

# 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:

> ITALY

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

> 22 November 2011

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

> None

## Report Compiler

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## **Designated Contact Point for the MOU**

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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)

> For individuate species (Lanner, Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian vultur, Lesse kestrel) specific action are adopted and implemented

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

(List up to five items)

> Having all local authorities and stakeholders on board on specific activities

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

(List up to five items)

> Ban of dangerous substances; establishment of protected areas to enhance connectivity; update of sanctions

### 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.

>

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:

> Raptors are included in a wider framework at EU level (Bird directive)

## IV. LEGAL PROTECTION OF SPECIES AGAINST KILLING AND UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

### Are all species of migratory birds of prey (present in your country) listed in Annex I of the Raptors MOU granted full legal protection from deliberate killing and taking from the wild?

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

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

If you are answering "only partly", please be clear whether this is because legal protection only applies to some aspects, or because only some species are covered (please identify the species) or because only some areas are covered - (or any combination of these types of partial coverage); and give the reasons for this.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not known

Please indicate the statute(s) concerned, and summarise the provision:

> All diurnal and nocturnal birds of prey are strictly protected in Italy according to the national law n. 157/1992. Any form of killing, catching, keeping and trade is forbidden and administrative and penal sanctions are foreseen in case of law infringement.

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:

> The use of poison baits is forbidden (law n. 157/1992, art. 21.1u).

Please state why not:

>

## V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

### Have any Single or Multi-species Action Plans been published for any species of migratory bird of prey in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 In preparation  
 No  
 Not known

Please list the species involved and the status of each Plan:

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

>

Please list the species involved and the status of each Plan:

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

>

Please state why not:

> Single species action plans were already published in previous years

([http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en?set\\_language=en](http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en?set_language=en)):

Lanner Falcon (2007)

Eleonora's Falcon (2007)

Egyptian Vulture (2009)

Lesser Kestrel (2017)

A regional action plan for the conservation of the Griffon Vulture in Sardinia was published in 2008.

### 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:

> Egyptian vulture: restocking program in the framework of the LIFE Project Egyptian vulture (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659). In the reporting period, 17 captive-bred juveniles have been released on mainland Italy (Basilicata Region).

Griffon vulture: restocking program in the framework of the LIFE Project Under Griffon Wings (LIFE14 NAT/IT/000484). In the reporting period, 14 juveniles, both wild and captive-bred, have been released in Sardinia.

Lanner: restocking program in the framework of the LIFE Project Lanner (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000720). In the reporting period, 5 captive-bred juveniles have been released in central Italy (Latium Region).

Lesser kestrel: restocking program in the framework of the LIFE Project FalKon (LIFE 17 NAT/IT/000). In the reporting period, 30 wild juveniles have been moved from Matera (southern Italy) to the Po Plain (Bologna Province) in order to develop a confidence to nest in artificial towers.

Red kite: reintroduction program under preparation in the framework of the LIFE Project Milvus (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000917). Juveniles will be taken from wild nests in southern Italy and released in the Aspromonte National Park.

Please state why not:

>

### Have any supplementary feeding initiatives been established and maintained for necrophagous birds of prey?

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

Please give a brief summary:

> Two feeding stations have been activated in Piemonte Region (NW Italy) to support vultures.

In southern Italy (Calabria Region) three feeding platforms are going to be construct in the framework of the LIFE Project Milvus to sustain the population of Red Kite that will be reintroduced.

In Sardinia a network of 37 feeding stations managed by stockbreeders has been established in the Griffon Vulture breeding range just before the reporting period. New initiatives are currently ongoing in the framework of the LIFE Project Safe for Vultures (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732) to extend the network to other areas where vultures are expanding their feeding range.

In 2021, six feeding stations have been created in Sicily within the breeding range of the critically endangered population of Egyptian vulture, in the framework of the LIFE Project ConRaSi (LIFE14 NAT/IT/1017). A feeding platform has been realized in Campobello di Mazara (Trapani Province), a key stopover site in western Sicily reached by most Egyptian vultures during the post breeding migration (LIFE Project Egyptian vulture).

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.

>

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

> In Table 3 we propose to add the following sites:

- 1) Monte San Bartolo (43°56'34.3"N, 12°50'31.4"E), fully designated;
- 2) Punta Alice (39°23'30.1"N, 17°06'31.6"E), not designated;
- 3) Western Sicily (this site includes the south-western part of the Province of Trapani and Egadi Islands), partly designated.

- My country does not have sites listed

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## VII. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO THREATS AND PRESSURES

### Have any assessments been made of the nature, likelihood, severity or potential consequences of threats facing birds of prey, and measures identified to maintain their Favourable Conservation Status?

