria

Saker GAP / geographic scope: Bulgaria / role of BSPB - mitigation of threats (IKB, electrocution, poisoning)

Implementation of the National Actions Plans for the Griffon Vulture, Cinereous Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle / geographic scope: Bulgaria # BSPB develops the new National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Egyptian Vulture (2021-2030); geographic scope: Bulgaria; status: under development (to be endorsed in 2022)

Croatia: Biom has subcontracted to develop 2 expert studies as a basis for national management and action plans for Griffon vulture and Golden eagle. Both studies have been completed and management plans are in the process of adoption.

Greece: (a) MSAP for Bearded Vulture, Griffon Vulture, Cinereous Vulture, (b) Development and implementation of the MsAP under the LIFE IP 4 Natura (LIFE16 IPE/GR/000002) in close collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Environment (MEEN)

Hungary: a.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/aquila_heliaca.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/falco_vespertinus.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/saker_falcon_en.htm National Action Plan for the Falco vespertinus
(https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/saker_falcon_en.htm)
SAKERGAP (https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/SakerGAP_e.pdf) b. compiler, data provider, workshop host
Luxembourg: a) Action Plan for Milvus milvus - national plan for Luxembourg since 2013 b) Monitoring of Milvus milvus
Jordan: a) Saker Falcon action plan, Lesser Kestrel action plan
b) technical support for MoE, collect baseline data, implement conservation activities "

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

> AS ABOVE: Many, including: Vultures: a) CMS Vulture MsAP-CMS Vulture MsAP Strategic Implementation Plan 2020 - completed, with BirdLife input to Raptors MOU consultant
<https://www.cms.int/en/publication/vulture-msap-strategic-implementation-plan-report-implementation-date-cms-technical>

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Flyway action plan for Cinereous Vulture

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Coordination of plan implementation - in some cases (e.g. SAVE Blueprint)

Plan implementation through research, monitoring, policy and legislation, education and awareness, action on the ground. The main challenge is not deficiencies in the plans, but in their implementation in the absence, or shortage (varies case by case), of resources for coordination

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Austria: currently working on the European Species Action Plan for Saker Falcon as part of the workshop team (Saker Falcon; Europe); furthermore involvement with Palatitz et al. 2010. European Species Action Plan for the Red-footed Falcon Falco vespertinus (Red-footed Falcon; Europe)

Bulgaria: # Vulture MsAP - BSPB coordinates the work for Annex 4 (Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan) in Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, North Macedonia, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Niger, Ethiopia, Nigeria

Saker GAP / geographic scope: Bulgaria / role of BSPB - mitigation of threats (IKB, electrocution, poisoning)

Implementation of the National Actions Plans for the Griffon Vulture, Cinereous Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle / geographic scope: Bulgaria # BSPB develops the new National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Egyptian Vulture (2021-2030); geographic scope:

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Hungary: a.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/aquila_heliaca.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/falco_vespertinus.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/saker_falcon_en.htm National Action Plan for the Falco vespertinus

(https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/saker_falcon_en.htm)

SAKERGAP (https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/SakerGAP_e.pdf) b. compiler, data provider, workshop host

Luxembourg: a) Action Plan for Milvus milvus - national plan for Luxembourg since 2013 b) Monitoring of

Milvus milvus

Jordan: a) Saker Falcon action plan, Lesser Kestrel action plan

b) technical support for MoE, collect baseline data, implement conservation activities "

Has your organisation been involved with any reintroduction or restocking projects involving migratory birds of prey in accordance with prevailing international guidelines?

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

> Many BirdLife partners have been involved in reintroductions. For eg/

Greece and Bulgaria. It concerns the restocking of the Egyptian vulture in Bulgaria and Greece and it is still at the level of planning, where a Feasibility study (following IUCN's guidelines) and a PVA have been published, and the drafting of the Restocking Strategy is underway. It is expected to start in 2022 or 2023 with first releases in Bulgaria. It involves captive breeding too.

<https://lifeneophron.eu/back2/public/files/documents/arkumarev-et-al-2020-600ec6f15f6d7.pdf>

Jordan: established rehabilitation center for confiscated birds

Yemen: Participated in the release of birds of prey after their confiscation from falconers.

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

> Many partners are involved including:-

Bulgaria: In Bulgaria, BSPB maintains 2 SFS and individually supplementary feed 50% of the breeding pairs of Egyptian vultures; Link: <https://lifeneophron.eu/back2/public/files/documents/life874-c1-feeding-and-guarding-the-ev-kingdom-2017-2020-609b7fe4681c2.pdf>

In Albania, BSPB supports financially and with expertise PPNEA to maintain 2 SFS; Link:

<https://www.lifeneophron.eu/#a-vulture-restaurants-in-albania-are-supporting-food-for-60-of-egyptian-vulture-population-of-the-country>

In North Macedonia, BSPB supports financially and with expertise MES to maintain 2 SFS; Link:

<https://www.lifeneophron.eu/#a-one-more-supplementary-feeding-place-starts-operating-in-north-macedonia>

Croatia: Association Biom has worked together with Public Institution Priroda

Greece: Creation of a network of supplementary feeding sites for Egyptian vulture. HOS has also produced a strategic document on behalf of the Ministry of Environment entitled ""Specifications for Construction and Operation of Feeding Stations"" assessing the need and location of a national network of SFS for vultures and other other facultative scavengers.

