



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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**IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF RAPTORS AND OWLS IN THE
AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Eighth Meeting (Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005)

Recognising that Article II of the Convention requires all Parties to endeavour to conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II of the Convention;

Noting that the Sixth Conference of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls in Budapest, Hungary (18-23 May 2003) called on CMS in its third resolution to consider establishing a multilateral agreement on the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory raptors;

Recognising that raptors are listed in both Appendix I and Appendix II of the Convention, but that a significant majority are in Appendix II;

Further recognising that nine species are categorised as Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened in the IUCN Red List 2004 and that of these, the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), the Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*), the Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) and Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), are on CMS Appendix I, and that the Lesser Kestrel was identified for “Concerted Action” at the fifth Conference of the Parties in 1997;

Noting that the study on African-Eurasian migratory raptors and owls commissioned by the United Kingdom earlier this year, and made available to the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties as document UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.18, found that:

1. More than half the species have an unfavourable conservation status in some part of their African-Eurasian range;
2. There were insufficient data upon which to make meaningful assessments for many species, but where sufficient data were available many species were in continued long-term or often rapid population declines; and
3. The principal threats to raptors and owls over the next 10 years were likely to be habitat loss and degradation, shooting, accidental poisoning, electrocution and power lines, deliberate persecutions and disturbance of breeding grounds, with climate change an additional major threat in the longer term;

Recognising the need for shared responsibility for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory raptors and owls in the regions;

Further recognising that raptors and owls are high-profile species at the top of their food chain and that measures to help conserve them will, in turn, help conserve many other species;

Noting that initial soundings of stakeholders, undertaken as part of the United Kingdom study, revealed that a CMS instrument would improve the conservation status of migratory raptors and owls, and that a Memorandum of Understanding was the preferred instrument;

Aware that a number of multilateral environmental agreements seek to address some of the threats faced by migratory raptors and owls in the African-Eurasian region; and

Further aware that non-governmental organisations, inter-governmental organisations, and the private sector can all play important roles in the co-operative conservation of migratory raptors and owls in the region;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Calls* upon Parties to the Convention, non-party Range States and other stakeholders to engage in co-operative activities to promote the sustainable management of migratory raptors and owls by, in particular:

- (a) protecting and managing important breeding sites and migration bottlenecks;
- (b) alleviating habitat degradation through the development and promotion of sustainable land management policies and practices;
- (c) controlling the shooting, poisoning, and taking of these birds and their eggs;
- (d) raising awareness of the plight of these birds, the threats they face, and the measures needed to conserve them;
- (e) monitoring populations throughout the region to establish population trends and carry out appropriate research; and
- (f) exchanging information in order to develop and implement best-practice approaches to the conservation and sustainable management of these species;

2. *Further calls* upon Parties to the Convention and non-party Range States to consider whether a CMS instrument would better help deliver these objectives and, if so, to participate actively in its development and conclusion with the assistance of the Scientific Council and the Secretariat;

3. *Encourages* existing multilateral environmental agreements that can help eliminate or reduce the threats faced by migratory raptors and owls in the region to improve liaison and find initiatives upon which they can work co-operatively; and

4. *Urges* international organisations and non-governmental organisations, including regional economic organisations, having biodiversity conservation as part of their mandate, to provide appropriate assistance, including technical and financial support, for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory raptors and owls in the region.