



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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MEETING TO IDENTIFY AND ELABORATE AN
OPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ON AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTORS
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
Loch Lomond, Scotland, United Kingdom, 22-25 October 2007
Agenda Item 8.0

TOWARDS AN ACTION PLAN ON MIGRATORY AFRICAN-EURASIAN RAPTORS: POSSIBLE TEXT FOR CONSIDERATION

**Excerpt (Appendix 3) from the Report:
Assessment of the Merits of a CMS Instrument Covering Migratory Raptors
in Africa and Eurasia**

Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Raptors in Africa and Eurasia

1 General Aim

- 1.1 The general aim is to ensure that all populations of raptors (including owls) listed in Appendix 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding are maintained in, or returned to, Favourable Conservation Status within the meaning of Article 1(c) of the Convention.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 For the effective period of this Action Plan, the following objectives are set:
- To reverse the population declines of Globally Threatened and Near Threatened migratory raptors and alleviate threats to them such that they are no longer Globally Threatened;
 - To halt the population declines of other migratory raptors with an Unfavourable Conservation Status within the Africa and Eurasia and alleviate threats to them in order to return their populations to Favourable Conservation Status.
 - To anticipate, reduce and avoid new threats to all migratory raptors species, especially to prevent any species with a Favourable Conservation Status from declining.

3 Species Categories

- 3.1 The raptor species included in Appendix 1 (and any subsequent amendments of it) are assigned within the following categories:

Category 1: Globally Threatened and Near Threatened species as defined according to IUCN criteria and listed as such in the BirdLife International World Bird Database;

Category 2: Species considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the area of the Memorandum of Understanding (defined in Appendix 2);

Category 3: all other species.

- 3.2 The species in Appendix 1 are assigned to the categories provided for in paragraph 3.1 as given in Table 1, for the effective period of this Action Plan, unless amended in accordance with a procedure to be agreed by the Signatories at the First Meeting of Signatories.

4 Priority Actions

- 4.1 Taking into account the predicted impacts of threats and opportunities for reducing them, the priority actions for achieving the objectives given in paragraph 2 are considered to be (in order of importance):
- Protecting all species from shooting, persecution and unsustainable exploitation.
 - Protecting and appropriately managing important sites: especially where Category 1 species breed, and all migration bottlenecks (known important congregatory sites are listed in Table 3).
 - Alleviating habitat degradation through the development and promotion of sustainable land management policies and practices.
 - Raising awareness about migratory raptors, their current plight and the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them.
 - Monitoring populations throughout the region to establish reliable population trends; carry out research to establish the impacts of threats on them and the measures that

are needed to alleviate them; and sharing information between Signatories and other Range States.

5 Implementation Framework

5.1 Activities The principal activities signatories ought to undertake in order to implement the general provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding and the specific issues addressed in this Action Plan are set out in Table 2. These activities will be addressed by the national plans of action, and international plan of action for transboundary activities, as required by paragraph 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

5.2 Priorities The activities in Table 2 are accorded the following orders of priority:

First: an activity needed to prevent global extinction of a species.

Second: an activity needed to prevent or reverse declines in any Globally Threatened or Near Threatened species, or the majority of other species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status.

Third: an activity needed to restore populations of a Globally Threatened or Near Threatened species, or to prevent declines in any species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status.

Fourth: an activity needed to restore populations in any species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status, or to prevent declines in any species with a Favourable Conservation Status.

These priorities ought to be taken into account in the preparation of national plans of action for raptors as required under paragraph 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

5.3 Time schedule The activities in Table 2 are accorded the following time schedules:

Immediate: an activity to be completed within two years from the date of effectiveness;

Short term: an activity to be completed within three years from the date of effectiveness;

Medium: an activity to be completed within five years from the date of effectiveness;

Long term: an activity to be completed within seven years from the date of effectiveness;

Ongoing: an activity to be undertaken throughout the period of effectiveness;

5.4 Responsibilities The organisation types expected to lead on the various activities are indicated in Table 2. Existing signatories are urged to encourage the full range of necessary organisations to participate in the implementation of this Action Plan whether or not they are currently signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding.

5.5 Targets The Secretariat will monitor the progress and efficacy of this Action Plan according to the performance targets for certain activities given in Table 2.

6 Synergy with other MEAs

6.1 Insofar as a range state is represented as a Signatory to this Memorandum of Understanding is also Contracting Party to one or more Multilateral Environmental Agreements that has or have provisions that achieve or otherwise assist the aims, objectives and activities of this Action Plan, and having legal authority or precedence over the Memorandum of Understanding, such MEAs will be applied as appropriate and to their full extent in the first instance.