Hungary: Several winter feeding sites are maintained in Hungary

Spain: Support to Red kite feeding station in Binaced, Huesca (Spain).

Working with the Ministry and regional administrations so ensure the implementation of legislation ensuring the abandonment of dead livestock in situ.

Campaign to ban diclofenac in corpses brought to feeding stations

For vultures: BL partners are involved in some capacity in India, Nepal, Cambodia, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Bulgaria, Spain "

VI. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HABITATS AND SITES

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

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

> BirdLife is engaged in relevant work for example in support of the Great Green Wall (Africa Secretariat and partners), in developing the framework for upcoming work on habitats within CMS (led by AEWA) and on restoration. Many BirdLife partners are engaged in relevant work, for eg:

Bulgaria: Restoration of 800 ha and management of 1,400 ha of pastureland under the project "Restoration and sustainable management of Imperial Eagle's foraging habitats in key Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria" (LIFE14 NAT/BG/001119), Link: <https://www.landforlife.org/en/About-us/About-the-project.html>

Greece: Rat eradication & artificial nests establishment in islets in Greece in order to improve Eleonora's falcon habitat. Also, artificial nests establishment for Lesser Kestrels in 3 areas of Greece (Ioannina, Komotini, Limnos)

Hungary: PANNONEAGLE LIFE Project (C.3. Execution and demonstration of eagle- and game-friendly habitat management techniques, REDFOOT (AFTER)LIFE PROJECT C.3 Implement and demonstrate conservation techniques to improve Rook colony formation

C.4 Implement, test and demonstrate grazing and mowing practices at the Heves project site (HUBN10004)

C.5 Implement, test and demonstrate agricultural practices at the Vásárhelyi project site (HUKM10004)

Jordan: Development and implementation of the protected area management plan

Switzerland: A multitude of habitats. Most importantly agriculture policy, energy infrastructure projects, wetland restoration projects, local habitat restoration projects, nestboxes for raptors etc. etc.

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

NOTE: It is acknowledged that Table 3 is currently incomplete. A revised Table 3, following the inputs received at the 2nd Meeting of Signatories, is being finalised, and following comments by the Technical Advisory Group it will be circulated alongside the 'Form to propose internationally important sites for addition to Table 3 of the Raptors MoU'. Signatories will be asked to comment on the list and invited to propose new sites of international importance. The list, including any comments received as per the Rules of Procedure, will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group and circulated for the 3rd Meeting of Signatories to consider. In the meantime, if you have information relating to countries included in the current Table, please refer to the sites that are listed there.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

> There are some significant gaps in the site network including for Table 1 category 1 species- see pilot site network analysis of TAG

Most BirdLife partners are actively working on IBAs, on recognition of the most important sites for birds as protected areas in their countries, in monitoring and in site safeguard. eg/

Austria: Yes, we are partly responsible for the designation of IBAs and SPA in Austria. The currently protected areas only comprise a small part of the MOU species' range in Austria. Even within the protected areas, illegal persecution is an ongoing threat and land management is often not sustainable in terms of prey availability for raptors (agricultural crops, intensification, legal poisoning of rodents)

Greece: a) Antikithira island (south of Kithira) Greece, in the framework of Antikithira Bird Observatory operation, mainly through the annual raptor migration monitoring that takes place every autumn

b) given the overall problematic situation in Greece regarding the monitoring and protection of Natura 2000 areas and avifauna, HOS is striving to fill these gaps in Antikithira area. Generally for the specific area, the pressure for wind farms establishment is the most significant threat Jordan: a) Jordan, Mujib and Wadi Dana-Finan areas

Luxembourg: a) our organisation have been responsible for identifying Natura 2000 Area often with Raptor target species b) although some raptors have to be considered in Windfarm plans and other construction projects, the farmers practises within the protected areas are often disadvantageous

Jordan a) Jordan, Mujib and Wadi Dana-Finan areas, b) development and implementation of reserves management plan

Vulture related:

a) Identifying: KBAs and IBAs identified with vultures and other raptors as trigger species, and this is continuing. All countries.

- Protecting: advocacy for protection of IBAs and KBAs
- Managing: Vulture Safe Zone (VSZ) programmes in India, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa and Mozambique. These are defined by mostly voluntary management agreements controlling threats to vultures over specific areas.

b) When first identified, VSZs are typically areas considered to have potential for benefits to vultures if threats can be controlled. In 2021 benefits have been conclusively identified in Nepal, where both threat reduction and population increase has been demonstrated scientifically. Other sites in Africa and Asia are showing signs of positive impacts.

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

> AS ABOVE: "There are some significant gaps in the site network including for Table 1 category 1 species- see pilot site network analysis of TAG

Most BirdLife partners are actively working on IBAs, on recognition of the most important sites for birds as protected areas in their countries, in monitoring and in site safeguard. eg/

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VII. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO THREATS AND PRESSURES

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any assessments of the nature, likelihood, severity or potential consequences of threats facing birds of prey, and measures identified to maintain their Favourable Conservation Status?