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary:

> A recent assessment has been done to produce the updated Red List of Italian birds (see IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT).

A further contribution to evaluate threats facing birds of prey was given by recent studies based on GPS telemetry.

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.

> Recent data gathered through GPS devices revealed that medium voltage power lines cause the injury or death of a larger number of raptors than previously thought. It is a priority to insulate electric poles in key areas for raptors. Some pilot actions have been undertaken on the Alps, in central and southern Italy and in Sardinia (securing less than 1000 poles overall), but a more generalized approach is required.

The risk of collision against wind turbines is underestimated owing to the lack of coordinated studies. This threat is likely relevant due to the high number of existing plants. The rapid growth of industrial plants in and offshore will further increase the risk of collision.

Illegal killing (IKB) is still provoking the loss of many birds of prey in Italy, as demonstrated by data from wildlife recovery centers and GPS studies. In the reporting period the National Action Plan to prevent IKB has been partially implemented, but further efforts will be needed in the next future to reduce this threat.

Priority actions include the strengthening of police corps to increase surveillance and the introduction of higher penalties in case of law infringement.

Habitat loss is especially related to the fast development of renewable energy plants, especially wind farms and photovoltaic plants as a response to global warming. This threat is especially damaging raptors living in rural habitats outside protected areas.

### 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:

> National legislation foresees that plans and programmes related to several sectors including energy, transport, spatial planning and waste management are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applies to single projects, such as roads, power lines, airports and industrial installations.

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:

>

**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:

> To implement the National Action Plan to combat the illegal killing of birds a Steering Committee was created in order to put together institutions and stockholders involved in tackling poaching. This Steering Committee is an useful tool to inform decision makers of the conservation needs of migratory birds of prey, at least for issues related to IKB.

Please state why not:

>

## IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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

### Have any overall assessments been made of the status and trends of any populations of migratory birds of prey in your country, during the reporting period?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

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

> An assessment on all raptor populations breeding in Italy has been undertaken in 2019, when the updated Red List of Italian birds was published.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Lista Rossa Italiana IUCN Uccelli 2019.pdf](#) - Red List of Italian Birds (2019)

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:

> Some coordinated monitoring programmes are active in Italy:  
- a network for vulture monitoring in northern Italy (main target species: Bearded Vulture and Griffon Vulture). Count of birds, census of breeding populations, breeding success;  
- LIFE Under griffon wings and LIFE Safe for Vultures: monitoring of Griffon Vulture in Sardinia. Count of birds, census of breeding populations, breeding success;  
- LIFE ConRaSi: monitoring of Lanner Falcon and Egyptian Vulture in Sicily. Census of breeding populations, breeding success;  
- LIFE Egyptian Vulture: monitoring of Egyptian Vulture on mainland Italy. Census of breeding populations, breeding success;  
- LIFE Lanner: monitor of Lanner Falcon in central Italy (Tuscany and Latium regions). Census of breeding populations, breeding success;  
- LIFE Falcon: monitor of Lesser Kestrel in the Po Plain. Census of breeding populations, breeding success;  
- Migration counts of birds of prey are regularly carried out in some bottlenecks (Circeo, Stretto di Messina, Islands of Marettimo, Panarea and Ustica) under the coordination of LIPU/BirdLife;  
- Monitoring schemes are active at regional level for Golden Eagle, Peregrine, Lanner Falcon and Red-footed Falcon;  
- Breeding raptors are also monitored in many protected areas but without a coordinate approach.

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:

> Guidelines are being drafted by ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale) to assure a coordinated monitoring of wild birds across Italy. The guidelines will include specific protocols to monitor breeding and migrating raptors.

**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:

>

**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:

>

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:

> Awareness programs have been undertaken in the framework of several LIFE Projects, but some activities have been halted due to anti-COVID19 restrictions.

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:

> Education programs have been undertaken in the framework of several LIFE Projects, but some activities have been halted due to anti-COVID19 restrictions.

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:

>

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:

>

**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:

> Staff time was devoted by several public institutions in the framework of many LIFE Projects (see below), or during ordinary activities.

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:

> Economic resources were received from the LIFE Programme managed by the European Union:

LIFE Egyptian vulture  
LIFE Falcon  
LIFE Under Griffon Wings  
LIFE Safe for Vultures  
LIFE Lanner

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

LIFE Lanner

LIFE Safe for Vultures

LIFE Under Griffon Wings

LIFE Falcon

LIFE Egyptian vulture

Please state why not:

>

## XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

Please give a brief summary:

>

Please state why not:

>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

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

>

Please state why not:

> Not part of Foreign Affairs priority