6.2 In pursuit of paragraph 6.1, signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding will undertake an audit of the relevant MEAs and their potential application for the implementation of this Action Plan and include the results in their national plans of action under paragraph 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

7 Progress Reports

7.1 Signatories and the Secretariat will report on progress with implementing the Action Plan in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

8 Period of Effectiveness

8.1 This Action Plan comes into effect on the same date as the entry in to force of the Memorandum of Understanding and shall have a period of seven years. At least two years before the expiry of this period, a full review of the Action Plan will be undertaken and a revised version prepared for the approval of the signatories.

Table 1: Categorisation of African-Eurasian raptors covered by the Action Plan⁽¹⁾

Category 1⁽²⁾

<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel	VU
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	NT
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon	EN
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	NT
<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Pallas's Fish-eagle	VU
<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	Steller's Sea-eagle	VU
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture	NT
<i>Circus maurus</i>	Black Harrier	VU
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier	NT
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	VU
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle	VU
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle	VU

Category 2⁽³⁾

<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner Falcon
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyr Falcon
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard
<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	African Swallow-tailed Kite
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite
<i>Milvus lineatus</i>	Black-eared Kite
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-eagle
<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	Eastern Marsh-harrier
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk
<i>Butastur indicus</i>	Grey-faced Buzzard
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard
<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	Upland Buzzard
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle
<i>Otus brucei</i>	Pallid Scops-owl
<i>Otus scops</i>	Common Scops-owl
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl

Category 3⁽⁴⁾

<i>Falco alopex</i>	Fox Kestrel
<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Amur Falcon
<i>Falco concolor</i>	Sooty Falcon
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby
<i>Falco severus</i>	Oriental Hobby
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon
<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	Barbary Falcon
<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	African Baza
<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	Jerdon's Baza
<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	Black Baza
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Griffon Vulture
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-harrier
<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Pied Harrier
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra
<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	Chinese Goshawk
<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	Japanese Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Besra
<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	Ovampo Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk
<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	Grasshopper Buzzard
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard
<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	Mountain Buzzard
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk
<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	Red-necked Buzzard
<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	Wahlberg's Eagle
<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Mountain Hawk-eagle
<i>Otus sunia</i>	Oriental Scops-owl
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl
<i>Surnia ulula</i>	Northern Hawk Owl
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl
<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Brown Hawk-owl
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl

Notes

- 1: Listed in Appendix 1
- 2: Globally Threatened and Near Threatened species as defined by IUCN and listed on BirdLife International's World Bird Database (EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; NT = Near threatened)
- 3: Species that are considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the area (defined in Appendix 2) of the Memorandum of Understanding
- 4: All other species.