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please give a brief summary:

> This is a major part of BirdLife's work. For eg/we have made quantitative assessments of IKB in several regions, the most recent in Arabian peninsular, Iran, Iraq and are undertaking a study of causes of mortality in large satellite tagged landbirds throughout Europe, Middle East, Africa which is revealing IKB, poisoning and electrocution/ collision with energy infrastructure to be big causes of mortality for raptors. In the framework of the Safe Flyways-energy project, we are using a questionnaire to a wider variety of stakeholders to try to understand how well different countries across the Med are responding to the need to address collision/ electrocution. All BirdLife partners are working on identifying and addressing threats. For eg:

Hungary: MME BirdLife Hungary monitors all relevant threats and specific workgroups are charged to mitigate the effect of specific threats (see below)

Vulture related: Assessments have been carried out on the following threats, with measures to counteract them:

- veterinary drugs, both in terms of their availability and impacts on necrophagous birds of prey, in line with CMS resolution on preventing poisoning (section on NSAIDs), in Asia and Europe
 - poison baits in Europe, Asia and Africa - integrated response measures developed including detection of incidents, law enforcement to deter or catch perpetrators, and voluntary measures engaging communities to reduce the wish to use poison
- lead in Europe and southern Africa
- energy infrastructure in Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa, especially in relation to Egyptian Vulture - sensitivity mapping, mitigation of threats at windfarms including a project in Kenya
- killing for trade in vultures or their body parts for belief-based use; measured being developed to reduce both demand and supply in West Africa"

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

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

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

>

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

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

> Every BirdLife partner is carrying out actions in response to threats and we are working through large projects on addressing IKB in support of the Rome Strategic Plan, specific projects on poisoning, specific projects on many aspects of addressing electrocution and collision and issues with renewables. Most partners are working on site safeguard etc. Some specific examples below:

Bulgaria: To reduce mortality caused by powerlines, over 800 hazardous poles have been insulated. BSPB is closely working with all three grid operators in Bulgaria, and implementing conservation projects with all of them. To reduce the risk of poisoning, a National Anti-poisoning Action Plan was developed in 2020 and endorsed in 2021.

Bulgaria: To reduce mortality caused by powerlines, over 800 hazardous poles have been insulated. BSPB is

closely working with all three grid operators in Bulgaria, and implementing conservation projects with all of them. To reduce the risk of poisoning, a National Anti-poisoning Action Plan was developed in 2020 and endorsed in 2021.

Czechia: wide activities against bird crime; long-time co-operation with the grid companies to prevent electrocution and collisions with powerlines; general policy work in agriculture; direct protection of the harriers nests in agricultural fields

Greece: Poisoning: MD endorsing local action plans to tackle the illegal use of poison baits, Awareness, environmental education, Dog units, Antipoison Task Force, Systematically recording of all known incidents in the Antipoison database, creation of online map depicting all known incidents

Collisions and electrocution: Black spots identification & systematic field research for the mortality assessment in West Greece

Habitat destruction/degradation: Monitor and evaluate wind farms development in areas important for birds of prey

Hungary: Measures have been implemented to prevent electrocution and collision of birds in Hungary on a national scale since 2008, in the frame of institutionalised collaboration with electricity distribution companies and the grid operator of the country. Nevertheless, the task is enormous, and only some sections of powerlines have been retrofitted safely in the most important bird areas (including the most important raptor sites). Direct killing and taking have been addressed in several EU co-financed LIFE projects. A new project (NEST) launched in 2021 will bring together experts from state nature conservation, police and environmental authorities to fight against environmental crime, including illegal killing of raptors, by improving collaboration in forensic work and by training police, rangers, prosecutors and judges. Habitat destruction is probably the most important threat, ongoing since the industrial revolution (or earlier).

Luxembourg: high level of disturbance due to Leisure activities, high level of land consumption in Luxembourg due to growing human population, accordation of windfarms in raptor-areas

Oman: High levels of egg loss have been noticed for lappet-faced vultures. Two electrocuted juveniles lappet-faced vultures found.

Sweden: Lead poisoning still a very real threat (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ddi.13373>), as well as disturbance and disruption, but the latter probably doesn't affect as much population level

Vulture: Support to implementation of anti-poisoning guidelines and resolution (2020 revision including NSAIDs), MsAP and guidance on energy infrastructure.

Has your organisation assisted in specific ways with measures to ensure that proposals for activities that may have significant effects on birds of prey or their habitats are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)?

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

(a) indicate the country/ies concerned:

> A lot of work underway on this specifically through the MSB project and the Safe Flyways Energy project among other projects.

Some other examples of partner work include:

Jordan: a) Jordan, b) RSCN is member in EIA committee, c) review the biodiversity section in EIAs reports and develop national safeguards guideline

Kenya: a) Kenya

b) Impact mitigation for Kipeto wind energy project

c) Technical support to design and implementation of biodiversity action plan: on-site mitigation measures including shutdown-on-demand and carcass removal; off-site including radio tracking and community awareness programmes to decrease human-wildlife conflict poisoning.

d) Works still in progress but including lesson-learning element and feedback into company plans.

Luxembourg: a) Luxembourg b) renouncing the implementation of construction projects; finding suitable compensation measures c) environmental ministry consults our organisation for doing screenings before EIA/SEA d) in many cases our assessments are considered but not everytime

Oman: Consultation with consultants working on EIAs

Switzerland: Bringing development projects to court to have EIAs checked and project impact judged. EIA quality is not always satisfactory and substantial corrections are regularly needed after court ruling.

Austria: We are providing data to legal authorities in order to make informed decisions. We are actively lobbying for compulsory assessments of potentially harmful activities and are involved in the strategic planning of such activities (e.g. windfarm development). We elaborated and published guide lines for EIA surveys for windfarm.

Croatia: Yes, Biom kept track of EIA and SEA procedures that can have significant effects on birds of prey. In the past we also questioned expert opinion of the Ministry competent for nature protection in court, regarding

certain EIA. For example, for one wind farm the Ministry needed to make an EIA after we took this case to court.

Spain: Advocacy to avoid the implementation of infrastructures, habitat changes that could affect raptors. As a continuous process, several tens of actions per year

Sweden: BirdLife Sweden has knowledge and is involved in many project development plans for e.g. wind farms and power lines, giving advice on how to mitigate negative effects on raptors. To start with, we're proposing when appropriate EIA or SEA is needed.

(b) summarise the nature of the measures involved:

> AS ABOVE: A lot of work underway on this specifically through the MSB project and the Safe Flyways Energy project.

Some other examples of partner work include:

Jordan: a) Jordan, b) RSCN is member in EIA committee, c) review the biodiversity section in EIAs reports and develop national safeguards guideline

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(c) summarise the nature of the assistance provided:

> AS ABOVE: A lot of work underway on this specifically through the MSB project and the Safe Flyways Energy project.

Some other examples of partner work include:

Jordan: a) Jordan, b) RSCN is member in EIA committee, c) review the biodiversity section in EIAs reports and develop national safeguards guideline

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Sweden: BirdLife Sweden has knowledge and is involved in many project development plans for e.g. wind farms and power lines, giving advice on how to mitigate negative effects on raptors. To start with, we're proposing when appropriate EIA or SEA is needed.

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

> AS ABOVE: A lot of work underway on this specifically through the MSB project and the Safe Flyways Energy project.

Some other examples of partner work include:

Jordan: a) Jordan, b) RSCN is member in EIA committee, c) review the biodiversity section in EIAs reports and develop national safeguards guideline

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VIII. ACTION / INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

> The Migratory Soaring Bird project focuses on this, aiming to integrate conservation of visiting birds into key sectors of our societies: Agriculture, Energy, Hunting, Tourism and Waste Management, working in 11 countries within the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

BirdLife in Europe is making efforts to protect birds generally during the breeding season in the EU especially in agriculture, and also during passage in particular through projects and campaigns such as the Life ABC and the Flight for Survival campaign. At a national level BirdLife partners work very hard to protect bird species, depending on what threats are most prevalent in their country, especially in the energy, agriculture and forestry sectors. For example:

Austria: Planning of CAP, involvement in some forestry development programmes, intense involvement in planning of energy infrastructure; less in other sectors.

Bulgaria: BSPB did its best to ensure the conservation of migratory raptors is integrated in the National Biodiversity Strategy.

Croatia: When developing national action plans for golden eagle and griffon vulture, we conducted several bilateral meetings and stakeholder workshops. These encompassed also stakeholders from agriculture, energy, tourism, etc. Additionally, we are also cooperating with the energy sector (powerlines) regarding the conservation of the Griffon vulture on implementing conservation measures on the ground.

Sweden: We do our best to influence various sectors - agriculture, forestry and energy in particular - to prioritise birds of prey (and others) in their policies.

Luxembourg: Integrates raptor conservation into tourism/ forestry by sharing mapping of raptor occurrence and nest areas to avoid disturbance as new tourism paths are created or forestry work undertaken. This has resulted in some improvements, but in many cases the foresters do not use this opportunity; sectors energy, agriculture and transport are influenced by our assessments (ornithological screenings before EIA/SEA)

Jordan: a) Energy sector: develop national safeguard guideline, review the national legislation for bird electrocution

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

> AS ABOVE: The Migratory Soaring Bird project focuses on this, aiming to integrate conservation of visiting birds into key sectors of our societies: Agriculture, Energy, Hunting, Tourism and Waste Management, working in 11 countries within the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

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Jordan: a) Energy sector: develop national safeguard guideline, review the national legislation for bird electrocution

Has your organisation cooperated in any programmes that have been implemented during the reporting period among government departments (other than the department that has lead

responsibility for the Raptors MOU) to inform decision makers of the conservation needs of migratory birds of prey?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

> BirdLife is involved in a number of projects involving Ministries other than environment, for eg/ Ministries of energy, agriculture or tourism. A few examples:

Hungary: Ministry of Agriculture (all Dept.), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary and Embassy of Hungary in Angola

Vultures: Involved health and agriculture ministries is awareness -raising concerning importance of vultures and threats they face

IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

> BirdLife is Red List authority for birds and as such undertakes annual reviews of status of threatened species – several migratory birds of prey assessed since 2019 with changes in status resulting

Through BirdLife partners at national level, but also at international level, BirdLife ECA has gathered data and updated the Red List of birds at both EU and pan-European levels in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Data includes population size, trends and red list status within the EU and across all of continental Europe.