Table 2: Activities to be done under paragraph 5 of the Action Plan

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
Activity 1: Improvement of legal protection						
1.1. Update CMS appendices to include all Category 1 species on Annex I	Cat. 1	–	Second	Short	CMS Secretariat / CoP	CMS appendices amended
1.2. Ensure national legislation protects all raptors from all forms of killing, disturbance at nest sites, egg-collection and taking from the wild unless this can be shown to be sustainable and forms part of an International Management Plan agreed by parties to this MoU	All	All	First	Immediate	Governments	All raptors given full protection in the national legislation of all Signatories and unsustainable taking of birds is prohibited
1.3 Ensure that national legislation bans the use of exposed poison baits for predator control	All	All	First	Immediate	Governments	The national legislation of all Signatories bans use of exposed poison baits
1.4 Ensure that national legislation requires all new power lines to be designed to avoid raptor electrocution	All	All	Second	Short	Governments	The national legislation of all Signatories requires power line design to avoid electrocution
1.5 Strengthen the application of legal protection for raptors by ensuring appropriate penalties, training law enforcement authorities, and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities, particularly at bottleneck sites	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Governments, law enforcement agencies and NGOs	Individuals breaking protection laws are prosecuted; results of prosecutions relayed to Secretariat and included in national reports
1.6 Identify gaps in existing MEAs where raptor protection and conservation can be improved and draw these to the attention of the relevant Secretariat and other Parties	All	All	Third	Intermediate	CMS Secretariat / Governments / NGOs	Provisions of existing MEAs strengthened with respect to raptor protection and conservation
Activity 2: Protect and manage important sites and flyways						
2.1 Designate nationally and internationally important sites (including those listed in Table 3) as protected areas with management plans that are agreed with key stakeholders and take raptor conservation requirements into account	All	All countries listed in Table 3	Second	Medium	Governments, BirdLife International and site stakeholders	All important sites have conservation measures in place
2.2 Include important national and international sites (including those listed in Table 3) in the EU within the Natura 2000 network	All	EU member states	Second	Short	Governments and European Commission	All important sites designated as SPAs under the EU Wild Birds Directive
2.3 Require EIAs in accordance with the CBD guidelines (CBD Decision VI/7A and any subsequent amendments) and CMS Resolution 7.2 on Impact Assessment and Migratory Species for any projects potentially impacting sites listed in Table 3 and any other sites holding significant populations of Category 1 and 2 species.	Cat 1 and 2	All	Third	Medium	Governments, forestry, energy and infrastructure sectors	National EIA regulations require EIAs for projects impacting raptor sites; results of EIAs relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
2.4 Conduct risk assessments at important sites (including those listed in Table 3) to identify and address actual or potential causes of incidental mortality from human causes (including fire, laying poisons, pest spraying, power lines, wind turbines)	Cat. 1 and 2	All	Third	Ongoing	Governments and land managers	Incidental mortality of raptors reduced to insignificant levels
2.5 Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of planned infrastructure developments within major flyways to identify key risk areas	All	All countries with bottleneck sites	Third	Medium	Governments	SEAs carried out and results relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports
Activity 3: Habitat conservation and sustainable management						
3.1 Develop schemes under the EU EAFRD / Rural Development Regulation that are targeted towards maintaining or restoring habitats for raptors	Cat. 1 and 2	EU Member States	Second	Ongoing	Governments, forest authorities, private land managers	Agri-environment schemes that benefit raptors are available for land managers
3.2 Survey, maintain and restore natural vegetation cover in former habitats (especially grasslands) in the range of globally threatened species	Cat. 1	All range states of Cat. 1 species	Third	Long	Government, land managers	Inventories of grassland areas supporting Cat. 1 species prepared and at least 30% of former grassland habitats having natural vegetation cover and under sustainable management
Activity 4: Raise awareness of problems faced by migratory raptors and measures needed to conserve them						
4.1 Develop a programme of public awareness, using TV, radio, newspapers and the internet to publicise the migrations undertaken by raptors, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them.	All species	All countries with bottleneck sites	Second	Short	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of raptors widely understood amongst public
4.2 Develop an awareness programme within forestry, agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry and transport etc to inform decision makers of the current status of raptors, the threats to them and the sectoral actions that can be taken to conserve them.	All species	All	Second	Medium	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of raptors widely understood amongst government departs
4.3 Develop a school educational programme and teaching resources to inform school children of the migrations undertaken by raptors, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them.	All species	All countries with bottleneck sites	Third	Medium	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of raptors widely understood by teachers and taught in schools
4.4 Establish information notices and provide leaflets at bottleneck sites informing people of their importance for migrating raptors and the measures that they can take to conserve them	All species	All countries with bottleneck sites	Second	Short	Governments and NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of raptors known within bottleneck sites

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
Activity 5: Monitor bird of prey populations and carry out conservation research						
5.1 Establish a monitoring network comprising a representative range of sites where systematic and coordinated monitoring of breeding populations and migration numbers (spring and autumn) can be undertaken	All	To be defined	Third	Immediate	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological organisations	Monitoring network established and adopted by Signatories
5.2 Design and undertake a coordinated monitoring programme based on the monitoring network established under 5.1	All	To be defined	Third	Ongoing	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological organisations	Monitoring guidelines / manual prepared for national and transboundary data collection; data relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports; breeding and migratory population trends reliably established
5.3 Assess the impacts of habitat change on breeding, passage and wintering populations of raptors, and identify required measures to maintain Favourable Conservation Status	Cat. 1 and 2 species	Asia, Middle East and Africa	Second	Medium	NGOs and research organisations	Habitat problems and required mitigation measures identified
5.4 Assess the impacts of the use of toxic agrochemicals on breeding, passage and wintering populations of raptors, and identify required measures to achieve and maintain Favourable Conservation Status	Cat. 1 and 2 species	Asia, Middle East and Africa	Second	Medium	NGOs and research organisations	Toxic chemical problems assessed and mitigation measures identified if required
Activity 6: Supporting measures						
6.1 National Plans of Action for migratory raptors	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All	Second	Immediate	Governments, national ornithological organisations	National Plans of Action describing how this Action Plan will be implemented with particular regard for Cat. 1 and Cat. 2 species submitted to the Secretariat before the first meeting of Signatories
6.2 International Plan of Action for migratory raptors	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All	Second	Short	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological organisations	International Plan of Action prepared by the Secretariat to address transboundary aspects of implementing this Action Plan, with particular regard for Cat. 1 and Cat. 2 species, submitted to the first meeting of Signatories for approval
6.3 Prepare single species action plans for all globally threatened species, taking account of existing international plans and where necessary extending them to cover the entire African-Eurasian range of each species	Cat. 1 species	All range states of Cat. 1 species	First	Medium	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological organisations	International conservation plans developed, approved and being implemented for all globally threatened species
6.4 Update Tables 1 and 3 according to new information emerging from the monitoring programme	All	All	Third	Ongoing	Secretariat	On the basis of information collected and collated from the Signatories, the Secretariat proposes amendments to Tables 1 and 3 of this Action Plan for approval by the Signatories