Vultures: · Specific surveys of many species, for vultures including:

- o 4-5 species (5 where rare Rüppell's is included) in various countries in S Europe
- o Indian, White-rumped and Slender-billed Vultures in India and Nepal, revealing trends in relation to attempts to reduce exposure to veterinary diclofenac

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

> Yes, many BirdLife partners undertaking or contributing to such work. For eg/

Greece: Migration counts in Antikithira island (annual, every autumn). Winter counts for Kites (Eurokite LIFE project). Egyptian Vulture breeding population in the framework of LIFE16NAT/BG/000874 project. Griffon, Bearded and Cinereous Vulture census and breeding populations monitoring in the framework of LIFE IP 4 Natura (LIFE16 IPE/GR/000002)

Hungary: All raptor species (with different resolution and geographic coverage). The programme has been running systematically since 2015 and covers the following species under the MoU: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Milvus milvus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter brevipes*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila pennata*, *Falco cherrug*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Bubo bubo*, *Strix uralensis*, *Asio flammeus*. BirdLife Hungary in collaboration with the national park directorates, monitor the breeding populations and reproductive success of the most important bird of prey and owl species annually. The results are published in Heliaca, also available online:

<https://www.mme.hu/heliaca-evkonyv> BirdLife Hungary, in collaboration with the national park directorates and involving a large number of volunteers, organises a synchronised winter count for raptors annually. See some results of the January 2021 winter count published online here (in Hungarian):

<https://parlagisas.hu/hu/content/18-orszagos-sasszinkron-2021-januar-15-17>

Luxembourg: Monitoring of breeding population of *Milvus milvus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Falco peregrinus*; Monitoring of migration at "Sëller Héicht" --> count of every migration bird from septmeber to november

Austria: Full monitoring for Imperial Eagle, Saker Falcon, Red-footed Falcon; involvement in (full or partial) monitoring of Montagu's Harrier and Hen Harrier, Red Kite, Black Kite and others; standardized migration count at Mt. Dobratsch in Carinthia in the last two weeks of August every year (European Honey Buzzard). Participating on the pannoian winter eagle count in parts of the country.

Bulgaria: BSPB is implementing annual monitoring of the national populations in Bulgaria of the Griffon Vulture (increasing), Egyptian Vulture (stable for 2020-2021), Lesser Spotted Eagle (increasing), Eastern Imperial Eagle (increasing), Saker Falcon (stable) Hungary: BirdLife Hungary in collaboration with the national park directorates, monitor the breeding populations and reproductive success of the most important bird of prey and owl species annually. The results are published in Heliaca, also available online:

<https://www.mme.hu/heliaca-evkonyv> BirdLife Hungary, in collaboration with the national park directorates and involving a large number of volunteers, organises a synchronised winter count for raptors annually. See some results of the January 2021 winter count published online here (in Hungarian):

<https://parlagisas.hu/hu/content/18-orszagos-sasszinkron-2021-januar-15-17>

Croatia: Association Biom has continuously monitored Griffon vulture population on islands of Kvarner (Croatia) since 2016. Also, Biom has mapped most of the territories of national populations of Golden eagle

and Short toed eagle. Golden eagle population is being partially monitored with network of volunteers (mostly local Public institutions employees or trusted local conservation groups or individuals) that is still developing. Also, Eagle owl breeding population in continental part of Croatia is monitored on a yearly basis through network of volunteers which is also expanding and will hopefully cover the rest of the country in the following years.

Czechia: Regular Common Bird Monitoring (*Buteo buteo* and *Falco tinnunculus*); specialised voluntary monitoring programmes for several other species
Jordan: Established national database for bird monitoring in wind farms projects

Greece: Migration counts in Antikithira island (annual, every autumn). Winter counts for Kites (Eurokite LIFE project). Egyptian Vulture breeding population in the framework of LIFE16NAT/BG/000874 project. Griffon, Bearded and Cinereous Vulture census and breeding populations monitoring in the framework of LIFE IP 4 Natura (LIFE16 IPE/GR/000002)

Spain: Monitoring Cinereous vulture colony in Madrid region. Census and monitoring of urban peregrine falcons in Madrid region

Sweden: On a national level, the Golden Eagle is fairly stable, the White-tailed Eagle is increasing, as is the Peregrine Falcon, whereas the Eurasian Eagle-Owl has decreased in the northern part of Sweden.

Oman: Breeding surveys of lappet-faced vultures and Egyptian vultures.

Vultures: Egyptian Vulture monitoring at bottlenecks along E and W flyways and breeding populations of European, African and Asian vultures at various colonies. E.g. Rüppell's Vulture in Kenya

Flyway scale: Birdlife coordinated a report on the state of bottleneck monitoring in the Black Sea Rift Valley flyway

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350689092_Monitoring_of_migratory_soaring_birds_in_the_East_African-Eurasian_flyway_a_review_and_recommendations_for_future_steps

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

> For example Spain: El cernícalo primilla en España. Población reproductora en 2016-2018 y método de censo <https://seo.org/boletin/seguimiento/censos/53%20primilla/html5forpc.html?page=0>
<https://seo.org/boletin/seguimiento/censos/53%20primilla/html5forpc.html?page=0>. Urios, V.; Vidal-Mateo, J.; Bermejo, A.; De la Puente, J. y Mellone, U. (Eds.). 2020. Migración y ecología espacial de las poblaciones españolas del halcón de Eleonora. Monografía n.º 6 del programa Migra. SEO/BirdLife. Madrid.

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

> Yes, for eg/ SAVE Blueprint research priorities and Birdlife coordinated a report on the state of bottleneck monitoring in the Black Sea Rift Valley flyway
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350689092_Monitoring_of_migratory_soaring_birds_in_the_East_African-Eurasian_flyway_a_review_and_recommendations_for_future_steps

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

(a) identify the relevant platform(s):

> Yes, including:

Austria: a) movebank, PannonEagle LIFE Project, Imperial Eagle Conservation group; b) various countries, providing data for assessing migration routes in the Mediterranean, c) data and knowledge sharing

Czech Republic: working groups in the Life projects PannonEagle and Eurokite

Greece: i) Egyptian vulture international experts group (mailing list). Countries all along Europe, Middle East, Africa and Caucasus where the Egyptian vulture is present. The aim is to exchange information about the conservation of the EV. HOS provides information or support whenever needed

ii) Antikithira Bird Observatory, operated by HOS, works with Trektellen for the raptor migration counts (data updated and uploaded in the platform)

Hungary: MME BirdLife Hungary organize 2 workshops annually since decades, and publish Heliaca annually (see description and link before)

Spain: Exchange of information on species tagged with GPS devices (on movebank and others)

Ebird and others: sharing the information from monitoring programs and using it to review Atlas

Vultures: SAVE

Vulture MsAP coordination team

BirdLife African Vulture Conservation Forum (widening to involve others)

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

> As ABOVE: Yes, including:

Austria: a) movebank, PannonEagle LIFE Project, Imperial Eagle Conservation group; b) various countries, providing data for assessing migration routes in the mediterainian, c) data and knowlegde sharing

Czech Republic: working groups in the Life projects PannonEagle and Eurokite

Greece: i) Egyptian vulture intenational experts group (mailing list). Countries all along Europe, Middle East, Africa and Caucasus where the Egyptian vulture is present. The aim is to exchange information about the conservation of the EV. HOS provides information or support whenever needed

ii) Antikithira Bird Observatory, operated by HOS, works with Trektellen for the raptor migration counts (data updated and uploaded in the platform)

Hungary: MME BirdLife Hungary organize 2 workshops annually since decades, and publish Heliaca annually (see description and link before)

Spain: Exchange of information on species tagged with GPS devices (on movebank and others)

Ebird and others: sharing the information from monitoring programs and using it to review Atlas

Vultures: SAVE

Vulture MsAP coordination team

BirdLife African Vulture Conservation Forum (widening to involve others)

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

> AS ABOVE: Yes, including:

Austria: a) movebank, PannonEagle LIFE Project, Imperial Eagle Conservation group; b) various countries, providing data for assessing migration routes in the mediterainian, c) data and knowlegde sharing

Czech Republic: working groups in the Life projects PannonEagle and Eurokite

Greece: i) Egyptian vulture intenational experts group (mailing list). Countries all along Europe, Middle East, Africa and Caucasus where the Egyptian vulture is present. The aim is to exchange information about the conservation of the EV. HOS provides information or support whenever needed

ii) Antikithira Bird Observatory, operated by HOS, works with Trektellen for the raptor migration counts (data updated and uploaded in the platform)

Hungary: MME BirdLife Hungary organize 2 workshops annually since decades, and publish Heliaca annually (see description and link before)

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Ebird and others: sharing the information from monitoring programs and using it to review Atlas

Vultures: SAVE

Vulture MsAP coordination team

BirdLife African Vulture Conservation Forum (widening to involve others)