Table 3: Important Bird Areas identified by BirdLife International that are known to be important congregatory raptor sites in Africa and Eurasia

Bulgaria	Meskheti
Atanasovo lake	Gibraltar (to UK)
Mandra-Poda complex	Rock of Gibraltar
China (mainland)	Greece
Beidaihe	North, east and south Kithira island
Changdao Islands	Iraq
Changtang plateau	Samara dam
Laotieshan Nature Reserve	Israel
Denmark	Cliffs of Zin and the Negev highlands
Gilleleje area	Hula valley
Hellebæk	Jezre'el, Harod and Bet She'an valleys
Korshage, Hundested and surrounding sea area	Judean desert
Marstal Bugt and the coast of south-west Langeland	Judean foothills
Skagen	Northern Arava valley
Stevns	Northern lower Jordan valley
Djibouti	Southern Arava valley and Elat mountains
Kadda Guéïni - Doumêra	Western Negev
Egypt	Italy
Ain Sukhna	Aspromonte
El Qa plain	Cape Otranto
Gebel El Zeit	Costa Viola
Ras Mohammed National Park	Maritime Alps
Suez	Mount Beigua
Finland	Mount Conero
Merenkurkku archipelago	Mount Grappa
France	Peloritani mountains
Basses Corbières	Piave river
Col de l'Escrinet	Jordan
Col de Lizarrieta	Aqaba mountains
Etangs de Leucate et Lapalme	Jordan valley
Etangs Narbonnais	Petra area
Gorges de la Dordogne	Wadi Dana - Finan
Haute chaîne du Jura: défilé de l'écluse, Etournal et Mont Vuache	Wadi Mujib
Haute Soule : Forêt d'Irraty, Organbidexka et Pic des Escaliers	Kuwait
Hautes Corbières	Al-Jahra Pool Nature Reserve
Hautes garrigues du Montpellièrais	Latvia
Massif du Canigou-Carança	Slitere Nature Reserve
Montagne de la Clape	Lebanon
Montagne de la Serre	Ammiq swamp
Monts et Plomb du Cantal	Lithuania
Pointe de Grave	Kuronian spit
Val d'Allier : Saint-Yorre-Joze	Malta
Val de Drôme: Les Ramières-printegarde	Buskett and Wied il-Luq
Vallée de la Nive des Aldudes-Col de Lindux	Morocco
Georgia	Cap Spartel - Perdicaris
Kolkheti	Jbel Moussa

Palestinian Authority Territories

Jericho

Northern Lower Jordan Valley

Portugal

South-west coast of Portugal

Russia

Caucasus Biosphere Reserve

Chudsko-Pskovski Lake and adjacent areas

Delta of the River Don

Irendyk ridge

South Baikal migratory corridor

Teberdinski Nature Reserve

Saudi Arabia

Taif escarpment

Wadi Jawwah

Wadi Rabigh springs

Spain

Bujeo, Ojén, del Niño and Blanquilla mountain ranges

Cabras, Aljibe and Montecoche mountain range

Cadí mountains

Ceuta

De la Plata mountain range

Guadalquivir marshes

La Janda

Roncesvalles-Irati-Abodi mountain range

Tarifa

Sweden

Bay of Skälderviken

Falsterbo-Bay of Foteviken

Switzerland

Pre-alpine region of Gurnigel

Syria

Jabal Slenfeh

Tunisia

Djebel el Haouaria

Turkey

Bosporus

North-east Turkey

Nur mountains

Yemen

Al-Kadan area

Bab al-Mandab - Mawza

Mafraq al-Mukha

Wadi Rijaf