X. RAISING AWARENESS

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

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

> Includes: Communications around Red List for birds 2020 with raptors focus. Many BirdLife webinars on topics of relevance to raptor conservation such as IKB, energy, site conservation, vultures etc. Many partners participate in 'Flight for Survival' <https://flightforsurvival.org/> and most partners communicate about the issues facing birds including raptors. Several partners have nest cameras etc. Several partners communicate about bird crime re: raptors and rehabilitation/ release of raptors. Some specific details from some partners:-
Austria: Media campaign against illegal persecution of birds of prey; media work about impressive migration of tagged Imperial Eagles and Marsh Harriers, Flight for Survival Campaign
Bulgaria: Regular celebration of IVAD and WMBD at flyway level (Eastern Mediterranean flyway) - partners from 13 countries in the Balkans, Middle East and Africa. Celebration of Eagle's Awareness Day in Bulgaria.
Czechia: regular reporting on the bird crime cases and investigations in media
Greece: Particularly through the communication campaigns of LIFE projects dealing with birds of prey (Egyptian Vulture New LIFE-LIFE16NAT/BG/000874, LIFE IP 4 Natura-LIFE16 IPE/GR/000002, LIFE Falkon-LIFE17 NAT/IT/000586, LIFE ELClima-LIFE13 NAT/GR/000909) for Greece. Overall, the campaigns to promote the birds of prey can be evaluated as successful.
Hungary: The activity of BirdLife Hungary is permanent in this issue, the communication is species (project) based, see e.g.: <https://www.parlagisas.hu/en/node>
Luxembourg: made an exhibition about Birds of prey --> <https://www.naturemwelt.lu/de/greifvoegel-in-luxemburg-neue-wanderausstellung-von-naturemwelt-mit-erweiterter-realtaet/>
Spain: This is a daily task: awareness on electrocution, poisoning, illegal shooting. Permanently keeping webcams during breeding season on Cinereous vulture, lesser kestrel and booted eagle nests and in a red kite feeding station with thousands of followers and interactions. <https://seo.org/camaras/>. Campaign to save harriers from harvesters. Harrier Iberian Congress. Actions for the Vulture Awareness day
Jordan: regular implementation of WMBD with public
Vultures: Wide range of activities for International Vulture Awareness Day, each September, with IUCN VSG
All BirdLife conservation activities on vultures include awareness components. Papers and articles promoting the importance of vultures and their publication"

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

> Many BirdLife partners engage with education of young people or have schools programmes/ events. For eg/:
Bulgaria: Development and adaptation of environmental-education programme focused on vulture conservation. Link: <https://www.lifeneophron.eu/#a-educational-materials>
Czech Republic: several presentations for students of various schools
Greece: Particularly through the environmental education campaigns of LIFE projects dealing with birds of prey (Egyptian Vulture New LIFE-LIFE16NAT/BG/000874, LIFE Falkon-LIFE17 NAT/IT/000586, LIFE ELClima-LIFE13 NAT/GR/000909) for Greece.
Hungary: In 2019 MME BirdLife Hungary started a raptor identification and knowledge sharing course,
Luxembourg: Every year our organisation publishes a educational learning package for schools concerning the ""Bird of the year"" (in 2017 it was *Milvus milvus*)
Spain: Daily task, through environmental awareness campaigns and juvenile webpage and magazine <https://clubaventureros.org/>
Awareness actions in schools in villages and regions where poisoning is a more serious threat
Jordan: developed a national awareness program targeting and covering all schools near protected areas
Oman: One radio interviews
Yemen: The Foundation has carried out a large number of training and awareness-raising for environmental supporters' clubs in Aden and Hodeidah, but training on birds in general and not specialized"

XI. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any training or other support programmes during the reporting period to strengthen the capacity of agencies responsible for the application of relevant laws and regulations?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

> A number of partners are working on the 'Life Against Bird Crime' project including with national enforcement authorities.

Austria: Workshops and lectures for wildlife wardens, national park rangers, (environment) police staff

Capacity building by Bulgaria BSPB in:

Albania; Scope: Implement campaign for stuffed birds; Nature of assistance: shared expertise and funding provided for the local partner PPNEA; Link:

<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=XZQB7EXZp7Stfb24x2RwyNyr5GnEi429yW0y>

North Macedonia; Scope: Capacity building in relevant authorities; Nature of assistance: shared expertise and funding provided for the local partner MES; Link: <https://www.lifeneophron.eu/#a-pilot-training-for-tackling-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-held-in-republic-of-north-macedonia>

Bulgaria: Capacity building in the Ministry of Interior (Police), Regional Inspectorates of Environment, Regional Inspectorates for the Safety of Food and Foresters through series of trainings, workshops and equipment/materials provided. Link: <https://www.lifeneophron.eu/#a-a-guide-to-wildlife-poisoning-investigation-in-bulgaria>

Croatia: Biom has attended the Wildlife Crime Academy in Spain, organized by Vulture Conservation Foundation in scope of the project Balkan Detox LIFE. Along with Biom, this Academy was attended also by government officials from Croatia.

Czechia: Czechia, several trainings for policemen, state prosecutors and judges, partly online in the covid period

Greece: By means of different LIFE and Interreg programmes, HOS has organized several seminars for forestry services, veterinary services, protected areas management bodies and police on law enforcement and practical management of wildlife poisoning.

Hungary: Annual conferences are organised for the ranger service of national parks. The conference in September 2021 specifically focussed on measures against bird poisoning, one of the major threats to raptors in Hungary. Annual meetings are also held with representatives of national parks to discuss measures against bird mortality along powerlines, and separate annual meetings where representatives of electricity distribution companies and the grid operator are present.

Jordan: Conducting a regular training program for law enforcement targeting judges, environment police, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Environment

Lebanon; Scope: Work towards responsible hunting and support for Anti-poaching units; Nature of assistance: shared expertise and funding provided for the local partner SPNL; Link: <https://www.lifeneophron.eu/#a-spnls-anti-poaching-unit-in-a-nutshell>

Spain: Spain, Portugal. Training in presence and online of more than 1000 officers on wildlife crime investigation

Niger; Scope: Work to mitigate belief-based use of vultures & capacity building in stakeholders (rangers, hunters and healers); Nature of assistance: shared expertise and funding provided for the local partner SCF; Link: <https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=XZCefhXZH0eTTn0HLM4TBIDhwJ9MAJb6dd77>

North Macedonia & Jordan; Scope: Adaptation of a handbook to prevent trafficking of birds; Nature of assistance: shared expertise and funding; Link:

<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=kZhsjNXZuiA7LKHuYGYc6sje3jB8FV3mn5zy>

Vulture relevant: Raptor poison response training in Cambodia, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Gambia, Ethiopia, Senegal, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa. Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia

Building multi-sectorial capacity to tackle illegal wildlife poisoning: poaching and conflict in the KAZA transfrontier conservation area – BirdLife Partnership project with Governments covering KAZA (Kavango-Zambezi) bloc/region, EU BIOPAMA funded.

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

> BirdLife has a network of Site Support Groups at IBAs who receive some support and training.

Bulgaria: BSPB is supporting a network of local supporters for vulture conservation. Link:

<https://www.lifeneophron.eu/#a-support-for-the-network-of-local-stakeholders-in-bulgaria>

Croatia: International volunteers of Biom, in scope of our European Voluntary Service projects, have spent some time in the rehabilitation centre for Griffon Vultures in Cres island. Thus, they have raised their capacities on preserving these birds. Biom has also performed a hands-on volunteer training for bird electrocution monitoring (i.e. carcass searching on MV powerlines). Nine young people were trained in total in the first workshop, and further training workshops are planned. Local volunteers were trained and have participated in Griffon Vulture monitoring, Short-toed Snake Eagle monitoring and Montagu's Harrier monitoring alongside our ornithologists. Local volunteers were trained and have participated in electrocution monitoring, 2-day workshop organised prior to volunteering actions. Local volunteers were trained and have participated in yearly citizen science monitoring of Eagle Owl, workshops and lectures organised prior to actions. Local volunteers participated in yearly citizen science Long-eared Owl count on wintering sites, lectures organised prior to actions. Lectures on birds of prey to participants of Bird Identification Training at Vransko Lake were held for Nature park staff.

Czechia: general support fo

r the voluntarily Group for Research and pProtection of Birds of Prey and Owls; targeted support for protection of individual nests of Montagu's Harriers in agricultural fields, incl. trainings

Hungary: MME/BirdLife Hungary has organised a course on raptor conservation for volunteers, covering species identification, rescue of injured specimens, site management and monitoring issues. Regular meetings and presentation were held in communities where the habitat restoration actions are running.

Luxembourg: Our Monitorings of Milvus milvus, Milvus migrans and Falco peregrinus mainly works with volunteers, we have at least two meetings a year with the volunteers to explain methods and allocate the investigation areas

Jordan: Conducted a birdwatching training for local communities

Kenya: In Kenya as part of integrated poison response protocol

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Not known

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

> As well as devoting many hours of staff time in kind to raptor conservation work the BirdLife network have raised a very large amount of funds for raptor conservation or to address issues of key importance for raptor conservation. Public appeals and other institutional fundraising by the BirdLife International Secretariat support actions by BirdLife Partner NGOs in all regions. There are too many projects to list here. Many are multi-country or even multi-region. Some national level fundraising helps fund projects in multiple countries -For example:

Bulgaria: Under the project Egyptian Vulture New LIFE (LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874), BSPB funded raptor conservation activities in Albania, North Macedonia, Lebanon and Niger.

Please state why not:

>

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Not known

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

> Too many to mention individually but include UNDP/ GEF, MAVA, LIFE, Disney Conservation Fund and a large number of donors to vulture work

Please state why not:

>

XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Not known

Please give a brief summary:

> BirdLife engages in international cooperation on many levels multi-country, EU, regional and global. We add our support to many CMS initiatives including the ETF, MIKT, Raptors MOU TAG, Vulture MsAP Coordination Group, single and multi-species action plans for raptors, and within BirdLife we coordinate activities between partners internationally. Many partners engage bilaterally or multilaterally with entities in other countries eg/:

Austria: We are involved in several loose cross-border cooperations with our neighbouring countries; we are part of a common LIFE project targeting the Eastern Imperial Eagle

Bulgaria: Engages internationally on many fronts relevant to raptor conservation including <https://www.lifeneophron.eu/#a-egyptian-vulture-new-life>

Croatia: Biom has tagged birds of prey (griffon vultures, golden eagle and short-toed snake eagle) to identify important habitats that these bird species use, some of them using territory outside of Croatia. For this tagging, Biom employees have also received education from Italian experts. Through the project Balkan Detox LIFE, Biom is also cooperating with other BirdLife partners on tackling illegal poisoning of Griffon Vultures.

Greece: HOS participates in international LIFE projects, aiming the conservation of birds of prey. Particularly for the reporting period: Egyptian Vulture New LIFE-LIFE16NAT/BG/000874 & LIFE Falcon-LIFE17 NAT/IT/000586, LIFE ReVultures-LIFE14 NAT/NL/000901

Switzerland: Cooperation cross-borders with France and Germany on local conservation projects for raptor habitats especially in agricultural areas.

Please state why not:

>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Not known

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

> Ethiopia, Jordan and Lebanon were encouraged to sign by BirdLife and likely several other countries too at national level

Please state why not:

>